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IMPORTANT JUNE RECRUITING DATES

6: SAT Test

13: ACT Test

15: Division II coaches may begin making telephone calls to 2010 graduates.

15: Division I Men's Ice Hockey coaches may begin calling 2011 grads once per month.

Recruiting Topic of the Month

When the calendar flips to July 1, rising seniors in most sports will begin to find out where they stand in the recruiting process. July 1 is the first day that coaches in Division I may begin contacting seniors-to-be by telephone, with these exceptions: football (May), basketball (April for women and June for men), and international ice hockey players (June after sophomore year). Division I basketball coaches, who live on the road in July attending summer camps, can make three calls to each prospect during the month of July.

But for players in all other sports, July is the first time a college coach can telephone a prospect.

Local CPOA News

Congratulations to the following CPOAPA student – athletes who have made their collegiate commitments:

Jeff Yunetz - Greater Latrobe - Basketball - West Liberty

Maria Montini - Hempfield - Basketball - U.P.J.

Alyssa Grossman - Hempfield - Softball - West Virginia Wesleyan

Greg Langer - Pine Richland - Football - RMU

Madalyn Zalewski – Valley - Swimming - Mt. Union

Lindsay Gruss - Derry Area - Swimming - Penn State Behrend

Chrissy Esachina - Greensburg Central Catholic - Swimming - West Point USMA

Matt Vogt - Seneca Valley - Golf - Butler University

Sarah Heimlich - Serra Catholic - Golf - Youngstown State

Eric Minerd - Laurel Highlands - Wrestling - Seton Hill University

Luke Niezelski - Derry Area - Swimming - Stevens Institute of Technology

Brad Burkardt - Greater Latrobe - Baseball - St. Vincent College

Jeff Hoak - Elizabeth Forward - Football - West Liberty

Tom Kozlowski - Shaler - Lacrosse - Washington & Jefferson

Malleri Hardison - Laurel Highlands - Volleyball - University of Charleston

Andrew Edwards - Hopewell - Golf - Westminster College

Jeff Kerila – Greater Latrobe – Football – Muskingum College

Jordan Jones – Mt. Pleasant Area – Golf – Goldey – Beacum College

Financial News

Schools and Conferences Cut Spending During Tough Times

Last month, *USA Today* highlighted schools and conferences that are trimming the fat – and some lean - from their athletic budgets in response to America's economic crisis.

Even the BCS schools are feeling the pinch. At its conference meeting, Big Ten officials opted to suspend the traditional allotment of luggage, electronics and other gifts to players at the conference's annual basketball tournament and other events — saving a projected \$500,000. They also froze the salaries of higher-paid league employees.

The Atlantic Coast Conference has joined a growing movement to shrink the size of team's traveling squads, capping football's at 72. Before that, it scrapped a plan to take next year's postseason baseball tournament to historical Fenway Park in Boston, and in the process, saved \$125,000.

The Pac-10 Conference is being especially proactive, drawing up several measures it expects to submit to the NCAA for national implementation. One would cut out off-season foreign tours commonly taken by school and conference all-star teams. Another, aimed primarily at football, would prohibit team lodging in hotels the night before home and other locally played games. A third proposal effectively would cut down on teams competing in their "non-traditional" seasons, for instance playing a smattering of baseball games in the fall. The Pac-10 also will urge the NCAA to work toward reducing the number of games and length of playing seasons in all sports except football, men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball.

A study commissioned by the NCAA found that the average Division I athletics program operated at a \$5.7 million loss in 2007, as opposed to a \$4.1 million loss three years earlier, and that was before the nation's economy hit the skids. A survey of athletic directors found that about two dozen schools of 80 responding have cut athletics staff in the past five years and about one in six schools had cut at least one sport. This year alone, at least 15 cash-strapped schools have said they'll eliminate a total of 32 teams.

Elsewhere:

- The ACC will push for an early signing period in football, which would allow schools to nail down recruits in December or January rather than wait for the traditional February date — and relieve coaches of babysitting prospects who've committed verbally but still are subject to persuasion by rival coaches. That could take half a dozen or more of a school's coaches off the road in those months.

