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IMPORTANT MARCH RECRUITING DATES

3-1: NCAA Division I coaches in all sports except Football may make one telephone call to 2007 grads this month.

3-3: ACT registration postmark date for April 8th test

3-8: SAT late registration postmark date for April 1st test.

3-17: ACT late registration postmark date for April 8th test

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Josh Hopkin – Yough – Soccer
Megan Gibson – Mars Area – Golf
Ashley Bates – Greater Latrobe – Soccer
Jordan Zuenges – Derry Area – Softball
Lauren Cassler – Ligonier Valley – Soccer
Cassie Nath – Ligonier Valley – Soccer
Adam Lewis – Ligonier Valley – Football
Maura Cullen – Bishop Canevin – Soccer
James O’Quinn – Kiski Area - Football

NCAA News

NCAA: Sports Participation at All-Time High

Anyone who watches a game involving NCAA teams has likely seen the popular television commercial produced by the NCAA that contains the line, “There are more than 360,000 student-athletes and just about all of them are going pro in something other than sports”. Tracy has also used this phrase with great effect during training schools over the past few years to point out the miniscule number of athletes who should entertain professional sports aspirations.

Now the 360,000 number needs revised according to *The NCAA News*.

The most recent NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report shows there are almost 385,000 NCAA student-athletes participating in championship sports. Indeed, since 2002 when the NCAA commercials began running, member schools have added

about 21,000 student-athletes — about 11,000 women and 10,000 men — to the fields and courts.

These numbers clearly demonstrate there is no shortage of demand for qualified student-athletes, which we are in a great position to provide.

The 2004-05 report shows a jump in total student-athlete participation of almost 9,000 from the previous year, about three times the size of the increase from 2003 to 2004.

Totals have increased in eight of the last 10 years.

The grand total continues to be composed of males more than females. In 2004-05, a total of 219,744 male student-athletes (57.1 percent of the total) participated in championship sports, while 164,998 women competed on NCAA teams. That means the average NCAA school had about 373 student-athletes, of which 213 were male and 160 were female.

Breaking down the number by division, those proportions remain relatively similar. In Division I, for example, there were 86,378 male student-athletes participating and 70,042 females. That trend has been consistent since the NCAA began tracking participation rates annually in 1981-82. However, since that time the average number of female student-athletes has increased while the average number of male student-athletes on campus has decreased. Compared to 1981-82, the average NCAA institution now has about 61 more women student-athletes and about 13 fewer men.

Obviously, football draws more participants (60,117) than any other men's sport. The next highest participation levels for men are in baseball (28,009), outdoor track and field (21,686), soccer (19,291), indoor track and field (18,866), basketball (16,271) and cross country (11,638).

In women's sports, soccer continued its five-year reign as the most populated.

Amazingly, ***the number of women's soccer players has tripled since 1990!*** The 2004-05 report shows 21,126 women played on the pitch. Soccer's growth spurt has been sustained since 1981-82, having increased overall from 1,855 participants that year to the record total in 2004-05. Interestingly, soccer was the only one of four women's sports to survive an override vote at the 2006 NCAA Convention calling for increased scholarship allocations. The Division I membership rejected increases in gymnastics, volleyball and track.

Other sports with high totals for women in the 2004-05 report are outdoor track (20,388), indoor track and field (18,533), softball (16,324), basketball (14,686) and volleyball (13,634).

Team Totals

While there are more individual male participants, the 2004-05 report again shows more women's teams. The addition of 43 teams from 2003-04 boosted the total number of women's teams to 8,991, an all-time high. The total for women's teams has increased annually for 23 years. Basketball is the most commonly sponsored women's sport, followed by volleyball, cross country, soccer and softball.

Once again, this points out the need for us to meet more often with female athletes and their parents and enroll them in our program. There is an obvious need for female athletes at NCAA schools and nobody is better equipped to fill it than CPOA!

Sponsorship in men's sports reveals a different picture, as totals have decreased slightly in two of the last five years. This year's report, though, shows a gain of seven teams for a total of 8,016. The all-time high for men's sponsorship was 8,057 in 2000-01. In the two years that followed, however, the men's total dipped to its five-year low of 8,002. Overall, the total number of teams eclipsed 17,000 for the first time. Women's teams compose almost 53 percent of that total. The average NCAA institution in 2004-05

sponsored about 17 teams, nine for women and eight for men. Compared to 1981-82, the average institution now sponsors about two more women's teams and one fewer men's team.

A look at the data from the 2004-05 report shows that NCAA schools added 159 women's teams and 143 men's teams, and they dropped 115 men's teams and 28 women's teams since 2003-04. The result was a net increase of 81 women's teams and 28 men's teams.

