

JUNE ISSUE CONTENTS

- Important Recruiting Dates
- Additions to CPOA
- NCAA News
- CPOA PA Topic of the Month
- Contact Sheets
- Internet Updates
- Referral Program
- Season End Updates
- Monthly Meetings
- Seminars

IMPORTANT JUNE RECRUITING DATES

6-3: SAT Test.

6-10: ACT Test

6-15: Division II coaches may begin making telephone calls to 2007 graduates.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Nick Sorice – Football – Greater Latrobe

Andrea Fischione – Track and Field – Franklin Regional

Allen Park – Wrestling – Mt. Pleasant

NCAA News

About 1/3 Graduate in Four Years

The United States Department of Education reports about 35 percent of first-time, full-time college students who plan to earn a bachelor's degree reach their goal within four years, and 56 percent achieve it within six years.

A report released in March covering students who entered four-year colleges in the fall of 1998 tracked their progress through August 2004. It showed that completion rates were higher for women and students at private colleges.

After six years, 59 percent of female students had earned degrees, while 53 percent of male students had.

By institution type, 64 percent of students at private non-profit colleges had a degree within six years, compared with 53 percent of those at public colleges and 25 percent of those at private for-profit colleges.

Total college enrollment in the fall of 2004 stood at 17.7 million.

Grad Rate Gap Narrowing between Blacks and Whites

The gap between the graduation rates for white and black athletes has narrowed steadily during the last 20 years, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The results of a study published by the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida, used both federal graduation rates and the National Collegiate Athletic

Association's Graduation Success Rates to examine cohorts of students who matriculated from 1984 to 1998.

Using the federal graduation rates, 52 percent of all black athletes in the 1998 cohort graduated, compared with 35 percent of those in 1984. The graduation rate for black male athletes increased 15 percentage points, to 48 percent from 33 percent, during that time. Female black athletes had an 18-percentage-point increase, to 63 percent from 45 percent. During the same period, the graduation rate for white athletes increased to 66 percent from 59 percent. Unlike the federal formula, the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate accounts for incoming transfer students and does not penalize colleges for athletes who transfer to other institutions, as long as those students leave in good academic standing. Using the NCAA's formula, the institute found that the graduation rate for black athletes over all increased to 59 percent in 1998, with 54 percent of men and 73 percent of women earning a degree within six years.

Rich Schools, Students Prosper

Colleges with large endowments and students from well-off families have been a popular combination in the history of American higher education. What is becoming more common is the merit-based assistance given to kids from privileged families, some argue at the expense of children from families with real financial need.

The question stirs lively debate. Are schools entitled to spend the funds at their disposal the way they wish or is there a moral obligation to help those who need the most assistance?

In a report in last month's *Chronicle of Higher Education*, we were again reminded of the growing divide between the haves and the have-nots — among students as well as institutions. This widening gap comes at a time when class divisions, whether between colleges or among students on the campuses, play an ever growing role in life.

Never before has a college degree meant more in determining social class in America. On average, a college graduate will earn at least a million dollars more over a lifetime than someone who does not continue after high school.

But is the playing field fair for children from poorer families where generation after generation never attended college? The nation's wealthiest and most selective schools are failing to enroll large numbers of poor students. These schools are putting many more dollars toward classroom instruction than colleges with less to spend can, while both spend like crazy on campus amenities, like fitness centers and wireless-Internet hot spots, raising students' expectations and diverting resources away from instruction and financial aid.

The gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" is widening. In the past 10 years, average spending on instruction per student at the wealthiest baccalaureate colleges — those in the top quartile, public and private — increased by 37 percent; at the same time, spending by those in the bottom quartile grew by only 6 percent. Over the same period, endowment assets per student at the richest baccalaureate institutions grew by nearly \$127,000, an amount more than 10 times greater than the growth among the bottom quartile, where assets increased by only \$8,600. Some schools are at least trying to bridge the gap.

