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IMPORTANT MAY RECRUITING DATES

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Jordan Jones – Golf – Mt. Pleasant Area

Taylor Barnickel – Golf – Albert Gallatin

Jacob Freeland – Lacrosse – Fairmont

Brenna O’Leary – Soccer – Peters Township

NCAA News

Article: Coaches Never Stop Recruiting

Early last month, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* continued a series called “The Chase”, which focuses on athletic recruiting. This series has been well researched and written from the beginning, and the latest installment does not disappoint.

“For Coaches, a Race With No Finish Line” continues the ongoing story of the difficulties involved in athletic recruiting from many perspectives. Most of the articles critical points are ones we have been making for many years, including:

- The intense recruitment of athletes, once reserved only for blue-chip recruits in football and basketball, now extends to athletes in all sports at all levels of competition;

- The “acceleration” of the process forces coaches to make early decisions on the capability of teenagers to compete at the college level and athletes and parents to make a critical call on the student’s future sooner than ever before;
- The “Arms Race”, as recruiting and athletic spending is referred to by the likes of Ohio State University president E. Gordon Gee, is showing no signs of slowing down, primarily because no coach wants to be the first to “stand down” and give up the advantage in recruiting to someone else. As much as anything, these decisions can be traced to self-preservation as coaches try to field winning teams to insure they either keep their job or remain in line for a promotion to a larger school;
- The transformation of the recruiting process into public domains such as internet bulletin boards, fan web sites, and rating/ranking services not only makes information more accessible, but creates a new kind of pressure on coaches and recruits, who now must recruit each other in the public spotlight;
- The complex and ever-changing recruiting rules established by the NCAA create many more questions than answers.

We have re-printed the article as an insert this month (some of you may have received it in an e-mail in early May). It should be required reading, not only for parents and student-athletes, but for high school coaches and administrators who do not understand today’s recruiting realities. Share it in your world and be sure to point out how CPOA helps both sides come together unlike any other organization.

NCAA, NAIA May Cooperate on Scheduling

Though they have always been divided by a Grand Canyon-like chasm – the one a money-making monolith, the other resembling a “mom-and-pop store” by comparison – the NCAA and the NAIA may form a relationship based on several issues both associations agree can be good for each other.

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a combination of factors are pushing the groups closer, including the NCAA's recent failure to create a fourth division to accommodate new members, the increasing cost of travel, and a desire to improve the recruiting and playing experience for all college athletes. Over the past few months, leaders from both groups have reportedly met to discuss a variety of ideas, including allowing teams from the two associations to schedule more games against each other, joining together to reduce health-insurance and other administrative expenses, and establishing new recruiting standards to ensure that high-school players can't renege on their commitments to one association over the other. While any changes are likely months away, the moves could save athletics departments tens of millions of dollars every year and thaw relations between many programs.

The most obvious change could come on the playing fields. Although many NAIA and NCAA programs are located in the same cities, they rarely compete. That's because the NAIA, whose members are mostly small private colleges and universities, is widely considered an inferior level of athletic competition, and NCAA teams that play too many games against NAIA programs can harm their chances of qualifying for postseason play.

On paper the NCAA would seem to have little need for the NAIA. The NCAA has 1,200 member institutions, nearly 400,000 athletes, and a budget of more than \$500-million. The NAIA has about 300 members, 45,000 athletes, and a \$4-million budget.

But the NCAA's deep pockets make it a sought-after destination, which has led scores of NAIA programs to consider switching. As a result, the NCAA's ranks are bulging. In 2006 it established a moratorium on Division III growth. By facilitating more games with NAIA teams, the NCAA could help strengthen the NAIA's brand. That could lead more high-school athletes to consider playing NAIA sports and ultimately help keep the NCAA's overall membership growth at bay.

What does not appear to be on the table is the NCAA buying the NAIA, a rumor that has been circulating for years. The NAIA may be small, but it has enjoyed small operating surpluses each of the past eight years. Its leaders say they have no desire to go away. "The NCAA certainly has abundant resources, and if any of these partnerships allow us to take advantage of some of those resources, we certainly wouldn't be against that," said NAIA president Jim Carr. "But we only want to pursue conversations with the NCAA that keep our name and identity intact."

Few Teams Penalized For Academic Shortcomings

The day of reckoning for schools that do not keep pace with academic standards established by the NCAA for student-athletes has not come yet, at least in large numbers.

For the fourth annual report of APR (Academic Progress Rate) data, though more than 700 teams performed poorly enough academically to lose scholarships or suffer other penalties, only 174 will see scholarships cut and 44 will receive a "public warning", according to the NCAA. "Teams" is not, obviously, the same as "schools" since every school has multiple teams representing it. There are more than 6000 teams competing in NCAA Division I.

The number of teams sanctioned was lower than most expected. "The number of teams receiving penalties is not as high as we thought it would be this time last year," said NCAA president Myles Brand. "The reason is there are genuine signs of measurable improvement." The NCAA also takes other considerations into account before applying penalties, including the level of resources an institution has, whether a coaching change has taken place, or that the school develops a specific plan for improving athletes' grades.

