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IMPORTANT MARCH RECRUITING DATES

3-9: ACT registration postmark date for April 14th test.

3-10: SAT Test

3-23: ACT late registration postmark date for April 14th test.

3-29: SAT registration postmark date for May 5th test.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Derrick Taylor – Football – Kittanning HS

Zachary Craig – Soccer – Connellsville HS

Jordan Carnathan – Baseball – Derry Area HS

William Coleman – Baseball – Butler HS

Caitlin Roxby – Soccer – Chestnut Ridge HS

2007 CPOA PA College Signings

Matt Riddle – Kiski Prep – Football – University of Dayton

Elizabeth Robinson – Greensburg Central Catholic – Soccer – Duquense U.

Ryan Goodman – Greater Latrobe – Wrestling – West Virginia

Maurielle Blake – Freeport – Soccer – Carlow College

Steven Moyemont – Mt. Pleasant Area – Football – Clarion

Alex Bearer – Mt. Pleasant Area – Football – Duquense

Ashley Bates – Greater Latrobe – Soccer – Chatham College

Andrew Armstrong – Trinity – Baseball – University of Charleston

Brent Heckel – Greater Latrobe – Football – Waynesburg College

NCAA News

NEWS ON INDIVIDUAL COLLEGES

Daniel Webster College announced the addition of field hockey and women's lacrosse, boosting the total of varsity sports at the school to 12. The field hockey program will begin varsity play in 2008 after playing a limited club schedule in 2007. The lacrosse team will play a club schedule in 2008 before beginning varsity play in 2009

Butler University eliminated 2 sports effective June 1st 2007, men's lacrosse and men's swimming. The swimming cut was particularly hard as the team's operating budget was a mere \$11,000 a year with no scholarships to support and the team raised most of that money on their own.

SUNY Potsdam will be adding women's hockey. The program will be a club sport for 2007-2008 then move to varsity status the following year. A coach has not been hired as of yet.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has discontinued its field hockey program. The America East Conference member will honor the scholarships of 14 student-athletes through their graduation.

Baylor University announced it is building a new 20 million dollar football practice facility. The facility will be built on the site of the existing tennis courts, which could make it more difficult to play tennis there!

The University of North Dakota has opened a new wellness center housing a 3-court gym, jogging track, climbing wall and more.

CHANGES IN SCOUTING AND SHOWCASES

Beginning Aug. 1, Division I football coaches will be prohibited from attending independent football camps and combines to scout and evaluate high school players, and independent camps will no longer be able to use college facilities to host their camps.

So what does this mean for you? Well, either you will have to be pretty choosy as to what football camp you attend at a particular college run by that college, or, you can still attend the private combines and camps and hope your information gets disseminated to other colleges by the people that run those programs. This will also make the importance of video more important so work on putting a good tape or DVD together that you can provide any coach at any time. My guess is that private showcases and combines will work to provide more detailed information to college coaches on individual recruits as that has been the trend over the last few years.

Attention 2007 high school graduates (and anyone planning to attend an NCAA member institution starting in the 2007-08 academic year)! The NCAA has adopted new legislation that will require prospects who intend to enroll at NCAA Division I and Division II institutions to supply ACT or SAT scores to the Clearinghouse directly from the testing agencies. **Test scores on an official high school transcript will no longer be usable for NCAA purposes.** Start now and plan to have your ACT and SAT scores sent to the Clearinghouse (via code "9999") so that your certification decision will not be delayed. For more details consult the NCAA's website at www.ncaa.org or call the Clearinghouse. This change in legislation will impact anyone who has previously registered with the Clearinghouse and intends to enroll in fall 2007 or later. If your record has been posted with scores from an official high school transcript, these scores will be removed and it will be necessary for you to comply with this new rule

Clearinghouse Now Paperless

The NCAA Clearinghouse no longer accepts paper Release Forms (applications) from student-athletes. All athletes must now register with the Clearinghouse online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. This has been confirmed for all U. S. students. A Clearinghouse spokeswoman said they may still be in the process of working through forms submitted by international students, though eventually their registration will be online only as well.

The student and parent may pay the Clearinghouse fee by credit card or by printing and “identification form” and mailing it with a paper check. The student’s form will not be processed until the check is received at the Clearinghouse.

