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IMPORTANT AUGUST RECRUITING DATES

10-6: ACT late registration postmark date for October 28th test

10-11: SAT late registration postmark date for November 4th test

10-14: SAT Test

10-28: ACT Test

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Glenn Moyer – Football – Greensburg Salem
Cassy Sanderson – Basketball – Elizabeth Forward
Michael Byers – Football – Burrell
Michael Bevilacqua – Football – Franklin Regional
Brian Bevilacqua – Football – Franklin Regional
Madalyn Zalewski – Swimming – Valley
William Ferguson – Football – Pine Richland

NCAA News

NCAA Grad Rates Improving

Graduation rates for student-athletes continue to rise steadily, especially in for football and basketball players.

On September 27th, the NCAA released its annual graduation-rate report, declaring that 77 percent of Division I athletes were graduating within six years of enrolling in college, with rates improving sharply in dozens of sports.

The higher numbers -- the graduation rate rose 1 percentage point across the board from the previous tracking period -- reflect a change in how the NCAA measures academic success. The association now uses a formula called

“Graduation Success Rate” instead of one used previously that was advocated by the U. S. Department of Education. The NCAA's method accounts for transfer students, making athletes' graduation rates look rosier than the government's figures do. Many athletics officials agree, however, that the NCAA's formula provides the most accurate measure of how many athletes are succeeding in the classroom.

The report measured the graduation rates of more than 93,000 athletes, on some 5,000 Division I teams, who enrolled at colleges between the 1996-97 and 1999-2000 academic years. Their Graduation Success Rates improved in 24 of the 35 sports that the NCAA measured.

Two sports in which athletes have traditionally had poor graduation rates -- men's football and basketball -- made big gains. Sixty-eight percent of Division I-A football players who enrolled in 1999-2000 graduated within six years, five percentage points higher than those who enrolled in 1995-96, the association said. And 61 percent of athletes on men's basketball teams who enrolled in 1999-2000 graduated within six years -- five percentage points higher than the rate for those who enrolled in the earlier period.

A number of sports -- men's lacrosse and water polo and women's bowling, lacrosse, and water polo -- had lower graduation rates in the most recent report. And the graduation rates in many sports stayed virtually the same.

Over all, men's sports had lower graduation rates than women's sports. Seventy percent of male athletes were graduating within six years, while 86 percent of female athletes earned their degrees within that time, said NCAA officials. And there were plenty of bright spots among both the men's and women's numbers. Nine of the 17 men's sports had scores above 80 percent. Men's skiing led the way, with 89 percent of its athletes graduating. Among women's sports, fencing, field hockey, gymnastics, and skiing had the highest graduation rates, at 94 percent. Lacrosse and swimming also scored over 90 percent, and no sport scored below 70 percent.

NCAA president Myles Brand said in a news conference following the release of the graduation report that graduation rates could reach 80 percent if athletics programs focused on "bringing up the bottom," or improving rates in the lowest-performing sports.

Luke Donald Clinches Ryder Cup

The European Ryder Cup team again dominated the USA in the international golf event, and CPOA Advisory Board member Luke Donald made the putt that clinched the victory on September 24th.

The 28-year-old Englishman sank a 10-foot putt on the 17th hole during the final day's singles matches at the K Club in Ireland to give Europe its Cup-clinching 14th point. He finished the 3-day event with a perfect 3-0-0 record. In two Ryder Cup appearances, Luke's record is an excellent 5-1-1.

The Euros, winners of three consecutive Ryder Cups and five of the last six, hammered the Americans with an array of outstanding shot-making and clutch putting. The final score 18 ½ to 9 ½ tied the 2004 result for the most lopsided victory in the 79-year history of the event.

U.S. Students Lagging in Finishing College

The United States, long the world leader in higher education, has fallen behind other nations in its college enrollment and completion rates, as the affordability of American colleges and universities has declined, according to a new report. The study, from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, found that the United States is in the lower half of developed nations in completing college.

One particular area of concern, according to Patrick M. Callan, president of the center, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in San Jose, Calif., and Washington. Mr. Callan, is that younger Americans — the most diverse generation in the nation's history — are lagging educationally, compared with the baby boom generation.

"The strength of America is in the population that's closest to retirement, while the strength of many countries against whom we compare ourselves is in their younger population," he said. "Perhaps for the first time in our history, the next generation will be less educated."

Over all, the report said, while other nations have significantly improved and expanded their higher education systems, the United States' higher education performance has stalled since the early 1990's.

At the same time, for most American families, college is becoming increasingly unaffordable. While federal Pell grants for low-income students covered 70 percent of the cost of a year at a four-year public university in the 1990's, that number has dropped to less than half.

On average, a year at a public four-year university costs 31 percent of a family's income, the report said. But that figure hides the enormous difference between families in the bottom 20 percent of income, for which it would be 73 percent of annual income, and those in the top 20 percent, for which it would amount to only 9 percent.

College Enrollment to Grow Over the Next 10 Years

Enrollment at degree-granting colleges and universities is projected to increase until at least 2015, especially for minority students, according to the U.S. Education Department.

