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## **IMPORTANT FEBRUARY RECRUITING DATES**

**2-1:** Football (regular) initial signing date for National Letter of Intent

**2-1:** Field Hockey, Soccer and Men's Water Polo initial signing date for National Letter of Intent

**2-11:** ACT Test

**2-24:** SAT late registration postmark date for April 1<sup>st</sup> test.

## **RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania**

Seth Menart – Mt. Pleasant Area – Soccer

Ryan Lehman – Mt. Pleasant Area – Soccer

Josh Hopkin – Yough – Soccer

Megan Gibson – Mars Area - Basketball

## **NCAA News**

### **Division I Votes Down Some New Women's Scholarships**

Colleges and universities in the NCAA's top division voted last month to take away a total of five scholarships that teams were going to be allowed to grant for women's gymnastics, track and field, and volleyball teams beginning in the fall. The decision came during the opening weekend of the NCAA's annual convention in Indianapolis.

Schools in Division I with smaller enrollments and athletic budgets banded together to repeal the proposed scholarships, which were approved last year by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. More than 85 percent of the 202 Division I-AA and I-AAA colleges at the convention had opposed adding scholarships in the three sports. Many college officials said they feared that the extra scholarships would have led to further competitive imbalances in Division I because only the biggest and wealthiest colleges could afford to use them.

But the scholarship cuts troubled gender-equity advocates, who called the move a blow to Title IX opportunities. Officials from some of the schools that opposed the extra scholarships said they plan to look for other ways to increase participation by female athletes. There was significant debate on that offer with the smaller schools claiming female athletes would benefit more by adding teams rather than scholarships. The power schools countered that adding entire teams is not financially realistic for the

schools with smaller budgets, and that it would be less expensive to add a few scholarships than create new teams.

A fourth sport whose two new scholarships were in jeopardy, women's soccer, escaped the cuts. Some colleges that voted to preserve the 13th and 14th scholarships in that sport say they did so because female soccer players have such a high injury rate that a large number of replacement players are needed.

### **Division III Maintains Status Quo on Practice, Redshirting**

Colleges in NCAA Division III have voted to preserve limitations on out-of-season play and to keep in place a rule preventing "redshirting," a practice in which athletes are allowed to sit out a season without losing one of their four years of eligibility.

The votes, which occurred on the final day of the NCAA's annual convention in January, affirmed two key changes made two years ago by the division's colleges that were aimed at making sure their athletes did not spend too much of their time on sports.

Proposals to reinstitute redshirting and to allow colleges to exceed the 20 days of practice and one day of competition they are currently allowed during a sport's off-season were "bellwether" issues for the division to consider, said Phillip C. Stone, president of Bridgewater College, in Virginia, and chairman of the Division III Presidents Council. He said strong opposition from many of the presidents had helped defeat those proposals.

The proposal to reinstitute redshirting was defeated by a ratio of more than 2 to 1. A vote on one of two proposals to add additional opportunities for athletes to practice out of season narrowly failed, while a broader proposal to allow more days of out-of-season practice and competition was never brought to a vote.

The Division III presidents also tabled a controversial proposal to cap the number of colleges they would allow in their division. Division III currently has more than 400 members -- about twice what it had a decade ago -- and many of its presidents and conference commissioners want to curb that growth, in part because, as the division has grown, the money it has gotten from the NCAA has not.

### **Grad Rates Remain At Record Highs**

Inch-by-inch, progress continues to be made for college athletes in the classroom.

For the second consecutive year, scholarship athletes graduated at record-high levels, according to a report released last month by the NCAA. An increasing number of black football players, and more white male and female basketball players, are completing their degrees within six years.

Not every group made improvements, however. The graduation rates of white football players fell for the second consecutive year, while the rates of black men's and women's basketball players also dropped.

According to the U.S. Department of Education formula, 62 percent of all Division I athletes entering college in the 1998-99 academic year earned their degrees within six years, compared with 60 percent of all students. The numbers, which equal the previous record high, come from data collected for 616,067 students at 320 colleges, including 17,176 athletes.

The NCAA, however, considers the federal data to be suspect because those figures portray transfer students as not having graduated, even if they go on to graduate from another college. The association has devised an alternative approach, called the Academic Progress Report, it regards as fairer and more accurate.