Clients Beware of E-Mail Scam

Last month, several clients were contacted via e-mail by a scammer, probably from Nigeria, using the name of legitimate sports clubs as a front in an attempt to collect money.

Many people would not be fooled by these e-mails but others who are not as savvy about recruiting might be. They might not realize that CPOA does not work with partners who require the client to pay for team tryouts or to join another organization.

From what we have seen from some of our clients and reps, these so-called “invitations” come from Nigeria via Trends International Sports. Some of the names used by the scammers are “Mr. Laurel John”, “Mr. Smith Anderson”, “Mr. Bode”, “Mr. Raphael Tolu Abieyuwa”, “Mr. Matin Williams” and “Mr. William Nelson of Nelson Consultant Agency”, but there may be others. They use the name of legitimate sports organizations in the e-mail so if it was Googled, it could appear to be on the level.

We have been in touch with two of the sports bodies whose names appear in the e-mails and both have no knowledge of Trends International Sports. They have assisted us in contacting the scammers to order them to stop this practice.

Make sure clients understand we do not endorse or work with any company or group that requires up-front money for tryouts or to join a club team. We do not sell names to groups who attempt to collect fees in this manner. If there are questions, advise clients to look for the first three numbers “234” in the phone or fax associated with the e-mail. This is the country code for Nigeria and a sure sign that the message is a hoax.

Cell Phones, Text Messages and Profiles

In a February *Prospector* article recapping legislation from the 2007 NCAA Convention, we noted that Division I schools rejected a proposal to limit text messaging to recruits. However, a different version of the defeated proposal was sent to the Division I Management Council of Athletic Directors for consideration later this year. Popular opinion is that the NCAA will eventually limit text messaging and chat room conversation between coaches and prospects because it is a fairly easy way to circumvent the phone call rule. In this case, NCAA rules have not kept up with technology.

Our decision on this issue is to allow clients who want to list a cell phone number or a text messaging address on the profile to do so in the body of the profile only. We feel that this contact information could be better shared between prospect and coach on a questionnaire or some other private communication. We do not encourage our franchise owners and representatives to seek out cell phone numbers and text message addresses for inclusion on the profile, but if the client insists, we will list it in the Additional Information box at the bottom of the profile.

The Delicate Balance Within Division III

Long considered the model of the amateur ideal, the [NCAA](http://www.ncaa.org)’s Division III, a group of mostly small colleges that prohibit athletic scholarships, is facing a struggle.

By far the NCAA’s largest division with 420 member schools and enrollments ranging from 400 to more than 40,000, schools within Division III find themselves divided over issues like money, national championships, practice time and the mission of athletics in higher education. The diversity has bred discord, and now the alliance is preparing to fracture. The dispute would be more suited to the major college sports landscape, except that Division III is home to many of the nation’s top small colleges, and

that brings an even bigger stake to the debate: the impact a split could have on academic rankings used by prospective students and their parents.

At many Division III institutions, athletics is a leading admissions recruiting tool that has been credited with raising retention rates. Any real or perceived de-emphasis of sports could diminish applicant pools or cause prospective students to decline admission offers — major factors used in the powerful *U.S. News and World Report* rankings.

The result could be a new “Division IV” or a sub-division with a lesser designation. Already, conferences are aligning themselves in various coalitions. Hundreds of colleges could face awkward decisions, choosing between athletic or academic peers. “It’s going to be like a middle school dance where everyone is watching to see who moves from one end of the gym to the other first,” Dick Rasmussen, the chief executive of the University Athletic Association, a group of eight academically respected institutions that have also won dozens of Division III national championships told the *New York Times*.

“Once you start to see who is dancing with whom, the philosophy of this whole thing might get stretched. Who is where might become more important than what is where. Then, what happens when someone you didn’t want to come to the dance ends up dancing on your side of the gym?”

The proposed separation is hardly new. For at least a decade the two sides have been divided over how zealously institutions should pursue nationally prominent, winning athletic programs. Finally, at the NCAA national convention in January, two committees were established to recommend the models for a split.

“The status quo in Division III is not a workable option,” said John Fry, the chairman of the Division III President’s Council and the president of Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania. “We must have fundamental change in the structure of the division. The tent has been stretched far enough.” Fry said examples of how the division might be reorganized would be revealed later this year for debate at the next national meeting, in January. A vote deciding how, or whether, to split the division would follow in January 2009.

