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IMPORTANT NOVEMBER RECRUITING DATES

1 – SAT Test

5 – SAT late registration postmark date for December 6th test

7 – ACT registration postmark date for December 13th test

12- Basketball (early) initial signing date for NLI

19- Basketball (early) final signing date for NLI

19- All other sports (early) final signing date for NLI

20 – ACT late registration postmark date for December 13th test

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Daniel Barron – Football - Mt. Pleasant Area
Nate Campbell – Baseball – Greater Latrobe
Lauren Maline – Softball - Jeannette

CPOAPA Adds New Representatives

Daniel Jay has joined the CPOA team and is covering Lawrence, Butler and Beaver counties.

Grad Rates Highest Ever

Athletes in the nation's biggest college-sports programs are graduating at the highest levels since the National Collegiate Athletic Association first began calculating their graduation rates seven years ago.

The latest "graduation-success-rate" figures show that more than three-quarters, or 78 percent, of all players who entered a Division I college in the academic years from 1998 to 2001 graduated within six years of enrolling. That marks an increase of one percentage point from last year's data and an increase of five percentage points from seven years ago.

The graduation-success rate for men's basketball players who entered college in 2001 was 65 percent, up one percentage point from those who entered in 2000 and an increase of nine percentage points from those entering in 1995.

For Division I-A football players entering college in 2001, the rate was 66 percent, a decrease of one percentage point from those who enrolled in 2000 and an increase of three points from the 1995 enrollees. Baseball posted a higher rate, increasing from 67 percent for those who started in 2000 to 72 percent for those entering in 2001, up from 65 percent for those entering in 1995. For athletes in all sports who entered college in the 2001 academic year, the graduation-success rate was 79 percent. (The federal graduation rate for athletes entering college in 2001, by contrast, was 64 percent. The rate for the general student body was 62 percent.)

The NCAA uses its own formula to calculate the graduation-success rates of Division I athletes. The figures are different from the graduation statistics calculated by the U.S. Department of Education because they account for students who transfer into and out of institutions. The NCAA statistics, unlike the federal ones, do not penalize an institution for having athletes who leave to attend other colleges, as long as they depart in good academic standing.

Among men's sports, lacrosse posted the highest graduation-success rate, at 88 percent; followed by water polo, at 87 percent; and fencing and gymnastics, at 86 percent each.

Among women's sports, ski teams led, with 96 percent of their athletes graduating in six years; gymnastics followed, at 95 percent; and field hockey and lacrosse both graduated 94 percent of their players. The high-profile sport of women's basketball had an 82-percent rate. The women's team with the lowest graduation-success rate was bowling, at 68 percent.

Female athletes, meanwhile, graduated at a higher average rate (87 percent) than male athletes (71 percent).

NCAA researchers also tracked the graduation-success rates of individual sports teams at 322 Division I institutions. Among those, six men's basketball teams from Division I's highest-profile conferences graduated fewer than a third of their players: the University of Maryland at College Park (10 percent); the University of Arizona (20 percent); the University of Georgia (23 percent); Clemson University

(29 percent); the University of Texas at Austin (31 percent); and the University of Connecticut (33 percent). Two of the country's top football programs, meanwhile, had graduation-success rates below 50 percent: The University of Oklahoma (46 percent) and the University of Georgia (48 percent).

The College Board to Offer New Test

In an attempt to reassert itself as the pre-eminent force in college admissions and testing, The College Board has unveiled a new test that it said would help prepare eighth graders for rigorous high school courses and college.

The test, which will be available to schools next fall, is intended only for assessment and instructional purposes and has nothing to do with college admissions, College Board officials said.

"This is not at all a pre-pre-pre SAT," Lee Jones, a College Board vice president, said at a news conference. "It's a diagnostic tool to provide information about students' strengths and weaknesses."

The College Board, which owns the SAT and PSAT, made its announcement when an increasing percentage of high school students are taking the rival ACT and amid mounting concern over what critics call the misuses of the SAT and ACT and other standardized tests in college admissions.

The new test, called "ReadiStep", can be completed within two hours and is divided into three multiple-choice sections of critical reading, writing skills and mathematics. It will cost less than \$10 per student and schools and districts – not families - will pay for it. The test will be voluntary and the results would be shared only with teachers, parents, students and schools.

A spokesman for the group called Fair Test that has been critical of the SAT and the ACT says the new test will "only accelerate the college admissions arms race and push it down onto ever younger children."

Reminders

The **Early Signing Period** for the **National Letter of Intent** runs from November 12th through the 19th. Not all intercollegiate sports have an early signing period (football, for example, does not)

This month we will begin review of the **FAFSA Information Forms** that we have received from 2009 grads to be filed in January. Parents who send the form to us prior to November 15th will receive a reviewed copy of the form with an opportunity to make corrections or provide missing data.

Sports Sponsorships

Lebanon Valley College, NCAA Division III in Annville, PA, is reintroducing the men's and women's lacrosse programs that were discontinued in 1985. They will begin play in 2009-10.

Franklin College, NCAA Division III in Franklin, Ind., adds indoor track for both men and women effective this winter.

North Carolina Wesleyan, NCAA Division III in Rocky Mount, NC, is reinstating its women's lacrosse program after a one-year hiatus and adds a women's golf team for 2009-10.

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).