In March, the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University and MIT announced free tuition programs for needy students. Harvard, the University of Virginia, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Princeton are already doing the same. But not many disadvantaged kids can qualify academically for these elite schools.

At Princeton, Pell Grant recipients made up only 7.5 percent of the undergraduates in 2004-5. At Harvard University and Virginia, they accounted for 8 percent. The number of needy students on the campus is not just a concern at wealthy colleges, however. By age 24, only 10 percent of students from the lowest socioeconomic quartile have earned bachelor's degrees, compared with 71 percent from those in the top quartile, says Thomas Mortenson, a senior scholar at the Pell Institute.

In the past decade it was the nation's wealthiest families that enjoyed the biggest increases in financial-aid packages.

Average student-aid packages for the top quartile of families, ranked by income, more than tripled from 1990 to 2004, growing by \$4,555 after adjusting for inflation. But for families in the bottom quartile, the packages rose by just 55 percent, or \$3,328. At the same time, average unmet

financial need for families in the bottom quartile — with incomes of less than \$34,000 — grew by 80 percent, to \$5,527. Unmet need was effectively zero for the top quartile, in which families earned more than \$95,007 in 2004.

As in the country as a whole, class distinctions have always existed in higher education. The Harvards, Michigans, and Grinnells have long snagged the big gifts, posted large endowment gains, hired star professors, and attracted top-notch students, mostly from well-off families and elite suburban high schools. The Clarkes, Keukas, and Mansfields have labored for attention and money, kept a tight rein on expenses, and worried about filling beds each fall with students, many of them from working-class and low-income families with plenty of financial need. Fortunately we can help schools and students from all classes and, traditionally, athletics has been one discipline that reaches across all social and economic classes.

Lawsuit Filed Over SAT Scoring Errors

Who didn't see this coming?

The first lawsuit has been filed against the College Board and its sub-contractor over scoring errors that affected more than 4,400 students who took the SAT last October.

The lawsuit, filed last month in a state court in Minnesota, was brought on behalf of an unidentified high-school senior in New York. The lawyers who brought the case are seeking class-action status to allow any student who took the test in October, except those who received falsely high scores, to join the lawsuit.

Of the 495,000 students who took the SAT last October, 4,411 received incorrectly low scores. Six hundred test takers were given better scores than they deserved.

According to published reports, the suit would require the College Board to correct the inflated scores, as well as those that are too low. It also asks for unspecified damages and a return of the test fee.

Although the scoring problem affected fewer than 1 percent of the students who took the October exam, some university admissions officials have said the incident could shake confidence in the SAT. They also have questioned why it took the College Board so long to report the error.

The College Board has announced it plans to overhaul the entire scoring process to prevent a similar error in the future.

CPOA PA Topic of the Month I

How to use sports as a ticket to college

Many schools desperate to fill out rosters

Sunday, April 23, 2006

By Anya Sostek, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Aubrey DiVito was deciding between playing basketball at Slippery Rock University and volleyball at California University of Pennsylvania when she received a letter from Liz Jones, the Robert Morris University crew coach, who had seen her at a basketball tournament.

Not only was she clueless about crew, but she was also a poor swimmer who hated water. She agreed to meet with Ms. Jones and walked away with a larger scholarship offer than she had received from either of the other two schools.

"I knew I could do basketball and knew I could do volleyball," she said. "This was physically demanding, and I like that sort of challenge."

The recruiting of Aubrey DiVito highlights an interesting twist in college athletics today: You don't need to have an all-star resume to be recruited to play sports, especially ones like women's crew.

With more than 2,000 American colleges fielding sports teams, scholarship money for athletes is plentiful. To capitalize on that, several businesses dedicated to connecting high school athletes to college scholarships have thrived for decades.

"It's a huge, huge business with a lot of money at stake," said Martin Rock, who owns the Western Pennsylvania franchise for College Prospects of America. "Our goal is to get them the most money possible."