The vast majority of Division I teams did not receive any penalties. But three sports in particular - football, baseball, and men's basketball - have been under the NCAA's watchful gaze. Last year, NCAA officials predicted that at least 300 teams in those three sports could face sanctions this year.

The APR was developed by the NCAA four years ago as a way to gauge how much progress college athletes were making on earning their degrees. The measurement gives scores to each team based on eligibility, retention rates, and degree-completion rates of its players. The benchmark score of 925 out of 1,000 equates to roughly a 60-percent success rate in graduating players within six

years. Teams with Academic Progress Rates below 925 can lose scholarships, and scores below 900 trigger even more severe sanctions.

Tuition Forecast

It's hardly "news" in the strict sense, but most college financial officers expect tuition increases to continue outpacing inflation. The good news for some families is the competition between schools for in-demand student-athletes will assure that there are still good financial aid offers to be had.

According to a report by Independent 529 Plan released last month, 78 percent of respondents said they expected tuition increases to keep rising faster than inflation.

When asked if the decisions of a few wealthy colleges to eliminate or reduce student loans and replace them with grants would affect their institutions, 45 percent of respondents said it would have "minimal impact." Eleven percent said that they would probably reassess their financial-aid priorities as a result.

Financial officers were also asked what drives tuition increases at their institutions. The most common responses were keeping up with other colleges' facilities and rising health-care costs. Salaries, especially of faculty members, were also frequently mentioned, particularly in light of efforts to reduce student/faculty ratios. Another factor is competition. Schools that traditionally compete with each other for students will continue to bump financial aid for the ones they want the most. Competition among colleges creates more choices for students and increases the chances that he or she will select the school that is the right fit. There is no better reason to become a CPOA client.

News and Notes

Congratulations to Simon Earnshaw, former CPOA client from England, the head men's and women's tennis coach at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, GA. We've written about the successes of Simon's teams before, but this year the Pirates pulled off a rare daily double. The men's and women's teams both won the National NCAA Division II championship last month. The men's team won its first national title, the women its second since 2005. The men were 31-0; the women were 32-1! It's only the second time in Division II history the same school has won men's and women's national tennis titles. For the trivia buffs, BYU-Hawaii was the other in 2003.

More tennis achievements for former clients of Marva Hall: Hassan Abbas and James Preston combined to win the California Community Colleges Doubles Championship, competing for Ventura College. Abbas was state runner-up in singles. As Marva points out, since California junior colleges do not compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association, winning a state championship against other California community colleges – among the most talented athletically in the nation – is the highest honor Hassan and James could receive.

Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., is joining a small but growing list of universities that is not requiring either the ACT or the SAT for admissions. The small, prestigious Atlantic Coast Conference member school is turning the emphasis more toward an applicant's grades and classroom achievements. Though it is reported there are at least 100 colleges and universities with small enrollments that no longer require a standardized test score for admissions, it is not expected that schools with large enrollments nor the Ivy League or other high-end academic institutions in that category will follow the trend.

Women's Wrestling: An Emerging Sport?

It's too soon to say if the NCAA will grant women's wrestling "Emerging Sport" status, but small schools across the nation are adding teams as a way of – you guessed it – boosting enrollment.

According to *The New York Times*, Missouri Baptist University, a small Christian liberal arts institution, is starting a team this fall. Oklahoma City University began a program in 2007. And Menlo College near San Francisco, which specializes in business management and where nearly two-thirds of the students are men, has had a women's wrestling team since 2001.

Is this trend a comment on gender equity? Not likely. Most schools continue to cut programs, practicing addition by subtraction. No, officials at these small colleges admit adding a women's wrestling team has little to do with Title IX and everything to do with their bottom line. Officials at tuition-hungry colleges say women's wrestling is an untapped market of prospective students, one that has curiously been all but ignored by bigger universities.

The inclusion of women's wrestling in the Olympics beginning in 2004 provided a huge boost to the sport's popularity and credibility. Five thousand girls nationwide wrestled in high school in the 2006-07 academic year, yet only eight colleges offer it as a varsity sport. Three of those eight programs are starting this fall. Rosters fill up nearly as quickly as colleges create teams. "When we can get so many girls to come here for a first-year program, that's 20 to 25 extra students who normally wouldn't have looked at Jamestown College," said Cisco Cole, the women's wrestling coach there.

Jamestown, a 1,000-student private liberal arts college in North Dakota, has one of the three new women's wrestling programs. Seventeen wrestlers, including four from Hawaii, have enrolled. Hawaii to North Dakota, how else can it be explained?

Despite wrestling's growth among small colleges, larger schools have not yet followed suit. Obscure sports like squash and synchronized swimming have been officially recognized as Emerging Sports for women by the NCAA, but wrestling has not made the seven-sport list.

Pacific University in Oregon is the only NCAA member that offers varsity women's wrestling. The other varsity programs are at NAIA schools. A few women compete on NCAA men's varsity teams.

High school participation has increased more than tripled in the past decade, when 1,600 girls wrestled during the 1996-97 school year, according to the

National Federation of State High School Associations. The sport has grown fastest in Hawaii, Texas and Washington — states that created separate state championships for girls, according to USA Wrestling, the national governing body.