One tentative plan would require institutions in one camp to play a large number of sports, perhaps as many as 18, and would restrict athletic departments in the sensitive areas of recruiting, the lengths of playing seasons and number of off-season practices. The other division would be more permissive in its recruiting, practice and competition rules, and require as few as 6 to 10 sports so that members could more easily focus on high-profile sports. These models reflect the rift between the old guard — private, traditional Division III institutions — and newer, often larger, publicly funded schools with a different approach to athletics. But the final version will almost certainly not be as simple as segregating institutions with diverse athletic or institutional outlooks.

If the division splits along the lines expected, Amherst in Massachusetts would probably go with its conference members to the traditional category and would forfeit playing against the most competitive, national-level basketball programs and the spotlight that goes with it. Now multiply the pain of that choice by 30 sports and hundreds of institutions. While it is a given that the New England colleges will stick together — they are among the most acclaimed small colleges in the country — a split of Division III would probably break up other athletic conferences and splinter the academic benefits that those groupings currently enjoy.

At many Division III colleges, including the top academic institutions, varsity athletes make up a third or more of the student body. Division III coaches, like their major-college brethren in Division I, spend countless hours recruiting athletes. At Cortland State, a campus of 6,000 in the State University of New York system, 700 recruited varsity athletes are on campus. It would seem unlikely for Cortland State to join the more restrictive NCAA class. “We look at our coaches as admissions officers,” said Erik Bitterbaum, Cortland State’s president. “Over 70 percent of our student body played high school sports. You have to be very careful how you treat athletics. We would never do anything to create the impression we’re giving it less than our full support.” Recruiting top students to a Division IV or a sub-division could prove to be very difficult, if for no other reason than “Division Four” sounds sub-standard.

There are still too many options being debated to get a good feel for what direction Division III may be heading. Some question whether the collection of 420 colleges can reach any consensus at all. “What if they give us the models and no one decides to leave?” American Southwest Conference commissioner Amy Carlton asked. “What if 420 people pick one division? What do they do then?”

The Chronicle of Higher Education and *The New York Times* contributed research to this article.

NAIA's Future Looms Large for Division III

One issue spurring leaders in Division III of the NCAA to consider realignment is the belief that the membership could expand to almost 600 from 420 in as little as 10 years.

A frequently voiced worry is that the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), a smaller sports organization that lost more than 125 members to the NCAA in the 1980s and '90s, will dissolve. More than a dozen college presidents and administrators from NCAA institutions said in recent interviews that the NAIA's financial well-being was a factor in their support for splitting Division III soon, before it is overrun. None, however, said they had specific knowledge of the NAIA's solvency. The NAIA traces its history to the late 1930s and once had more than 450 institutions. It now has 282.

Executives at the NAIA, when contacted by *The New York Times* for this story, were surprised to hear there was so much apprehension about the association's future. "I appreciate the concern, but we have a pretty solid picture of where we stand financially," said John Leavens, the NAIA's vice president for membership. "I feel pretty good about where we are and where we plan to go. We're not making any plans to dissolve, I can tell you that."

Jim Carr, the NAIA president, called discussions about its financial prospects "a misinformed rumor." He said the NAIA operated at a surplus the past seven years. "We're not bringing in \$600 million, but we're not spending more than we get either," he said.

Leavens conceded that from the late 1980s to the mid-1990s, the NAIA was losing members to the NCAA at a high rate — sometimes as many as 30 colleges a year. But Leavens said that the rate of attrition had slowed considerably and that the NAIA had a net loss of one member last year because some institutions left but a few actually transferred *from* the NCAA. He added that the NAIA was the economical choice, saying that on average NAIA institutions had athletic budgets half as large as those in NCAA Division II.

CPOA PA News – Speaking Circuit

- Martin Rock will be the featured speaker at Tom Alper's Kicking Academy Clinic on March 17th at the Robert Morris University Bubble from 10AM – 11AM
- Mr. Rock will appear at the Chestnut Ridge HS on April 19th at 7PM to deliver a seminar on HS Recruiting to the student body and their families.

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 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).