- The Big Sky Conference will play its men's and women's league basketball games only on Fridays and Saturdays, prohibit air travel for team road trips of less than 450 miles and cut post-season tournament fields in two sports. These moves are projected to save some \$415,000, or \$46,000 per school.
- Most conferences, if not all, are looking at meeting more often by teleconference rather than traveling to meeting sites. Many are eliminating or cutting back on printed news media guides, a measure the Big Ten says will save it \$200,000.
- The NCAA is cutting \$4 million from its budget this year, mostly through travel cuts and a soft hiring freeze. The association also is suspending membership dues for 2009-10, saving schools a total of about \$1.6 million.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Mark Zindren – Sewickley Academy – Soccer

Wilson Henry – Quaker Valley - Golf

NCAA News

1 in 10 Div. I Teams Are Below Grad Rate Standard

Nearly 10 percent of all athletics teams in the NCAA's top division failed to meet its annual benchmark for academic progress, according to the latest NCAA report.

Of the 6,300 or so teams in Division I, nearly 600 scored below the number the association has set as the cutoff point between teams whose athletes are making acceptable progress toward their degrees and teams whose athletes are not. But as it did last year, the NCAA penalized far fewer teams than it could have. It handed out sanctions to 177 teams at 107 colleges—representing just 3 percent of all Division I squads. Of those, 104 will lose scholarships. Eighteen colleges, many of them historically black institutions, received a public warning. For the first time, the NCAA has banned a handful of teams from postseason competition for their poor academic performance.

The report, now in its fifth year, looks at a measurement called the Academic Progress Rate (APR), which the NCAA uses to gauge how much progress college athletes were making toward their degrees and how well they were performing in the classroom. The measurement gives scores to each Division I team based on eligibility, retention rates, and graduation rates of its players. The

benchmark score of 925 out of 1,000, for example, would equal 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 more-severe sanctions, like restrictions on practice time and postseason play.

Athletes in the sports of men's basketball, football, and baseball have boosted their overall academic-progress rates in the five years the NCAA has been collecting data. But they continue to struggle in the classroom, with their teams often posting academic-progress rates that lag far behind those in other sports. Men's basketball, football, and baseball teams accounted for more than 40 percent of all the low-scoring squads, and drew more than half of all the penalties the NCAA handed out. Several high-profile men's basketball teams from some of the nation's wealthiest and most competitive conferences scored well below the 925 cutoff. They include Indiana, Kansas State, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Southern California, Ohio State University, the University of Maryland, and Georgia Tech. Of those teams, only Indiana and Ohio State received penalties.

Of the three colleges that received the stiffest sanction yet—a ban on postseason competition—two are football teams, and one is a men's basketball team. The men's basketball team at Centenary College of Louisiana and the football team at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga will not be able to participate in postseason play. Jacksonville State University's football team also received the postseason restriction but is appealing the decision.

Over all, women's teams scored much higher than men's teams. Only one-quarter of all teams scoring below the 925 cutoff were women's programs, and they accounted for only a handful of the teams receiving penalties.

Teams under 925 at historically black colleges and universities generally received a public warning instead of sanctions. Many lack the academic resources such as extensive tutoring found at other NCAA schools in comparison.

Sports Sponsorships

The trend of dropping athletics teams (adding a few in some cases) continues. Unless otherwise noted, all changes are effective immediately.

Still staggering from blows inflicted by the shaky American economy, schools continue to drop athletic programs. Here's this month's list:

Delaware State University, NCAA Division I in Dover, has dropped its wrestling program.

The **University of Washington** in Seattle discontinues its men's and women's swimming program.

Southeastern Louisiana University, NCAA I in Hammond, LA, drops men's tennis.

Indiana State University, Division I in Terre Haute, axes its men's and women's tennis teams.

Finally, one school is adding a sport effective immediately. **Millsaps College**, NCAA Division III in Jackson, Mississippi, adds lacrosse for men and women for the upcoming school year.

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 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).