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IMPORTANT MAY RECRUITING DATES

5-1: Div. IA and IAA football coaches may make one telephone call this month to a prospect in his junior year of high school.

5-6: ACT registration postmark date for June 11th test.

5-7: SAT test

5-11: SAT late registration postmark date for June 4th test

5-18: Basketball late final signing date for National Letter of Intent

5-20: ACT late registration postmark date for June 11th test.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Clark Hoopes – Football – Latrobe HS

Jeremy Rice – Wrestling – Uniontown HS

Cody Boors – Golf – Connellsville HS

Ronnie Hixson – Football – Derry Area HS

Leif Edgar – Golf – Franklin Regional HS

Marissa Reinhart – Basketball – Plum HS

Richard Dlubak – Football – Ambridge HS

NCAA News

NEWS ON INDIVIDUAL COLLEGES

Massachusetts Maritime Academy has a new football coach named Jeremy Cameron and is building a staff and program this winter.

Yale University (CT) has joined Harvard in offering *free* tuition for any student whose family earns under \$45,000.

The **University of Oklahoma** will be requiring prospective student-athletes to undergo criminal background checks as part of their application to the university.

The NCAA has placed **Texas State University-San Marcos** on probation for three years for violations involving impermissible financial aid and excessive practice sessions for the football team. The institution had their scholarship allotment and financial aid cut

for the following sports, football, golf, baseball, softball, men's basketball, and men's and women's track.

Brown University is raising tuition about 4.9%.

American College (D1) due to budget cuts, is eliminating the men's tennis, women's tennis and men's golf programs, effective next season. The school has 16 remaining sports, 7 men's and 9 women's.

Binghamton University (NY) has not only a new wrestling coach but a new program. Tony Robie, a former assistant at Michigan, is looking for new players to get the program off the ground! Binghamton continually ranks as a top public University in the nation.

NCAA RULE CHANGE

RECENT RULE CHANGES NOT UPDATED IN MOST RECENT VERSION OF THE MAKING OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE

The NCAA has recently modified the core course requirements for athletes wishing to play NCAA D1 or NCAA D2 athletics. The change is not in the number of core classes required (still 14) but a change in what classes you may choose to get to 14 core courses. See chart below

The only change was to number of years for English and years of additional courses of English math, science. English dropped to 3 years and additional courses for English math and science went up by one year. The changes are in red below.

Former Rule (14 Core Courses)

4 years of English
2 years of mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher)
2 years of natural/physical science(1 year of lab)
1 year of additional English, mathematics
or natural/physical science.
2 years of social science
3 years of additional courses (from any area above or foreign language, nondoctoral religion/philosophy, computer science)

New Rule (14 Core Courses)

3 years of English
2 years of mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher)
2 years of natural/physical science(1 year of lab)
2 year of additional English, mathematics
or natural/physical science.
2 years of social science
3 years of additional courses (from any area above or foreign language,
nondoctoral religion/ philosophy,

Financial Aid News Q&A

Is it realistic for an athlete that isn't an exceptional student academically to expect any institutional aid money?

If a student / athlete meets one of the 4 academic criteria, any money the school gives them doesn't count towards the team anyway. If the individual does not meet any of the 4 academic criteria, then realistically they won't be getting any aid because there are going to be other deserving students who have just as much need as them and have higher academic credentials. If you are an exceptional student with a high academic record, you can qualify for grants and merit aid, if you aren't an exceptional student, the school cannot justify giving you money simply because you are a good athlete. So while equivalency is an issue, it's not really an issue because schools never give money to an athlete that doesn't deserve it in the first place, regardless of how badly the coach wants them or how good they are at their particular sport. The financial aid department doesn't view athletes and non-athletes separately, they see all students who need aid as one large group of people that have to all be evaluated equally and fairly.

Is it realistic for an athlete that is an exceptional student academically to expect any institutional aid money?

Being talented athletically and academically strong will certainly put you in a better position to be considered for merit aid or grant money by any institution if you show a demonstrated need. All schools compete for top students and being able to offer a talented student (regardless of whether they are an athlete or not) more money is a tool all schools use to try and get the best students to enroll in their school. However this may not be the case at every college. I am sure there are instances where an athlete at another college may have been awarded additional money that they didn't fully deserve. It's not an issue for football or basketball because those sports are fully funded, it's the other sports where this can potentially happen. (Baseball is a good example as a coach has only 11.78 scholarships if they are fully funded to divide up among 25+ players)

Is a family's EFC (estimated family contribution) through FAFSA always going to be the same?

Filling out the FAFSA gives you a single monetary number which is your EFC or what the government and a college reasonably expect you to contribute to your education per year. While your EFC may change from year to year, it has nothing to do with what school you are attending or want to attend. You input your financial and family data into your FAFSA form and it returns a dollar amount and your EFC will be the same regardless of whether you apply to a school that is \$20,000 per year or \$40,000 per year. Your need is then determined by subtracting your EFC from the total cost of what school you would like to attend. So if your EFC is \$20,000 and you want to attend a school that is \$30,000 per year, your need will be roughly \$10,000 which can be made up through a variety of grants and loans.

What mistakes do you see on the FAFSA form that families often make?

(1) - Don't report retirement money. FAFSA doesn't ask for this but some people report it anyway and when schools find out your parents have \$800,000 saved in their 401K program, you aren't going to be getting a lot of aid. The only retirement money you should report is money used for retirement programs for the tax year you are using to apply for financial aid.