Some of Mr. Rock's clients end up at big-name athletic powerhouses such as the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Maryland. Others use their athletic skills to help them get into top-flight academic schools, such as Carnegie Mellon University and Dartmouth.

But most of them go to lesser-known schools that have money to spend on athletes, places such as Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., and D'Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y.

To hit every possible school that might have money to offer, the services send their clients' athletic and academic profiles to every school in the nation that offers the client's sport. For football and basketball, that could be more than 1,000 schools.

Sam Gioia, a 2004 graduate of Bishop Canevin High School and a former client of Mr. Rock's, had never heard of the University of Rochester when he started his search for a place to play college baseball.

His family paid Mr. Rock \$1,100 to make a videotape and mail profiles of his athletic and academic accomplishments to nearly every college in the nation.

His GPA, above 4.0 when bonus points for honors classes were included, stood out when Rochester's baseball coach was perusing profiles on the College Prospects Web site. By January of Mr. Gioia's senior year, the Rochester coach had arranged for him to receive an academic scholarship of about \$24,000 a year. Although the process certainly worked for Mr. Gioia, who stopped playing baseball after his freshman year, college coaches differ on the effectiveness of recruiting services.

"We've never gotten anybody from anything like that," said John Papa, who has coached track and cross country at Slippery Rock for almost 20 years and has only a few scholarships to offer. "When you get a kid from California, they're not coming to Slippery Rock. They're fishing for scholarships, so we're out of that market."

But Kim Kelly, the women's volleyball coach at Carnegie Mellon, said she contacts many of the high school girls whose profiles she receives in the mail. Although she fills most of her team with athletes who have contacted her personally, she said, she gets two or three a year from recruiting services.

Even counting Division III schools such as Carnegie Mellon, **Mr. Rock said, his clients average \$24,000 in scholarships when athletic, academic and financial aid grants are totaled together.**

Full athletic scholarships are rare, he said, and are almost exclusively reserved for football and basketball players at top Division I schools.

Mr. Papa, the track coach at Slippery Rock, said he was dividing money for one scholarship on his men's team among about 10 athletes.

For that reason, most of the money Mr. Rock's clients receive is through academic scholarships, he said, adding that Division III schools are prohibited from giving athletic scholarships but are often willing to allot some academic money to athletes.

Academics are such an important factor in getting college scholarships, he said, that he very rarely takes on clients with grade point averages below 3.0, regardless of how accomplished they are athletically.

But while many scholarships come down to academics, others are heavily influenced by supply and demand. Put bluntly, some sports are more selective than others.

Men's basketball, for example, is probably the toughest sport in which to get a scholarship, Mr. Rock said. The maximum number of scholarships for each Division I school is small (13) and the number of high school boys playing basketball is in the hundreds of thousands.

In women's crew, on the other hand, there are about 2,200 high school rowers, but almost 100 Division I and Division II schools that offer scholarships.

"It's bizarre," said Ms. Jones, the Robert Morris crew coach, who has about three scholarships to divide among her women's team. "There are more scholarships than there are quality athletes [with rowing experience] who deserve a Division I scholarship."

To find rowers, she often looks for athletes such as Ms. DiVito: those who have no rowing experience at all, but have shown drive and commitment in other sports.

In the course of recruiting, she stalks big swim meets and basketball tournaments. In the 10 years she's been coaching, she has found athletes through word of mouth in church, and even through a comment her father made to a high school track coach on a golf course in New Jersey.

Women's crew is the most dramatic example of a supply and demand imbalance, but there are others, particularly in women's sports. Under the federal government's Title IX rules, the number of scholarships in women's sports has to be proportional to the participation of women athletes.

CPOA PA Topic of the Month II

Football Coaches Get Boot From Spring Combines

In late May, football coaches ended an annual pilgrimage that sees them go on the road evaluating the most talented players around the country. Typically, coaches criss-cross the map attending camps with stopwatches and clipboards at the ready, looking for the can't-miss blue-chippers to join their team year after next.

