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## **IMPORTANT JANUARY RECRUITING DATES**

January 4 - SAT late registration postmark for January 27<sup>th</sup> test.

January 5 – ACT registration postmark date for February 10<sup>th</sup> test.

January 15 – Football (mid year) JC transfer final signing date for National Letter of Intent.

January 19 – ACT late registration postmark date for February 10<sup>th</sup> test.

January 27 – SAT test. (SAT I and II).

## **NCAA News**

New NCAA research indicates that less than 1 percent of eligible student-athletes took advantage of a controversial new rule that is the subject of a Division I override vote at the January Convention.

Only 25 student-athletes who compete in one of four sports not eligible for the one-time transfer exception and graduated with eligibility remaining continued to participate in athletics at an institution other than the one from which they graduated. Earlier this year, the Division I Board of Directors adopted Proposal No. 05-54, which allowed student-athletes who received their undergraduate degree to transfer to another institution for graduate work and be immediately eligible for financial aid, practice and competition, no matter the student-athletes' prior transfer history.

The rule is designed to allow student-athletes to pursue their academic goals while continuing to compete.

The NCAA research staff evaluated use of the rule by surveying compliance coordinators at all Division I schools. Of the 326 active Division I members, 301 responded.

Eighty-four institutions indicated that they had a total of 112 incoming graduate transfer student-athletes who would be competing in 2006-07. Of those, 25 compete in one of the four sports not eligible for the one-time transfer exception (men's and women's basketball, the Football Bowl Subdivision and men's ice hockey). Student-athletes in those sports are the most significantly affected by the new rule.

The remaining student-athletes participate in sports in which they are eligible for the one-time transfer exception under specific conditions; however, the survey did not ask how many were certified for the 2006-07 academic year with that exception.

Academic Progress Rate data showed that 14,457 student-athletes graduated during the 2004-05 year and 4,830 of them had eligibility remaining at the time of their graduation

and were thus eligible to take advantage of the new rule. Only 112 graduates transferred, and researchers acknowledge that figure is likely high because some football student-athletes would have been eligible to use the one-time transfer exception. Pacific 10 Conference Commissioner Tom Hansen said the research supports keeping the new rule in place.

“The new rule is a good rule and it does offer a very unique subset of student-athletes an opportunity to pursue a degree beyond their bachelor’s degree and continue to compete,” Hansen said. “Based on anecdotal reports and on the (new) data, it’s my feeling that there has not been any abuse and most of those student-athletes who have (taken advantage of the rule) were transferring for all the right academic reasons and not for athletics reasons.”

Hansen acknowledged that a few student-athletes used the new rule to transfer for athletically related reasons, including a student-athlete who transferred from an institution in the Pacific-10 to a school in another conference because his father was the coach of a conference team.

Hansen said he doesn’t believe the “superior athletes” that many fear will create a “free agency” market among graduate student-athletes will choose to pursue graduate degrees to continue competing — they will most likely become professional athletes after graduation, he said.

“They’ve fulfilled their undergraduate mission; they’ve completed their undergraduate education,” he said. “They ought to be free to go to graduate school where they wish.” However, National Association of Basketball Coaches Executive Director Jim Haney does see the possibility of student-athletes or their advisors shopping their remaining eligibility to different institutions after graduation if the rule stays. He said just because the data show very few took advantage of the rule this year doesn’t mean more won’t in the future.

“It’s a new piece of legislation and it would require those who’d like to take advantage of it knowing that it exists and also planning for it,” Haney said. “I would have been surprised if it had shown a higher frequency.”

While Haney said the intent of the legislation — to allow student-athletes to pursue advanced degrees at an institution of their choice while continuing to compete — was admirable, the unintended consequences include an underground recruitment of the graduated student-athlete.

“We want kids to graduate, and it’s all wonderful, but I think we have to anticipate that the integrity of the game could be significantly marred,” he said. “The purity is hard to debate, but the reality of what’s going to happen is factual. It will happen. The same people who took advantage of recruiting rules when these kids were prospective student-athletes (will take advantage of this rule).”

Grant Teaff, executive director of the American Football Coaches Association, said he didn’t think many coaches would change their minds about wanting the legislation overturned. The primary concern of coaches is the possibility of student-athletes who have grown, learned and developed under the tutelage of one coach could take that experience elsewhere when it begins to blossom. He also believes football coaches are concerned about the same type of recruiting atmosphere Haney describes.

However, he believes no one should be too upset about the outcome.

“Nothing is ever as good as it seems and nothing is ever as bad as it seems, it’s always somewhere in between,” Teaff said.

During the override period, 46 member institutions requested an override of the legislation. The Board upheld the rule in August. Whether the new data will have an impact on the override vote remains to be seen.

"It's something that each institution has to look at," said Kate Hickey, associate athletics director at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, and chair of the Division I Management Council.

Teaff said he has no idea what will happen.

