

APRIL 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

3: SAT Test

6: SAT registration postmark date for June 7th test

9: ACT registration postmark date for June 14th test

15: SAT late registration postmark date for June 7th test

21: Basketball (late) final signing date for National Letter of Intent

23: ACT late registration postmark date for June 14th test,

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Emma Straight – Soccer – Greater Latrobe

Zach Montgomery – Track – Ford City

Chrissy Esachina – Swimming – Greensburg Central Catholic

NCAA News

One of our more decorated 2008 grads, Allison Schroeder of Ottawa, Ohio, will attend the University of Notre Dame.

A couple of salient points about the mail message:

Debunking the long-held view that blue chip athletes do not need our services, Elliott writes, ***“Having been through this (process) with the Schroeders, I am convinced no student-athlete needs our services more. Allison was contacted over 1,500 times with many full rides including those from the Big East, Pac 10, A-10, Conference USA, MAC, etc. being offered. The family was overwhelmed. These are very intelligent people. Dad is a CPA and Mom a tutor for gifted students. Yet by their own admission, they***

would have been unable to figure out the best fit for Allison without our input.”

Our thanks also to CPOA rep Bob LaRosa in southeastern Pennsylvania for forwarding an impressive financial aid award letter sent to one of his clients. Nelson Leon, a senior men’s basketball player, has been awarded an excellent package from NCAA Division III Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA, that is essentially a full scholarship.

Nelson’s award is another one of those outstanding examples of what non-athletic aid offers often comes from D-III schools. Moravian’s cost of attendance is more than \$38,000 per year. Because Nelson Leon will receive need-based aid, he will actually receive more total aid than the cost of attendance! No wonder the family is ecstatic.

Fewer Options to Pay for College

Parents and students are finding the going tough these days when figuring how best to finance the cost of college, with student loan companies in turmoil and banks tightening their standards and raising rates on other types of borrowing. Lawmakers and the Bush Administration are trying to head off any crisis by making sure that “lenders of last resort” stand ready to take the place of private lenders that have left the federal loan program. And a growing number of colleges have applied to participate in the federal direct loan program, in which students borrow from the government. Whether that will be enough to calm fears will not be known for several months.

As we know, most families use a combination of resources to pay for college, drawing on savings, federal loans, bank loans and home loans to plug the gap between college costs and financial aid.

But fewer options create problems.

Sallie Mae, the country’s largest originator of student loans, is threatening to not issue new loans this year because they are not profitable. Sallie Mae has made big profits over the last 10 years making loans to students, selling the loans as securities, then using the cash to make more loans. Now, however, investors in these securities are scarce. One reason is the floundering housing market in the U.S. Another reason is the federal government is cutting subsidies on the loans. But is it really a crisis? Many in higher education claim the private lenders are using scare tactics, overstating the hype in hopes of a government bailout. Of course, the lenders deny those charges.

Private loans have grown sharply in popularity over the last 10 years, as families have looked for ways to pay the difference between tuition, on the one hand, and their savings and federal loan options, on the other. Last year, according to The College Board, students took out more than \$17 billion in private loans, up from just \$1.6 billion a decade earlier. Still, fewer than 10 percent of undergraduates borrow from private lenders.

Last year, students and their parents borrowed nearly \$60 billion in federally guaranteed loans, a figure that has grown more than 6 percent annually over the last five years. In recent years, the growth rate has declined but may pick up as the economy slows and as other borrowing options fade.

Lawmakers in Washington have authorized increasing the amounts that students can borrow through federal programs and authorizing the Education Department to purchase federal loans, thereby providing banks with cash to make more loans. The House Education Committee has approved legislation that would allow dependent students to borrow a total of \$31,000 through federal programs to pay for their undergraduate education, up from \$23,000 now.

Students attending the wealthiest colleges will enjoy expanded financial aid, as those institutions move to replace need-based loans with grants. Harvard and Yale recently announced expansions of aid to families making as much as \$150,000 annually, displaying a level of generosity that few schools can match. According to a recent *New York Times/CBS News* poll, 70 percent of parents surveyed were “very concerned” about how they would pay for college; only 6 percent were not concerned. Frankly, we are surprised the number is not higher than 70 percent!

We will not know until the fall at the earliest the scope of the college lending problem, but in this climate, our service could be more attractive as families explore all avenues in how they will pay for college.

Idea for “Division IV” Nixed

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has scuttled a proposal to subdivide Division III or add a new grouping altogether after an overwhelming majority of the division's member institutions said they opposed the idea.

The association had touted that proposal as a solution to the rapid growth projected for the division in the coming years.

In February, the NCAA sent a survey to the 442 active and provisional members of Division III. When the results came in, the message was clear: No changes are necessary.

