

MARCH ISSUE CONTENTS

- Important Recruiting Dates
- Additions to CPOA
- NCAA News
- CPOA PA Topic of the Month
- Contact Sheets
- Internet Updates
- Referral Program
- Season End Updates
- Monthly Meetings
- Seminars

IMPORTANT MARCH RECRUITING DATES

3 -1: SAT Test

3 – 7: ACT Registration postmark date for April 12th test

3 -21: ACT late registration postmark date for April 12th test

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Jeff Hoak – Elizabeth Forward – Football

T.J. Dovie – Greater Latrobe – Football

Aaron Fleck – West Allegheny – Football

Aaron Stasko – Southmoreland – Football

Lindsay Gruss – Derry Area - Swimming

NCAA News

Division I Baseball Rules Clarification

Since the NCAA Convention in January, we have been asked to clarify the important rule changes made over the past year within NCAA Division I baseball. There has been at least one revision to the rules since the changes were announced last summer.

As it stands now, here are the important changes affecting a baseball player who enrolls at a Division I school after August 1 of this year:

- **A financial aid package awarded to a Division I baseball prospect must include at least 25 percent athletics-related aid (this originally was announced to be 33% but has been reduced);**

- The total number of players on a team receiving aid is 30 (this will be reduced to 27 in the 2009-10 school year);
- The "One-Time Transfer Exception", which allowed baseball players in Division I to transfer and play at another Division I school without sitting out a year, is eliminated.

We have also heard rumblings that many 2008 grads are not going to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center (formerly The Clearinghouse) because they will not have completed the NCAA Division I-mandated 16 core courses. Even though it was first announced in 2004 that the number of core courses required for freshman participation in Division I was jumping from 14 to 16 in 2008, many high school counselors and coaches did not get the message. No one knows yet how many student-athletes this oversight will impact. The NCAA has given no indication that it will extend waivers to those athletes affected by core course change.

The recruiting calendar and the eligibility rules change each year. We can provide a great service to the high schools in our area by making sure they know we are up to date on all of the changes. Be sure the coaches, counselors and administrators at your high schools know you are an invaluable source for this information.

Simplifying Financial Aid Forms

Families may find relief from the complicated Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form in a couple of years if a new bill becomes law. An article last month in the *US News and World Report* confirms strong bipartisan support in Congress for a bill that would allow families to simply check a box on their federal tax return to allow income information to be sent to the Department of Education that would automatically answer similar questions on the FAFSA form. Families would still need to submit a FAFSA and answer questions not asked on the tax return.

A recent study by two Harvard economists debunked U.S. Department of Education estimates that it takes only one hour to fill out the 127-question FAFSA, and instead estimated **it takes the average family about 10 hours to complete the form**. One reason it takes so long: Many colleges, and 13 states, ask families to fill out the form before they have completed their taxes for the year. About half of families that use the FAFSA fill out the form initially with estimates and then must file revisions after they finish their taxes. By using only the data families already provide on their Internal Revenue Service form, even using the previous year's 1040, the Department of Education could fairly accurately calculate about 85 percent of families' need for financial aid. The downside is that many families that need financial aid the most would not benefit from the changes. More than two thirds of low-income families don't have access to the Internet at home. This means they might not be able to fill out the

online FAFSA and thus wouldn't necessarily be able to take advantage of a system in which tax data was electronically shared. In addition, people with extremely low incomes often don't file any tax forms, so they would get no benefit from the proposed tax return check off.

Some 10 million students complete the FAFSA each year.

The target date for FAFSA simplification is 2010.

Sports Sponsorships

This is a month to report losses in sports programs.

Western Kentucky University, NCAA Division I in Bowling Green, KY, is discontinuing its men's soccer program effective this spring.

Morehead State University, NCAA Division I in Morehead, KY, is consolidating its men's and women's rifle program into a mixed team. Morehead is also dropping men's and women's indoor track and field as of June and will add a women's golf team that will begin competing in 2009.

CPOAPA News

CPOA Clients Sign with Colleges

- **Four CPOA Football players will continue their Football careers at Robert Morris University:**
 - Brian Bevilacqua – Franklin Regional
 - Michael Bevilacqua – Franklin Regional
 - James O'Quinn – Kiski Area
 - Brad Rodgers – Norwin

- Aaron Hassett – Moon Area will continue his Football career at the University of Pittsburgh

- Caitlin Roxby – Chestnut Ridge will continue her Soccer career at Wheeling Jesuit College

Out & About

February was a busy month for our local office as we were in attendance and / or spoke at the following events:

Nike Coach of the Year Football Clinic
Vincentian Academy Lacrosse Booster Club
Shaler Area HS Lacrosse Booster Club

Derry Area Swim Club
Derry Area Football Booster Club
Tom Alper Kicking Academy Combine
Greater Latrobe Icebreaker Soccer Tournament

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).

Seminars Schedule

- 2/6: Derry Area Aqua Club
- 2/9: Tom Alper Kicking and QB Camp – Robert Morris University Island Sports Bubble
- 2/12: Vincentian Academy Boys Lacrosse Booster Meeting
- 2/28: Shaler Area Boys Lacrosse Booster Meeting
- 2/29: Nike Coaches Clinic