According to the Education Department data, 55 percent of male athletes graduated within six years, compared with 57 percent of all male students. Men's basketball had the lowest graduation rate of any sport in the survey, which also included men's baseball, football, and track and field, as well as women's basketball and track. Just 43 percent of men's basketball players finished their degrees within six years -- a slight decline from the previous year's report. That falloff comes as the number of black players continues to rise in men's basketball. Black athletes who entered college in 1998-99 accounted for 56 percent of players in Division I, up from 54 percent in the previous survey. Fewer black basketball players are graduating within six years. Thirty-eight percent of those in the 1998-99 entering class got their degrees in that period, compared with 42 percent of those in the NCAA's previous graduation report.

The news was not all bad in basketball. Fifty-three percent of white male basketball players graduated, compared with 48 percent in the previous survey. Among the other men's sports, baseball players recorded slightly lower graduation rates, with just 45 percent finishing their degrees in six years. Football's rate fell slightly, to 54 percent, while track stayed the same, at 60 percent.

Seventy-one percent of female athletes graduated within six years, compared with 63 percent of all female students. Among the highlights: Sixty-nine percent of female track athletes from the 1998-99 entering class graduated within six years, a rise of 3 percentage points from the previous survey.

But the rates of female basketball players continued to decline. An NCAA report three years ago showed that two-thirds of female basketball players graduated within six years; 63 percent of those in the latest report did so. That drop occurred largely because of a decline in the graduation rates of black players. Just 56 percent from the 1998-99 entering class finished their degrees in six years, a 3-percentage-point decline from the previous survey's findings. One reason for the lower graduation rate among female basketball players is that more female athletes are getting chances to play in professional leagues.

NCAA officials expect graduation rates to continue to rise because of several changes the association has made in recent years to stiffen academic requirements for high-school students who want to play college sports. Three years ago, the NCAA started requiring incoming freshmen to complete a more stringent set of "core courses" before entering college. Once in college, athletes now must make progress toward getting their degrees every year, or they cannot play sports. The rules require athletes to complete 40 percent of their degree requirements by the end of their second year in college, 60 percent by the end of their third year, and 80 percent by the end of their fourth year. Teams can also lose scholarships if their athletes do not make progress toward their degrees. To help athletes graduate within six years, many colleges are pouring millions of dollars into new academic centers and tutoring programs.

In December the NCAA introduced a new formula to more accurately measure how many athletes are graduating. That calculation is called the Graduation Success Rate. Unlike the numbers quoted in this article from the federal formula, the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate accounts for incoming transfer students and does not penalize institutions for athletes who transfer to other colleges, as long as those students leave in good academic standing. About one in four college athletes switches colleges at some point, the NCAA says.

The NCAA's new formula paints a rosier picture of athletes' graduation rates. Under the NCAA's calculation, 76 percent of athletes are graduating within six years

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## CPOA PA Topic of the Month

### **NCAA RULES CHANGE**

Basketball (Division 1 only) – The current 2005-2006 telephone contact rule for Division 1 basketball are as follows – **Basketball Specific:** D1 men's coaches may make one telephone call per month on or after June 15 of a prospect's sophomore year in HS through July 31 following the prospect's junior year in high school. Then coaches may make two telephone calls per week beginning August 1 prior to the prospect's senior year in high school. **D1 women** coaches may make one telephone call per month in April, May, and June 1-20. One call between June 21st and June 30th after junior year. 3 Calls in July after junior year.

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## CPOA News

### **Division I Soccer Signing Streak Continues**

For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year College Prospects of Pennsylvania has had a female Soccer client sign at a Division I school. This year has already produced two Division I signees:

Megan Hill of Penn Hills HS – Kent State  
Lindsay Stefanini – Hopewell HS – Morehead State

### **CPOAPA Softball Showcase**

Mark your calendars for June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as this date will mark the 1<sup>st</sup> Penn – Ohio Women's Softball Showcase. The event will be held on the campus of Washington and Jefferson College. NCAA coaches from PA, Ohio, Maryland, New York and West Virginia have been invited.

Details on the camp are listed in the article below. Times of the event and registration specifics will be forthcoming this month.

### **CPOAPA Recruiting Seminar**

CPOAPA will be conducting a recruiting seminar at Brownsville High School on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 @ 7PM in the school library. The seminar is not restricted to Brownsville Area student – athletes, **so all are welcome.**

There is no fee to attend, and everyone will leave with an excellent grasp on the recruiting process.

## **CPOAPA to produce Showcase Camps in 2006**

CPOAPA has partnered with **NEHSS/Top College Prospects Recruiting Showcase (TCP)** and will be running Showcase camps in Western PA this spring, summer and fall. Camps will include Softball, Baseball, Lacrosse and Soccer. These showcase camps will be open to all Western PA athletes.