Of the 96 percent of Division III institutions that responded to the survey, 82 percent said they supported or strongly supported maintaining the current Division III setup. Only 17 percent supported or strongly supported either the creation of subdivisions or a new division altogether.

Division III colleges and universities offer no athletics scholarships. Although the division includes some of the smallest institutions in the NCAA in terms of enrollment, it is by far the association's largest group, and it is growing larger every year. The division has added 100 or so members since 1990, and NCAA officials estimate that by 2020, it will reach 480 members. (Division I, by contrast, has 329 active members, and Division II has 282.)

In their responses, institutions listed several reasons for keeping Division III in its current format. They cited the breaking up of athletics conferences and the loss of traditional rivalries as potential drawbacks of splitting the division, and some colleges said the loss of the Division III moniker could negatively affect their ability to retain and recruit athletes.

Sports Sponsorships

Georgia State University, NCAA Division I in Atlanta, GA, is starting a football program that will take the field in 2010. The school will also add a women's lacrosse team that will begin the same year.

University of Rhode Island, NCAA Division

I in Kingston, RI, is dropping three sports at the end of this school year. The sports are men's swimming, men's tennis and field hockey for women.

Bard College, NCAA Division III located at Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, will sponsor varsity men's and women's lacrosse teams beginning in 2010 and will play the sport at the club level in 2009.

Gallaudet University, NCAA Division III in Washington, D.C., is reinstating its men's and women's cross country teams this fall. Gallaudet is the only university in the U.S. designed exclusively for the deaf and hard of hearing.

May Recruiting Reminder

Every year at this time we remind our franchisees and representatives about the importance of the month of May for many high school juniors in the recruiting process (and those hoping to get into the process!)

NCAA Division I football coaches may make one phone call to a 2009 grad any time this month. In the April newsletter, we pointed out that the phone call was actually moved up two weeks this year extending the phone period to approximately six weeks.

The key question to ask junior football players you are meeting with now is, "How many phone calls have you had from college coaches?" Unless the answer is an uncommonly high number, you must make them understand why they are not on the recruiting radar and now is the time to take action to correct that.

A separate item: the late signing period for senior basketball prospects who want to sign a National Letter of Intent ends on May 21st. After that date, a basketball player cannot sign a National Letter of Intent but could still accept an offer from a school (rare as it may be at this late date in the higher divisions). The NLI window doesn't close until August 1 in most other sports.

Review the CPOA Important Dates calendar regularly to keep up with these dates. A new calendar for 2008-09 will be available later this summer.

CPOAPA News

CPOA Clients Sign with Colleges

- Dan Sivak – Mt. Pleasant area will continue his Football career at Bethany College.
- Liz Donnelly – Derry Area will continue her Soccer career at Limestone College in South Carolina

- Cassie Sanderson – Elizabeth Forward will continue her Basketball career at Wheeling Jesuit University
- William Ferguson – Fairfax HS will continue his Football career at St. Vincent College
- Stephen Martinkovich – North Allegheny will continue his Baseball career at Allegheny College
- Lauren Cassler – Ligonier Valley will continue her Soccer career at Carlow University
- Coty Hainsey – Chestnut Ridge HS will continue his Soccer career at Westminster College
- Ashley Baughman – Hopewell HS will continue her Softball career at Carlow University
- Elena Reed – Elk County Christian will continue her Soccer career at Mercyhurst College
- Jason Timmons – Greater Latrobe will continue his Track career at Monmouth University
- Jordan Donaldson – Tussey Mountain will continue his Track career at Bucknell
- Ben Sollenberger – Northern Bedford will continue his Football career at Shippensburg University
- Glennis Robash – Mars HS will continue her Soccer career at Penn State Behrend
- Dan Matyas – Valley HS will continue his Ice Hockey career at Denison University
- Glenn Moyer – Greensburg Salem will continue his Football career at Washington and Jefferson College
- Cassie Nath – Ligonier Valley will continue her Soccer career at University of Pittsburgh Johnstown
- Sean Schetka – New Brighton will continue his Soccer Career at Southern Vermont University

- Jacob Gibas – Greater Latrobe will continue his Football career at Rose-Hulman in Indiana.
- Mike Godissart – Chestnut Ridge will continue his Baseball career at Mt. Aloysius College
- Mike Sawlsville - Mt. Pleasant area will continue his Football career at Bethany College.
- Harlan Funk – Mt. Pleasant Area will continue his Football career at Waynesburg College
- Katrina Kelly – Connellsville will continue her Soccer career at Waynesburg College.

Out & About

Look for CPOA representatives at the following venues this spring / summer:

Tom Alper Kicking Academy and QB Camp: 6/11 Mary Lou Retton Park – Fairmont WV

Tom Alper Kicking Academy and QB Camp: 6/16 Johnstown HS Football Stadium

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://actr7.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).