"I don't think you can predict what they're going to do," he said.

The postgraduate proposal isn't the only override vote on the table this year. The NCAA Football Championship Subdivision members of the Board in April defeated a measure to add a 12th regular-season game in football, which prompted an override request. The Football Bowl Subdivision adopted the 12th game last year.

The FCS members of the Board defeated the 12th-game proposal despite what was considered to be wide support at the committee and Management Council levels.

The override votes are scheduled at 2:30 p.m. January 6 during the legislative forum. A five-eighths majority of active members present and voting is required to override any legislation. These will be only the second and third override votes since Division I went to a representative structure in 1997. Delegates at the 2006 Convention in Indianapolis approved override votes on increasing scholarships in three women's sports. An override vote regarding women's soccer scholarships was defeated.

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## **CPOA PA Topic of the Month**

### **Equating Price With Quality**

#### ***Colleges Continue To Raise Fees and Increase Aid***

John Strassburger, the president of Ursinus College, a small liberal arts institution in eastern Pennsylvania says he may never forget the day that the chairman of the board of trustees told him the college was losing applicants because of its tuition.

It was too low. And something had to be done.

Six years ago the board voted to raise tuition and fees 17.6 percent to \$23,460. To help soften the blow, the school would provide a new laptop for all incoming freshmen. What happened next was a surprise to some, not so to others.

Ursinus received nearly 200 more applications than the year before. Within four years the size of the freshman class had risen 35 percent, to 454 students. Applicants had apparently concluded that if the college cost more, it must be better.

Ursinus also did something more: it raised student aid by nearly 20 percent, to just under \$12.9 million, meaning that a majority of its students paid less than half price.

This practice was not common outside New England until the start of the millennium.

Now many schools do it. The recognition that families associate price with quality, and that a tuition rise, accompanied by discounts, can lure more applicants and revenue, has helped produce an economy in academe something like that in the health care system, with prices rising faster than inflation but with many consumers paying less than full price.

Average tuition at private schools — the price leaders — rose 81 percent from 1993 to 2004, more than double the inflation rate, according to the College Board. At the same

time campus-based financial aid rose 135 percent. The average cost of tuition, fees, room and board at those colleges is now \$30,367. Of course many school cost even more with dozens now crossing the \$50,000 per year threshold.

But assistance is now so extensive that more than 73 percent of undergraduates attending private four-year institutions received at least some aid in the school year that ended in 2004, not even counting loans. On some campuses as many as 90 percent of students receive support, primarily from the college itself or the federal government. Remember, too, that financial need is not the only basis for awarding aid. Many colleges, competing for the students with high grades and standardized test scores that help a college rise in rankings guides, offer merit aid ranging from a few thousand dollars to a full scholarship.

Is there a ceiling where the price becomes too high? Some in the college admissions business say yes. They fear that unless other steps are taken, the middle and even upper middle class could ultimately be squeezed out to say nothing of students from lower-income families.

As it is, some students do not even apply to private colleges, scared away from the start by the sticker price and unaware of the available discounts. Most parents are aware that tuition and fees at public colleges and universities — though growing recently at a faster pace than those at private institutions — remain vastly lower, at an average of \$5,836, the College Board says.

Others argue everyone attending the expensive private colleges is already receiving a discount. Strictly by the numbers, they are correct. At institution after institution, officials say they offer an education costing tens of thousands of dollars more than even the printed price, although there is clearly some subjectivity involved.

Swarthmore College, an elite school just a half hour's drive from Ursinus, sports an annual budget of \$106 million to educate just under 1,500 undergraduates. Swarthmore spends about \$73,690 a student. But its tuition, room, board and fees in the last academic year were little more than \$41,000. "The half of our student body whose families are paying the full sticker price are paying \$41,000 for something that costs \$73,000," said Suzanne P. Welsh, the treasurer. "So they're getting a great discount."

The other students receive a bigger subsidy: on average, aid totaling more than \$28,500, most of it from the college itself. (Swarthmore limits its aid to students with financial need, but "need" can be established for families earning \$150,000 a year if, for instance, there are circumstances like having multiple children in college.) What makes it all work is Swarthmore's \$1.3 billion endowment, which throws off enough income to cover 43 percent of the operating budget.

How is it that schools with wide-ranging endowments, student-teacher ratios and enrollments arrange prices that are so similar? One reason is that they watch each other.

As part of an effort to improve its academic offerings and transcend its renown for football, the University of Notre Dame has raised tuition and fees by an inflation-adjusted 27 percent since 1999, to \$32,900. In setting tuition, Notre Dame watches 20 other colleges and universities, including the University of Chicago, Emory in Atlanta and Vanderbilt University. But Notre Dame's financial aid has increased even more over the same period, with undergraduate scholarships up 107 percent after adjustment for inflation. This year the university is distributing \$68 million.