(2) - Don't report savings as an asset of the student. Parental assets are counted at 5% and student assets are counted at 25%, which is much higher. Some parents set up an account for their son or daughter and think this will save them money. If the income is truly the student's you should count it as so, but you shouldn't move your money into the name of a student. The same applies for grandparents wishing to give their grandchildren money for college. You are better off giving it to the parents than the student.

What should a family do if their aid package isn't enough?

Every family has the right to appeal and I encourage people to do so. Our acceptances go out the last week of March and we receive deposits back very quickly. Based on who enrolls, we may have more money free up in April. So if you think you need more money, April is a good time to call and ask. You might not get it, but by then we will have a better idea if more money is available and whether or not we can give you more money. Each school will obviously be a little different, so it's important to inquire as to the basic appeal procedures and dates for each school you are interested in.

Is it possible for a student to get more aid than their determined need?

There are two scenarios where this can happen. (1) All college coaches are free to make athletic scholarship offers to any student-athletes they are recruiting so long as they have the athletic funds available. This means a coach could offer a recruit \$30,000 a year in athletic scholarship money even though that same recruit might later fill out the FAFSA form only to learn that their "need" is not \$30,000 per year. Coaches are free to offer athletic money to any potential recruit regardless of need. However, if your need is determined to be \$10,000 per year and you are offered a \$15,000 per year athletic scholarship, you will not be eligible for any additional money from the school because the school will see your need as met, unless you qualify academically for any merit awards or grants, but the system isn't designed to give students more than they really need! (2) There is also a federal Pell Grant which is available to the neediest of families. I have seen instances of student-athletes on full scholarship qualifying for a federal Pell Grant in order to cover some additional expenses related to attending college. To qualify for a Pell Grant I believe your EFC has to be extremely low, say \$4,000 per year.

LOCAL CPOA NEWS

All's Well For Late-Starting Softball Star

Every year it seems we are able to share a story about a senior who became a client late in the recruiting process but still achieved outstanding results. The most recent example is a softball player from Perry, Ohio.

She was only being recruited by ONE school on her own, Miami of Ohio. Three months ago, in January, Miami told her they were going with another pitcher, and were no longer interested. (This is January of senior year)

We met with the young lady and her father after a softball meeting. This was on January 19th. Dad still was not sure if they wanted to spend money on this, but at the same time was told by his daughter's high school coach not to worry, and that she (the coach) would make some calls. So they did not sign that night. But dad called back on January 24th, and said 'You know what, her coach has stated that she would be making calls for the past three years and never did, so I am going to TRUST YOU'. Then he wrote a check.

Her high school coach also told her dad not to use our service because she had spoken to one college coach who told her that he just "throws that stuff (profiles) in the garbage can" when he gets it. But the dad looked at some of the college contact forms that I brought from other kids I have worked with, saw the school that "throws out profiles" was listed on some of the other softball contact sheets, and that made it a done deal. By the way, the school who allegedly throws our profiles in the garbage has recruited most of the kids from our area who we have sent profiles to within 30 days of sending them out.

I thought this article would demonstrate to some other folks, that sometimes (depending on the sport) it's never too late, that coaches do look at our stuff despite what they say, and even though there still is resistance from high school coaches to "endorse" letting "their kids" use a service, there is still so much we can do for them."

CPOAPA in the News

Please check out the articles posted on the website that the Mt. Pleasant Journal and Latrobe Bulletin wrote about CPOA and Martin Rock.

Video News

In July of 2004, we up-loaded our first on-line video for college coaches to evaluate from their computers. We actually began discussing the possibility of providing such a service in 1999. At that time, however, the technology was not sophisticated enough, nor easily accessible, to be a viable service that coaches could really use. It was truly worth the wait though. Our DigitalPro Online Service has exceeded our expectations. And coaches are watching and e-mailing us with requests for full-length videos!

Here's a sampling of those requests:

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
University of Akron
Rochester Community & Technical College
Polytechnic University
Cardinal Stritch University
Bemidji State University
SUNY – Brockport
Tabor College
Ohio Wesleyan University
Butler Community College

Our idea was sound. We knew from talking with coaches through the years what they wanted. "Concise" and "Informative" were the comments we heard over and over. Our DigitalPro service is concise at less than seven minutes in duration. It is also by design not redundant. Many online videos show printed text on the video. Our system places the video with the profile! The coach can read the profile then watch the video, and if they need to refer back to the profile, it's there.

Efficient. Orderly. Concise. Informative? You bet! CPOA is the only company to date that consistently uses stop-action and highlight arrows to point out the athlete. Coaches have told us for many years how those features make their job much easier.

What is the future of DigitalPro? For certain it is accessibility. We recently had a coach who e-mailed a request for a full video at 12:05 A.M., which reminds us that many coaches work long hours, and that we live in an "instant access" society where we can shop, research, work, and even play 24/7. We are no longer slaves to mall hours, library hours or office hours. But now we are more accountable to customers who expect access any time. That we can provide our services, in this case useful and accurate information on student-athletes to college coaches on demand, only makes our company and our industry more valuable to college coaches.

DigitalPro truly enhances our position as the world's largest and best marketing service for student-athletes. \$249.00 is actually a small price to pay for providing a most valuable product, on demand, to college to coaches. And for those clients who take advantage of our Ultra Elite Service (DigitalPro is included with this package) and Ultra Plus or Ultra packages (where DigitalPro can be added on), remember that each time the client's full-length evaluation video is updated, the online video is updated too.

Providing coaches additional information and clients additional services, isn't that what we're all about?

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 \$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).