Primarily, anytime the NCAA changes recruiting rules it is news. As a general rule, when the NCAA limits recruiting by coaches, it is good news for companies that they count on to provide them with information when they may not be in a position to get it themselves. That written, we cannot delude ourselves into thinking that all of a sudden coaches from the top football schools will show up on our Coach Contact sheets. That is not reality. However, coaches will need to be more creative to make up for this lifeblood evaluation period they have come to depend on. Let us also remember it is a distinct possibility that the evaluation could be reinstated someday. Nothing is forever. But the bottom line is the more complicated the recruiting rules are made, the better for us.

Secondly, the loss of the camp evaluation helps us combat a longtime nemesis. For years we have heard from parents, "Our son is going to so-and-so Camp this spring and lots of coaches are going to be there so we don't really need your service." Camp organizers have used this ploy against us even though we have tried to point out that coaches usually went to see players they already knew. Now that the coaches cannot attend, the point is moot.

Additionally, the role of Internet companies like rivals.com and scout.com is clearly becoming more powerful. They have tremendous influence on where prospects are recruited. Like lobbyists working with Congress, their power cannot be underestimated. This again points out the shift of change in traditional paths of how kids were recruited. It used to be kids went to camps, period. Not anymore.

One of the ironies of this legislative change pointed out in the article is despite the win-at-all-costs reputation of football coaches, a key reason for the adoption of the new policy was to improve the quality of life of the coaches. Many of them were complaining of being on the road too often and never seeing their families. Not all are willing to pay the price of weeks of separation from their wives and children, and this in the so-called "off season". On the other hand, since the profit making camps conducted by college coaches are not affected by this legislation, coaches will still be able to bring in big bucks by charging thousands of young men hundreds of dollars each for the privilege of hanging out on campus for a few days working on drills and techniques, so don't feel too badly for them.

Butler's Metro Index Camp may be squeezed out of existence, which would be a shame more for the above-average player than the blue-chipper.

CPOA News

College Signings

The following CPOA PA clients have recently signed with the following schools:

Jennifer Kalkstein – Track - Burrell HS – St. Francis University
Tony DeStafano – Baseball -Greater Latrobe HS – University of Pittsburgh
J.D. Higgins – Baseball -Waynesburg HS – Grove City College
Ryan Thomas – Baseball - Center HS – Temple University
Ronnie Hixson – Football - Derry Area – Westminster College
Jessica Mueseler – Basketball – Greater Latrobe HS - Westminster College
Neredith Sabol - Soccer – Serra Catholic HS – Westminster College

Division I Baseball Signing Streak Continues for CPOA PA

Once again, CPOA PA has a client going to play Baseball at the Division level. This year there are two players:

Tony DeStafano – Baseball -Greater Latrobe HS – University of Pittsburgh
Ryan Thomas – Baseball - Center HS – Temple University

CPOA Partners with Great Grades Strategies

CPOAPA has partnered with Great Grades Strategies effective May 1, 2006. The Great Grades Strategies DVD program is a revolutionary approach to quickly teaching high school and college student athletes core study and life skills using an entertaining, compelling and interactive format. Students who follow the program dramatically improve academically — we're so sure of it that we offer a 30-day money back guarantee. Great Grades Strategies Academic Coach and Founder, Gene Fay, knows firsthand what it's like to struggle with academic performance. He spent years developing this proven system that teaches the essential skills he was never taught in school. Link to learn more about Great Grades.

<http://gpagrowth.com/high-school.html>

CPOAPA Softball Showcase

Mark your calendars for June 20th, 2006 as this date will mark the 1st 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 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 recruiting process. Armed with this information, parents will be able to start the recruiting process!

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. 15th thru May 15th)

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

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 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 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. 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 and if that athlete signs with CPOA PA, **you receive a \$25 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).