

# MAY 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 MAY RECRUITING DATES**

**May 1** – Div. I and IAA Football coaches may make one telephone call this month to a prospect in his junior year of high school

**May 4** – ACT registration postmark date for June 9<sup>th</sup> test.

**May 5** – SAT Test

**May 9** – SAT late registration postmark date for June 2<sup>nd</sup> test.

**May 16** – Basketball (late) final signing date for National Letter of Intent

**May 18** – ACT late registration postmark date for June 9<sup>th</sup> test.

## **RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania**

Anthony Thomas – Baseball – Rochester  
Allen Park – Wrestling – Mt. Pleasant  
David Hickes – Soccer – Greensburg Central Catholic  
Zac Murdock – Soccer – Kiski Area

## **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  
Jessica Berardino – Peters Township – Softball – Muskingum College  
Mike Deems – New Brighton – Baseball – Thiel College  
Stefan Firmstone – Mt. Pleasant Area – Wrestling – Washington and Jefferson College  
Donald Mignogna – Kiski Area - Football – Carnegie Mellon  
Colby Bigam – Connellsville – Football – St. Vincent College  
Jordan Zuenges – Derry Area – Softball – Slippery Rock

## **NCAA News**

### **Text Messaging Prohibited in Division I**

#### ***Also, Baseball Drops One-Time Transfer Exception***

Division I coaches will no longer be able to send text messages, talk in public online chat rooms or video conference with prospects as of August 1, 2007 – at least for now. In a somewhat unusual move, the board said it would consider proposals to bring text messaging back, with certain restrictions.

Text messaging has been a controversial practice. Many recruits complained that they received messages from overeager coaches in the middle of the night. Others claim the technology helped them get to know coaches better and was quicker and more convenient than talking on the phone.

Before the ruling was announced, many coaches lined up in support of text messaging. In a proposal it submitted to the NCAA, the American Football Coaches Association, whose nearly 11,000 members include 5,000 to 6,000 college football coaches, endorsed the use of text messaging. The football coaches, however, suggested limiting the days of the week in which coaches could send text messages. The NCAA did not adopt that proposal and earlier this year it voted down another measure that would have restricted use of the technology.

But NCAA officials said at the news conference that the Division I board, which is made up of 18 college presidents, was open to other "viable proposals" that would restrict the use of text messaging but not altogether eliminate it.

In other news, the Division I board approved four requirements designed to help improve graduation rates in baseball, which are among the worst of any sport. One rule will require players to sit out a year if they transfer to another Division I school, a la football and basketball. Baseball teams that fail to meet minimum NCAA academic-progress requirements will also face stiffer penalties than other sports, including limitations on how many games and practices they may schedule. The new baseball rules will take effect August 1, 2008.

### **Division I Football Phone Calls**

Remember May is the month that Division I-A and I-AA football coaches may make one telephone call to prospects in their junior year of high school.

We issue this reminder annually but it's worth it. If you meet with football players in grade 11 this month and beyond, you must ask if they have received phone calls from

college coaches. As we know, only those who are already on recruiting lists will hear from coaches. Even if a player's phone has rung once or twice, couldn't he do better by actively marketing himself?

As the summer progresses, keep in mind these important telephone dates:

**June 15** for Division II coaches in all sports to 2008 grads;

**July 1** for Division I coaches in sports other than football to 2008 grads.

We know that the phone call is a key in the recruiting process, but families generally do not know it. Most assume the phone calls won't start until the student's senior year. We need to make sure they understand the timing of the process and that if the phone is not ringing during the spring and summer, they need to do something now!

## **CPOA PA News**

### **New Chart Should Help Financial Aid Decision-Making**

We have created a new insert for the Student Packet that should help families compare costs among colleges, subtract financial aid awards, and arrive at a more accurate bottom line, out-of-pocket cost.

The insert is included with the paper *Prospector* this month. Across the top is room to list the name of five colleges. Down the side are lines to write in the itemized costs for each school along with the various types of financial aid that are awarded. The aid types are categorized by grant or scholarship, loan and employment but the boxes in each category are left blank so families may write in the specific name of the award they receive. For example, one school's "Presidential Scholarship" is another school's "Involvement Grant". Both awards refer to aid that does not need to be repaid; they simply differ by name (and amount, potentially).

Families can add up the costs, subtract out the aid, and arrive at a true out-of-pocket price for each school.

Under the category of college costs, we have included a line item for "Miscellaneous Living Expenses", which is a crucial addition that many families overlook. These expenses are everything from monthly cell-phone use, to travel for the occasional trip home, to pizza money for the late-night cram session and virtually everything else not specifically associated with traditional college costs. While it may seem daunting to come up with a figure for these expenses as they may vary from place to place, do not be discouraged. Almost all financial aid offices can help families calculate these costs, but most are reluctant to do so unless specifically asked by mom and dad. Why? It's additional cost associated with attending that most schools would prefer families forget about, or just absorb. But families should not do that! And, according to an article published last month in *U.S. News and World Report*, most financial aid officers can give families a close approximation of these costs when pressed based on traditional cost-of-living estimates in the area where the college is located. If the aid officer won't help, *U.S. News* suggests adding about \$3,700 per year to the quoted tuition, room and board, books, fees and textbooks (assuming all of this data is provided) to account for miscellaneous expenses.

As many, if not most, families still weigh offers as graduation approaches, here is a good checklist to make sure they are fairly comparing financial aid awards from colleges:

--**Find** out the college's total cost of attendance.

--**Deduct** grants and scholarships to calculate your out-of-pocket cost.  
--**Determine** what the requirements are to have a scholarship renewed for subsequent years.  
--**Figure** out how long it's likely to take to get a degree. Most students now need at least five years. A good online source to help determine this number by state or school may be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/index.aspx>.  
--**Decide** how many hours a week you could work at a job without hurting your grades.  
--**Look** for last-minute scholarships with late deadlines. *U.S. News* has compiled a list of eight scholarship programs suitable for last-minute applicants, with deadlines ranging from April 30 through September 17 and awards of \$300 to \$10,000. Most require an essay: Questions include "What is the future of the printed book?" and "If you could trade places with someone for 24 hours, who would it be and why?" The list is available at [www.usnews.com/lastminute](http://www.usnews.com/lastminute).  
--**Appeal** to the college financial aid office for a better deal if your family has evidence of greater need than can be expressed on the FAFSA. But make sure it is legitimate like a parent losing a job or illness in the family requiring hospitalization.

### **CPOA PA News – Speaking Circuit**

- Mr. Rock will speak at Tom Alper's Kicking Camp on Monday June 18 at the Elizabeth Forward H.S.

### **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 \$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).