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IMPORTANT MAY RECRUITING DATES

2: SAT Test

5: SAT Registration postmark date for June 6th test.

8: ACT registration postmark for June 13th test.

15: SAT late registration postmark date for June 6th test.

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

22: ACT late registration postmark date for June 13th test.

Recruiting Topic of the Month

One the most important factors in the recruiting process is finding the right coach and school. A coach is not simply someone who gives you an athletic scholarship; he or she serves as a mentor and as a motivator. Regardless of your skill level, a good coach should be able to teach you new skills while perfecting your existing ones. The process of finding the right coach involves asking the right questions and evaluating the most critical aspects of your prospective coach's coaching style, communication style, and personality.

The following are a list of some questions that will help you decide whether a coach is a good fit for you. While you listen to their answers, try to determine how comfortable you are with them and their personality. If you choose this school, you will most likely have a close relationship with this person for four years!

Describe for me a typical day in the life of one of your players?

What type of help can I expect to balance my academics with my athletics?
What is your graduation rate?
How would you describe a good program?
What characteristics do you value in your players?
How would others describe your personality both during games and during practice?
Where do you see me fitting in with the team?
How is playing time determined?
Have you ever had any NCAA rules infractions?

Undoubtedly, choosing the right coach also requires a great deal of discussion between you and your parents. In order for you to evaluate the answers to these questions, you need to have a good understanding of your own personality and if you can immerse yourself in that atmosphere for the next 4-5 years.

Some questions to ask of yourself:

Do I respond better to discipline and structure, or do I respond better to someone who is more sensitive and nurturing?
Am I comfortable sharing my feelings with the coach?
Can I handle being criticized in front of my teammates?

Once you determine your compatibility with a prospective coach, you will have a better understanding of whether a particular program might be a good match

Choosing the right coach is just one of many important factors in choosing your school. Don't let the coach be the sole factor in your school choice. You are going to college to get an education. You need to ensure that you are going to a school that meets your academic, social, and athletics needs. Consider the coach as being just one piece of the puzzle.

Local CPOA News

Congratulations to the following CPOAPA student – athletes who have made their collegiate commitments:

Jeff Yunetz - Greater Latrobe - Basketball - West Liberty

Maria Montini - Hempfield - Basketball - U.P.J.

Alyssa Grossman - Hempfield - Softball - West Virginia Wesleyan

Greg Langer - Pine Richland - Football - RMU

Madalyn Zalewski – Valley - Swimming - Mt. Union

Lindsay Gruss - Derry Area - Swimming - Penn State Behrend

Chrissy Esachina - Greensburg Central Catholic - Swimming - West Point USMA

Matt Vogt - Seneca Valley - Golf - Butler University

Sarah Heimlich - Serra Catholic - Golf - Youngstown State

Eric Minerd - Laurel Highlands - Wrestling - Seton Hill University

Luke Niezelski - Derry Area - Swimming - Stevens Institute of Technology

Brad Burkardt - Greater Latrobe - Baseball - St. Vincent College

Jeff Hoak - Elizabeth Forward - Football - West Liberty

Tom Kozlowski - Shaler - Lacrosse - Washington & Jefferson

Malleri Hardison - Laurel Highlands - Volleyball - University of Charleston

Andrew Edwards - Hopewell - Golf - Westminster College

Financial News

Feds Look At Simplifying the FAFSA Form

It's not a question of if the federal government will make the complicated FAFSA form easier to complete. The question is when and how. There is no easy answer to either of those queries, but almost everyone in the college financial aid world agrees changes will be made in the next year or two.

Every year horror stories about families filling out the FAFSA abound. In an article last month in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a Virginia mom said it took her 20 hours to complete the FAFSA online. That's 20 times longer than the U. S. Department of Education claims it should take!

Each year more than 40 percent of college students, nearly eight million, fail to file a FAFSA, even though most of them would be eligible for aid, according to the federal Education Department. The agency doesn't know how many students start the process and give up, or how many never even begin because they're intimidated by the form's length and bureaucratic language. These issues led CPOA to offer electronic filing assistance for clients who purchase our Super Service 12 years ago. It's one of the most valuable services we offer yet it remains terribly undersold.

Financial aid experts agree that the two most popular plans for simplifying the FAFSA involve marrying a family's income tax return with the FAFSA and

simplifying the formula used to measure a family's financial need. Both of these have drawbacks. Tightening the formula used to calculate the "Expected Family Contribution" (EFC) would shorten the form, but it could redistribute student aid, giving more money to less financially needy students and driving up the costs of the federal programs. Pre-populating the form with income tax data would save families time but it would also cause some students to receive more or less aid than they would otherwise be entitled to, since it would rely on two-year-old income, rather than on an estimate of the prior year's earnings. In addition, not everyone files a tax return so non-filers would be at a disadvantage.

