

## **March ISSUE CONTENTS**

- **Important Recruiting Dates**
- **Additions to CPOA**
- **NCAA News**
- **Local CPOA News**
- **Contact Sheets**
- **Internet Updates**
- **Referral Program**
- **Season End Updates**
- **Monthly Meetings**
- **Seminars**

## **IMPORTANT March RECRUITING DATES**

3-1: NCAA Division I coaches in all sports except Football may make one telephone call to 2006 grads this month.

3-4: ACT registration postmark date for April 9<sup>th</sup> test.

3-12: SAT Test

3-18: ACT late registration postmark date for April 9<sup>th</sup> test.

3-25: SAT registration postmark date for May 7<sup>th</sup> test

## **RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania**

Ryan Thomas – Baseball – Center

Mike Eonta – Baseball – Seneca Valley

Brandon Quinn – Soccer – Greensburg Central Catholic

Christopher Quinn - Soccer – Greensburg Central Catholic

Zach Cumberland – Golf – Mapletown

Steve Moyemont – Football – Mt. Pleasant Area

Ashley Attenberger – Basketball – Norwin

Ryan Radebach – Football – Kiski Area

## **NCAA News**

There was a proposal in Division 2 football to limit team scholarships to 24 (it's currently 36). There was also a proposal to prevent D1 football players from transferring to D2 institutions and being eligible immediately. This proposal is to ensure D2 teams are not renting D1 players for one year, but critics are saying there is nothing in that rule to protect academic achievers who want to transfer out of D1 institutions for reasons other than simply football. Both proposals failed to get the required votes to be passed!

The Division III Presidents Council endorsed plans to implement a financial aid electronic reporting process during its January 8 meeting at the NCAA Convention in Dallas. The reporting process, which was approved at the 2004 Convention as part of the Future of Division III reform package, requires that schools submit data to the NCAA for use in analyzing whether student-athletes and non-athletes are receiving comparable financial aid, as required by legislation. Among the steps approved by the Council is implementation of a

model proposed by the Division III Financial Aid and Awards Committee that establishes a maximum permissible “variance” between aid for student-athletes and nonathletes. Instances where aid awarded by an institution to student-athletes exceeds aid for the broader student body by four percent or more will be subject to a financial aid committee review, which may include a subsequent request for the institution to justify that variance

The NCAA is still tinkering with a uniform college baseball start date. Their tentative proposal calls for a start practice date of February 1st and competition date of March 1st. This is to give northern teams a better chance at competing.

### **The NCAA Academic Progress Rate**

The NCAA is rolling out their new academic measurement tool called the Academic Progress Rate. It’s basically a system designed to push college athletic teams to pay more attention to academics and to punish those that don’t. The APR applies to all sports and is based on a 5-year period and teams are expected to achieve at least a 50% graduation rate and success will ultimately be determined by players that return to your team each year and are eligible. Teams that fail to meet the set APR will begin to lose scholarships that cannot be replaced for one year. There is also a cap on the number of scholarships a given team can lose and the cap is no more than 10% of what the team offers, so a D1 football team with 85 scholarships, couldn’t lose more than 9 scholarships. If a team has several years of a sub-par APR, they could lose championship eligibility, a much stiffer penalty than a loss of one or two scholarships.

While any academic reform is a step in the right direction, I think there are many shortfalls that may never be addressed. One is that athletic graduation rates are currently only calculated for players that receive athletic scholarship money and the NCAA has given no indication that this will change. This isn’t a problem for D1 basketball or football where rosters are fully funded with scholarships, but when a D1 women’s tennis team has only one scholarship, the NCAA can only remove no more than 10% of that scholarship. The NCAA has never addressed the issue of students transferring to another college and graduating from that new college, part of the reason NCAA coaches despise talking about graduation rates.

A scholarship athlete could transfer from Oklahoma State to Harvard and graduate in the top of their class at Harvard, and Oklahoma State would be penalized as “not having graduated that athlete” What about players that leave early for the NBA, NFL, or Major League Draft. In the past, they too were counted as not graduating. An NCAA basketball coach recruits 3 players – If one goes in the draft early, one transfers, and one drops out because they don’t want to play college basketball anymore or go to school, the team’s graduation rate is technically 0.

**[College Sport Additions / Drops](#)**

## **NEWS ON INDIVIDUAL COLLEGES**

**Virginia Military Institute** (D1) will sponsor women's swimming and diving as an NCAA varsity intercollegiate program beginning in the 2005-06 academic year.

The Big East Conference will add **Loyola College (Maryland)** (D1) as an associate member in women's lacrosse effective with the 2005-06 academic year.

The **University of Alaska Fairbanks** (D2) will initiate a varsity women's swimming program in fall 2005.

**Montclair State University** (D3) is reclassifying five teams from varsity to club status, including its wrestling program, a two-time Division III team champion. The school announced that it also will reclassify men's and women's cross country, men's lacrosse, and women's tennis, effective in 2005-06. University officials cited limited resources and a desire to strengthen the overall athletics program as reasons for the action, which will reduce the number of varsity teams from the current 21 to 16.

**State University of New York Maritime College** (D3) plans to reinstate the school's football program, which was disbanded more than a decade ago. The school announced it will establish a club team in the sport and eventually give the program varsity status, making it the 22nd varsity sport at the institution.

SUNY or the **State Universities of New York** are proposing a tuition plan that guarantees tuition will be the same for a student from the day they enter to the day they leave after 4 years.

The **University of Colorado** will automatically admit anyone from Colorado that finishes in the top 10% of their class in high school. Texas has a similar program, Florida admits the top 20%, and California admits the top 4%. Colorado is also proposing a new income-sensitive tuition plan for in-state students that factors in a family's income. Rather than raising tuition every year, the school feels that a family that makes a significant amount of money can afford to pay a little more for school. The school is also talking about a plan that won't allow fraternities and sororities to recruit new students until the spring semester.

## **SAT News**

**New SAT Debuts in March The College Board unveils the "new" SAT on March 12.**

The new version of the test features a writing section comprised of an essay and multiple choice questions worth 800 points. A perfect score on the new SAT will be 2400. The writing section is not taken into account to determine a freshman's athletic eligibility by the Clearinghouse or the NCAA! The two sections that have always been used, math and verbal will continue to act as the basis for initial eligibility. As part of the test overhaul, the verbal part of the test is being re-named "critical reading".

Here is how the SAT explains the new test:

### **Writing**

A new writing section has been added to the test. Students will be asked to write an essay that requires them to take a position on an issue and use reasoning and examples to support their position. The essay is similar to the type of writing required on in-class college essay exams. Multiple-choice questions will measure a student's ability to identify sentence errors, improve sentences, and improve paragraphs.

### **Math**

The new math section includes topics from third-year college-preparatory math, such as exponential growth, absolute value, functional notation, and negative and fractional exponents. Quantitative comparisons have been eliminated.

### **Critical Reading**

The critical reading section, previously known as the verbal section, will include short and long reading passages. Analogies have been eliminated, but sentence-completion questions remain. Total Testing Time: 3 hours and 45 minutes, including an unscored 25-minute variable section (which helps in the development of future test questions).

## **LOCAL CPOA NEWS**

### **Congratulations to the following CPOA clients who have recently made their college commitments:**

Scott Szelong – Mt. Pleasant Area – Will be attending Hofstra University on a full football scholarship.

Giovanna Ferraro – Hampton High School – Will be attending the University of Akron on a Soccer scholarship.

Douglas Vitale – Kiski Area High School – Will be attending Slippery Rock University to play Football.

### **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 \$100 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).