Other colleges have tried the opposite approach with mixed results. Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, cut tuition and fees drastically in 1996, to \$10,285 from \$14,240. "We believed that if we lowered tuition, we would open access to the middle class" and "that we would continue to serve the higher socioeconomic-background students by becoming a best-buy institution," said Anne C. Steele, Muskingum's president. Revenue

increased, with enrollment of more students who could pay full price. Muskingum has also grown, to 1,600 undergraduates from about 1,000.

Yet the same strategy proved disastrous for North Carolina Wesleyan College. Ten years ago that college cut tuition and fees by 22 percent, to \$7,150. But it attracted fewer wealthy applicants and more poor ones, who needed more aid even as the revenue generated from tuition declined. "It didn't work out the way it had been hoped," said Ian David Campbell Newbould, the college's president. "People don't want cheap."

But they do apparently want a deal, or at least the perception of one. Lucie Lapovsky, a consultant who was once president of Mercy College in New York, conducted a study asking students to choose between a college charging \$20,000 and offering no aid, and one charging \$30,000 and offering a \$10,000 scholarship. Students chose the pricier option. "Americans seem to like college on sale," Dr. Lapovsky said.

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## **CPOA PA News – Topic I**

### **CPOAPA to produce Showcase Camps in 2007**

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 recruiting process. Armed with this information, parents will be able to start the recruiting process!

### **CPOA PA News – Topic II**

### **CPOA teams with Champion Lakes Golf Resort**

Any organization or group (min. 4 individuals) wishing to play Golf at one of the areas premier courses, can take advantage of this special offer by calling Dale Gregoritch of Champion Lakes @ 724-238-5440 and mentioning that they were referred by Martin Rock of College Prospects of America.

#### **GOLF OUTING INFORMATION FOR: SCHOLASTIC/NON PROFFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Champion Lakes Golf Club will donate \$5.00 per golfer to the representative organization on any outing played on Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday (before noon), holidays excluded.

We will provide the following:

- Shotgun Start (depending on the size of the outing)
- Permissible to bring “donated” beverages
- Driving Range available
- On-site over-night accommodations at a reduce rate to those participating in the outing.
- Halfway house/beverage carts for snacks etc.
- Golf rates w/cart - \$39 weekdays & \$44 weekends (18 holes)

#### **OVER-NIGHT GOLF PACKAGES**

Valid Sunday, Monday & Tuesday nights – Holidays excluded)

#### **THE BILL MAZEROSKI DOUBLE PLAY**

- Unlimited Golf w/Cart for Two Days
- On-Site Bed & Breakfast Accommodation
  - Full Breakfast
  - Lunch
- \$5.00 donation to organization
- Price: \$140.00

- (\$120. Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>)

### THE JERRY LYNCH THREE BAGGER

- Three days of golf w/cart  
( 2 unlimited at Champion Lakes)
- 18 Holes at Partner Course  
(Hidden Valley Golf Club, Tom's Run Golf Course, Donegal Highlands)
- Two Nights of Accommodations at on-site Bed & Breakfast
  - Two Complete Breakfasts
    - Two Lunches
- \$5.00 donation to organization.

- Reservations Required
  - Over Night Accommodations based on Double occupancy
- Tax & Gratuity Not Included

### **CPOA PA News – Topic III**

#### **CPOA teams with Strength, Fitness and Speed, Inc.**

<http://www.strengthfitnessandspeed.com>

Pleasant Hills Facility - Hosmer Industrial Park - 347A Old Curry Hollow Road - Pleasant Hills, PA 15236 – 412-653-7970

North Irwin Facility - 92 Webster Avenue - North Irwin, PA 15642 – 724-863-2800

**Strength, Fitness and Speed, located in Pleasant Hills and North Irwin is owned and operated by Mr. Ed Wietholder a certified professional strength and conditioning specialist.**

**At Strength, Fitness And Speed**, he and his staff work with athletes ages 9 through the Olympic and Professional ranks.

**Step 1) Evaluate:** The athlete receives a functional assessment. The Sports Performance Director designs a routine specifically for that individual based on results and sport. If work is needed to be tracked for the athlete outside of the facility, this is also an option (see at home tracking). The athlete receives a report that explains the results of the assessment.

**Step 2) Implement:** Performance coaches implement these routines during 1 on 1 sessions. The results of the assessment as well as the athlete's sport, age and position have been taken into account. Athletes train here 1-5 times per week. We strive to set up long term relationships to facilitate total development.

**Step 3) Ongoing evaluation:** Performance coaches evaluate as we go, provide feedback to the Performance Director, and adjustments are made workout to workout

based on sport season by the Performance Director. Each workout has been specifically altered to accomplish certain goals. Testing is done at approximately 8-week intervals initially.

**Step 4) Performance reports:** These will be sent out periodically to show progress

### **CPOA PA News – Topic IV**

Martin Rock will be the featured speaker at Tom Alper's Kicking Academy Clinic on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Robert Morris University Bubble from 10AM – 11AM

### **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).