More high school girls participate in wrestling than in archery or equestrian, which have been officially recognized as Emerging Sports by the NCAA. At least 10 NCAA-member colleges must express interest in a program and at least 20 must offer it as a varsity or competitive club team before a sport can be classified as emerging.

For small colleges, the influx of even a few dozen students can make a financial difference. Oklahoma City University, for example, has 30 female wrestlers and offers athletic aid that is the equivalent of eight full scholarships. Annual tuition and room and board is \$27,000.

Missouri Baptist hopes to attract extra attention for starting a program. “It’s not like Missouri Baptist is constantly throwing out Olympic-level athletes,” said Brian Jackson, the women’s wrestling coach. But he recently signed a recruit who qualified for the Olympic wrestling trials in June at 158 ½ pounds.

A handful of NCAA Division I members offer co-ed wrestling clubs. Women’s wrestling is also available at Division II Northern Michigan, where it is not a varsity sport but is part of an Olympic training program overseen by the United States Olympic Committee.

What about the idea that wrestling is not a sport in which women should be competing? “There are groups out there trying to paint us as being an anti-woman organization,” said Mike Moyer, executive director of the National Wrestling Coaches Association. “Yet we’re doing everything we can to promote opportunities for women.”

Michael Burch, an assistant men’s wrestling coach at Brown, said that many college administrators and, perhaps the NCAA, remain uncomfortable with having women compete in contact sports, even when they spar against each other. “In general, there’s this resistance to the personification of women as aggressive,” Burch said. Burch said he was fired by the University of California at Davis in 2001, soon after he protested the elimination of women from the men’s wrestling team. He sued the university, and the case was later settled. “We’re O.K. with women who can work hard and hustle out on the field,” Burch said.

Sports Sponsorships

Jacksonville University, NCAA Division I in Jacksonville, Fla., is adding men’s lacrosse and women’s lacrosse to begin play in the 2009-10 school year.

Murray State University, NCAA Division I in Murray, KY, adds one and takes one away. Women’s softball becomes a varsity sport for 2009-10. The women’s rowing team is being dropped at the end of this school year.

Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz., is discontinuing three men's sports. Men's tennis, swimming and wrestling are being dropped immediately for the seeming always-cited "budgetary reasons". **NOTE: As the newsletter goes to press, Arizona State about faces and reinstates wrestling!**

Otterbein College, NCAA Division III in suburban Columbus, Ohio, is adding a men's lacrosse team that will begin competing in the spring of 2010.

Asbury College, an NAIA school in Wilmore, KY, will field a women's softball team to begin competing in the spring of 2009.

CPOAPA News

CPOA Clients Sign with Colleges

- Dan Sivak – Mt. Pleasant area will continue his Football career at Bethany College.
- Liz Donnelly – Derry Area will continue her Soccer career at Limestone College in South Carolina
- Cassie Sanderson – Elizabeth Forward will continue her Basketball career at Wheeling Jesuit University
- William Ferguson – Fairfax HS will continue his Football career at St. Vincent College
- Stephen Martinkovich – North Allegheny will continue his Baseball career at Allegheny College
- Lauren Cassler – Ligonier Valley will continue her Soccer career at Carlow University
- Coty Hainsey – Chestnut Ridge HS will continue his Soccer career at Westminster College
- Ashley Baughman – Hopewell HS will continue her Softball career at Carlow University
- Elena Reed – Elk County Christian will continue her Soccer career at Mercyhurst College
- Jason Timmons – Greater Latrobe will continue his Track career at Monmouth University

- Jordan Donaldson – Tussey Mountain will continue his Tarck career at Bucknell
- Ben Sollenberger – Northern Bedford will continue his Football career at Shippensburg University
- Glennis Robash – Mars HS will continue her Soccer career at Penn State Behrend
- Dan Matyas – Valley HS will continue his Ice Hockey career at Denison University
- Glenn Moyer – Greensburg Salem will continue his Football career at Washington and Jefferson College
- Cassie Nath – Ligonier Valley will continue her Soccer career at University of Pittsburgh Johnstown
- Sean Schetka – New Brighton will continue his Soccer Career at Southern Vermont University
- Jacob Gibas – Greater Latrobe will continue his Football career at Rose-Hulman in Indiana.
- Mike Godissart – Chestnut Ridge will continue his Baseball career at Mt. Aloysius College
- Mike Sawlsville - Mt. Pleasant area will continue his Football career at Bethany College.
- Harlan Funk – Mt. Pleasant Area will continue his Football career at Waynesburg College
- Katrina Kelly – Connellsville will continue her Soccer career at Waynesburg College.

Out & About

Look for CPOA representatives at the following venues this spring / summer:

Tom Alper Kicking Academy and QB Camp: 6/11 Mary Lou Retton Park – Fairmont WV

Tom Alper Kicking Academy and QB Camp: 6/16 Johnstown HS Football Stadium

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 \$50 referral fee!**

Season End Updates

Attention all 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).