Each TCP showcase includes 3 different parts - Speed Timing, Fundamental Skill Evaluation, and a Simulated Game Experience. Obviously, each showcase is customized for a specific sport. As an example, the Softball Showcase begins with baserunning drills and timing, has a combination batting practice/fielding practice, includes a pitching evaluation (including radar gun evaluation) and ends with a simulated game. Every player is guaranteed playing time!

Additional Features of an event:

### **Talent Evaluation:**

Staff and Invited College Coaches evaluate participants during drills and game situations. Drills are developed and selected based on input from College Coaches -- giving them the opportunity to assess specific areas of fundamental ability Game situations enable our Staff and College Coaches to assess a student's talent in the flow of actual competition.

Example of Drills: Softball - Baserunning (Home to 1st, 2nd to Home) INF/OF Drills, Batting Practice

Example of Game Situations: Students are guaranteed at least 3 at bats and pitchers are guaranteed the opportunity to pitch to at least 6 batters.

### **Evaluation Report:**

Information collected from the showcase, as well as academic, athletic and contact information provided by each student is combined to create a basic report. Students can forward the report to schools (by the student) to help start each student's visibility with college coaches! This report includes evaluation of fundamental areas (example - a Softball Pitcher is evaluated on 19 different fundamental areas!) that a student may use to understand what areas require refinement and development.

### **Recruiting Seminar:**

Recruiting Tips - Each parent is offered the opportunity to hear a 60 minute seminar on the Recruiting Process. This seminar will provide parents with important insights into the the recruiting process. Armed with this information, parents will be able to start the recruiting process!

## **CPOAPA partners with Icebox Athletics**

CPOAPA and Icebox Athletics will be producing a specialized clinic this spring in the areas of cutting-edge Mental Skills & Toughness Training; Athletic Speed, Agility, and Quickness. These specialized clinics will be open to all Western PA athletes.

The clinics will be led by Spencer Wood an internationally renowned speaker and dynamic trainer of athletes and coaches. As an author, teacher and speaker, Spencer has spoken at events such as Peru's 2003 international conference on Athletic Excellence, the Nike Coach of the Year Awards in Michigan, the 2005 NCAA Final Four, and the 2005 National Soccer Coaches Association's National Conference. His articles have appeared in publications such as The WBCA journal and World Class Coaching.

### **CONTACT SHEETS**

Remember to keep track of all questionnaires, calls, etc from college coaches with the contact sheets found in your STUDENT PACKET. Email me at [martin.rock@cpoapa.com](mailto:martin.rock@cpoapa.com) if you need additional copies!

### **NCAA ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE**

Every CPOA PA Student-Athlete has received a NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete as part of the STUDENT PACKET you received when you joined the program. In this guide, you find instructions on how to apply for your NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse Number. Eligibility is based on what core courses have been completed, SAT scores and overall GPA in core courses. NCAA approved core courses, by high school, can be found at <http://actrs7.act.org/ahs>.

STUDENTS APPLY FOR THEIR NCAA ECN AT THE END OF THEIR JUNIOR YEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO REVIEW ELIGIBILITY AS EARLY AS THE SOPHOMORE YEAR TO ENSURE THE CORRECT COURSES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED! For more information about the process, email [martin.rock@cpoapa.com](mailto:martin.rock@cpoapa.com) for a NCAA Guide or call 888-ASK-CPOA (CPOA Program Members Only).

### **INTERNET UPDATES**

If you have update information for your Internet profile, please forward to [martin.rock@cpoapa.com](mailto:martin.rock@cpoapa.com). Remember that you automatically receive (2) two free updates per year. If you've upgraded your program to receive unlimited updates you can send updates every day/week if you'd like. Updates take approximately 72 hours to be made online.

### **REFERRAL PROGRAM**

Do you know of a high school student athlete with the ability to perform at the collegiate level? A teammate from high school? Club team? From the newspaper? If so, contact your CPOA representative at [martin.rock@cpoapa.com](mailto:martin.rock@cpoapa.com) and if that athlete signs with CPOA PA, **you receive a \$50 referral fee!**

### **Season End Updates**

Attention fall sport athletes, your season end update forms which were mailed to you are **now overdue**. There are hundreds of coaches out there awaiting an update on your stats, awards and accomplishments from the past season. Please complete these and return to your CPOA representative immediately.

## **RECRUITING SEMINARS**

CPOA Pennsylvania is planning to conduct several recruiting training sessions over the next few months. These sessions will include the basics of the recruiting process, how to choose the right college, review of NCAA rules and regulations, and how to best navigate this important process of college selection. Please let us know if you have interest in hosting one of these sessions for your teammates (students/parents) or teams/booster clubs (coaches).