Still, something is going to be done and some changes are expected this year. At six pages and 120 questions, the FAFSA is longer than even the 1040 tax form, with its two pages and 76 questions. The FAFSA's length and unfamiliar language — terms like "emancipated minor" and "unaccompanied youth" — intimidate and confound families and discourage some people from applying for aid altogether. And even though the form yields the family's EFC, it doesn't tell parents anything about how much aid they are eligible to receive!

The other option being weighed in Washington is changing the formula used to award aid. The FAFSA now asks 45 questions to determine the family's EFC. Reducing the formula to just two questions — adjusted gross income and number of exemptions claimed on federal tax forms — as former Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings proposed last year, would pare the form to two pages.

Two-Thirds of Students Get Financial Aid

Sixty-six percent of undergraduates received some type of student aid during the 2007-08 academic year, according to the National Center of Education Statistics. The total average amount for all students receiving aid last year was \$9,100. More than half — 52 percent — of the students received grant money, the average being \$4,900. About 38 percent took out student loans that averaged \$7,100 per person.

One statistic that did not surprise us, but would surprise many, is this: Of all financial aid awarded, 28 percent went to students from families who earned less than \$40,000 annually and 28 percent was awarded to those from families who earned more than \$100,000 per year! Clearly the primary reason is because fewer people from poorer families attempt to send their children to college, and those that do often fail to follow through on the financial aid process. The report is based on responses from more than 114,000 undergraduate students.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Mac Dixon – Moon – Track & Field

Jennifer Stefano – Connellsville – Softball

NCAA News

- The NCAA Eligibility Center – formerly the Clearinghouse – now charges \$60 for American high school students to register and \$85 for those outside the USA. Registration is required for seniors who wish to accept an official visit from a Division I or II NCAA-member school. Registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center is not required for students making unofficial visits to colleges.
- The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) has announced a more restrictive eligibility rule for male and female tennis players who have competed in professional events. Prior to this, as long as the player accepted only reimbursement for expenses but did not receive prize money, there were no limits on the number of sanctioned pro events in which he or she could compete. Effective August 1, student-athletes must provide not only an approved ITA expense form but are limited to playing in a prescribed number of events as follows: *Any student-athlete having played in 10 or more professional events after reaching his/her eighteenth (18) birthday, shall have one year of eligibility remaining if the ITA expense form is properly executed and approved; *Any student-athlete having played in 10 or more professional events after reaching his/her nineteenth (19) birthday, shall have no eligibility remaining; *Any student-athlete, regardless of age, having played in fifteen (15) or more professional events shall have no eligibility remaining. The definition of “professional events” is any event where prize money is awarded based on winning, whether or not it is sponsored by the ATP or WTA. Furthermore, we have confirmed there will be no waivers granted by the NJCAA and no athlete can be “grandfathered in” under the previous rule. This change could cause eligibility problems for prospects who wish to compete in college immediately and are not certified for NCAA or NAIA schools. It may mean those amateur prospects would be required to sit out a year at a four-year school, but it may be the only alternative for those who want to play college tennis.

• **Division I Football Phone Calls Through May 31**

April 15th is more than just the deadline for filing income tax returns in the USA. It is the first day that Division I football coaches may begin calling prospects who are in the 11th grade. Division I football coaches may make one phone call to a junior prospect between April 15th and May 31st.

Sports Sponsorships

The trend of dropping athletics teams (adding a few in some cases) continues. Unless otherwise noted, all changes are effective immediately.

Georgia State University, NCAA Division I in Atlanta, will field a football team for the 2010 season. Former Georgia Tech, Alabama and Kentucky coach Bill Curry, most recently a TV analyst for ESPN college football, is the head coach.

Cal-State Fullerton, NCAA Division I in Fullerton, Calif., is adding men's and women's golf.

Division I **University of Cincinnati** drops men's cross country, men's track, and men's swimming.

University of Massachusetts, NCAA Division I in Amherst, Mass., is discontinuing its men's and women's ski teams.

University of Tennessee-Martin, Division I in Martin, Tenn., discontinues men's tennis.

University of Maine at Orono, NCAA Division I, drops women's volleyball and men's soccer.

Kutztown University, Division II in Kutztown, PA, drops men's soccer and men's swimming.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the school with the most athletic teams in NCAA Division III, is dropping eight of the 41 programs it sponsors. The Institute will discontinue the sponsorship of the mixed men's and women's teams in alpine skiing and pistol; separate teams for men and women in ice hockey and gymnastics; and men's programs in golf and wrestling.

Emmanuel College, NCAA Division III in Boston, is adding men's golf.

Simpson College, Division III in Indianola, Iowa, adds men's swimming and diving.

Saint Mary's College of Maryland, NCAA Division III, adds men's and women's cross country.

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 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).