Since 1988-89, there has been a net gain of 2,052 women's teams and 70 men's teams. In 2004-05, the women's sport with the highest number of teams added was golf with 22. The women's sport that has been added most over time, however, is soccer with 565 new programs since 1988-89 (though 28 have since been dropped). For men over the long haul, indoor track has been the most added sport with an overall jump of 87 teams. The men's sport with the greatest net loss since 1988-89 is wrestling (105 teams).

We have included a color chart as an insert with this newsletter that shows the participation and sponsorship rates over time. Place the insert in your Presentation Manual or in your briefcase. It can be an effective tool, particularly when meeting with female athletes and their parents, many of whom may still question the opportunities available for women in college athletics.

Financial Aid Increasing for Middle, Upper Class

Students from wealthy families received much more financial aid from private colleges and universities in 2000 than they did in 1993, according to a Washington-based think tank. The aid offered to students from low-income families, meanwhile, remained relatively stagnant.

In 1993 only 35 percent of the wealthy students at four-year private institutions in the United States -- "wealthy" meaning students whose parents' income was in the top 25% of family income in the U.S. -- received financial-aid packages from their colleges. By 2000 that proportion had risen to 51.2 percent.

The proportion of low-income students who received aid -- "low income" meaning students whose parents' income was in the bottom 25% of family income -- increased much more slowly over the same period, from 52.8 percent to 55.7 percent.

In 1993 the average size of an institutional grant was the same for both low-income and high-income students: \$5,500. But in 2000 the average grant given to high-income students was \$6,800, while the average grant given to low-income students was only \$6,200.

The battle for who is entitled to financial aid has been waged for many years. Many of our clients, from middle or higher income families, feel they should not be penalized if their child qualifies for academic or merit-based aid. Others we work with, on the lower income side, feel they should receive more assistance because they literally do not have the means to pay for college for their children. One issue is clear: those students who are in demand, regardless of family income, are receiving better financial aid packages. Richard K. Vedder, a professor of economics at Ohio University who is a member of the Education Department's Commission on the Future of Higher Education and was interviewed for this article, says the federal government needs to shoulder more blame. "On the one hand, I think rewarding academic excellence is good and fine," he said. On the other hand, Vedder said he was uncomfortable with colleges' bidding wars for high-achieving, affluent students. "It seems to me that giving money to a rich kid whose SAT is 1500 as opposed to a poorer kid whose SAT is 1400 is probably, from a broader

public-policy point of view, not the greatest thing in the world," he said. "We really ought to be worried about getting the kid with a 1400 SAT from a low-income family into college."

Vedder suggested that his commission will recommend new policies that would encourage colleges to move toward more need-based aid. "There are things that could be done with the tax system," he said. "Should we continue to allow people to take tax deductions for giving scholarships to yuppie universities that cost \$40,000 a year, where the recipients of those scholarships come from families whose income exceeds \$100,000? I think some new restrictions on tax deductions ought to be considered." He also suggested that the federal government might consider creating a new tax credit for people who donate money for scholarships that are specifically earmarked for low-income students.

As this study shows, parents who earn well should not assume they will automatically be disqualified from receiving financial aid for their children. This opinion is one many of our franchisees and reps still encounter that needs to be eradicated.

CPOA PA Topic of the Month

CPOA News

College Signings

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

Ashley Attenberger – Basketball – Seton Hill University

Erika Haitz – Basketball – Seton Hill University

Alex Vucelich – Football – California University of PA.

Mark Schowalter – Golf – Bucknell

Emily Zalewski – Swimming – Coast Guard Academy

In the News

Steve Moyemont, Mt. Pleasant Area Football player has been invited to a Junior Day at Northwestern this month.

Jake Hoffer, Jake Gibas, Brent Heckel and Alex Bearer will be participating in the Scout.com combine at the University of Pittsburgh this month.

Tony DeStefano, Greater Latrobe recently returned from a successful recruiting visit to Bowling Green University.

Rich Dlubak, Ambridge has qualified for the WPIAL Wrestling Championships.

Martin Rock has been invited to speak at the Mt. Pleasant Area Football Boosters Meeting on March 14th.

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

CPOAPA partners with Icebox Athletics

CPOAPA and Icebox Athletics will be producing a specialized clinic this spring in the areas of cutting-edge Mental Skills & Toughness Training; Athletic Speed, Agility, and Quickness. These specialized clinics will be open to all Western PA athletes.

The clinics will be led by Spencer Wood an internationally renowned speaker and dynamic trainer of athletes and coaches. As an author, teacher and speaker, Spencer has spoken at events such as Peru's 2003 international conference on Athletic Excellence, the Nike Coach of the Year Awards in Michigan, the 2005 NCAA Final Four, and the 2005 National Soccer Coaches Association's National Conference. His articles have appeared in publications such as The WBCA journal and World Class Coaching.

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).