From 2004 to 2015, college enrollment is expected to grow 42 percent for Hispanic students, 30 percent for American Indian or Alaska Native students, 28 percent for Asian or Pacific Islander students, and 27 percent for black, non-Hispanic students. Enrollment for white, non-Hispanic students is predicted to rise 6 percent, while nonresident-alien enrollment is expected to rise 34 percent. Total enrollment in degree-granting institutions is projected to rise 15 percent from 2004 to 2015. Public institutions' enrollments are expected to increase 15 percent, while private institutions' enrollments are projected to grow 14 percent. Enrollment for women is expected to rise 18 percent, compared with 10 percent for men.

SAT Scores Take Biggest Plunge in More Than 30 Years

In a year when confidence in the SAT sank among some college officials, scores on the test fell, too.

The College Board announced last month that the average combined scores on the SAT's mathematics and critical-reading sections for the high-school graduating class of 2006 declined by seven points from the previous year -- the biggest one-year drop since 1975. Average scores on the math section fell two points, to 518, and reading scores fell five points, to 503, out of a possible 800 points.

College Board president Gaston Caperton attributed the decline to a decrease in the number of students who had taken the exam more than once. Officials said students who take the test more than once typically see a 30-point increase in their combined score. This year, 53 percent of test takers took the SAT multiple times, compared to 56 percent in 2005.

Some college admissions counselors and other observers claim the drop may be attributable to "test fatigue". After the writing section was added to the SAT in 2005, the average test time jumped to three hours and 45 minutes.

While a 10-point drop might seem insignificant, try to explain that to a student whose best score is 1390 when 1400 might mean several thousand dollars in additional financial aid from a certain school!

Because the revised SAT is not only longer but more expensive than the old version (\$41.50, compared to \$28.50), some testing critics have predicted that the number of low-income students taking the test would decline. In fact, the College Board's own demographic data comparing the 2005 and 2006 tests revealed that the number of test takers from families with incomes below \$30,000 declined by nearly 30,000 students this year. Among students from families with household incomes between \$60,000 and \$80,000, the decline was 8,400 students. The number of test takers from families with incomes above \$80,000 increased by about 21,000 students. In 2006, the total number of students taking the SAT declined slightly, to 1.5 million.

Although men once again outperformed women on the SAT on the math and critical-reading sections (1041 to 1004), women scored higher than men on the new writing section (502 to 491). They also scored higher on the writing section's 25-minute essay (7.4 to 7.1, out of a possible 12 points).

Earlier this year, the College Board faced scrutiny when it announced that some 4,000 students who took the test last October had received falsely low scores on the exam, because of a scoring glitch.

Numbers for Smarties

As a backhanded tribute to the "_____ for Dummies" series of books, we offer "Numbers for Smarties", after all, we hope there are no dummies who read our newsletter:

375 Percent increase of costs for a college education since 1985, according to The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education

127 Percent increase of median family income over the same period.

31 Percent of median family income spent on paying for one year of school at a four-year public university, according to the same report.

34,698 Average per year cost for tuition, room and board at a 4-year private college or university in the U. S. during the 2005-06 school year, according to the U. S. Census Bureau.

12,605 Average per year cost for an in-state student at a 4-year public university, according to the Census Bureau.

5000 Dollars per year families should budget for “miscellaneous college expenses”, according to the National Retail Foundation and the College Board’s annual college survey. This figure includes everything from textbooks and school supplies to clothes to dorm furniture to laundry expenses to “late night pizza money”!

20 Percent, down from the current 35 percent, of assets in a child’s name that will be applied to the Expected Family Contribution starting in the 2007-08 school year, according to the U. S. Department of Education.

218 Thousand dollars a family can save for college for a child born today if family members invest \$5000 a year in a standard 529 savings plan that earns 8 percent interest, according to T. Rowe Price.

72 Percent higher income, over a lifetime, for an adult with a university degree living in the U. S. compared to someone with only a high school diploma, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development based in Paris.

56 Percent of more than 5,300 MBA students surveyed by the *Academy of Management Learning & Education* who admitted they cheated on either a test or an assignment within the past year.

Financial News

Financial Aid Tip of the Month

As we enter the final quarter of 2006, smart families should begin preparing for the college admissions process and FAFSA filings in January.

With that in mind, we offer this suggestion from an article in the September 18th issue of *U. S. News*.

Students should be realistic about where they apply.

When applying to colleges, students can improve their odds of receiving merit-based financial aid by applying to places where the SAT or ACT scores will put them in the top 25 percent of the school’s student body. This information is readily available on most school’s Web sites or a good source like *U. S. News* or *Peterson’s Guide*.

Last year, the average grant awarded to those whose scores put them in the top 25 percent was \$11,144, typically meeting 81 percent of the student’s financial need. Awards offered to applicants whose SAT score was at least 200 points below the top 25 percent averaged \$7,800 in grant money, meeting just 64 percent of the financial need.

U. S. News has an outstanding new Web area anyone can access where students can create individually tailored lists of schools that are likely to admit them and, based on their academics, give them financial aid. They can also search for free tuition programs that they may qualify for, schools that typically meet up to 100% of the family's financial need, schools that are apt to admit more males than females (or vice versa), and more great financial aid tools! The URL is: www.usnews.com/payingforcollege

CPOAPA News

CPOAPA and Top College Prospects announces three upcoming showcase events

CPOAPA Showcase Events

[Last Chance Penn/Ohio College Softball Showcase - Oct 21](#)

Washington and Jefferson College

[Last Chance Penn/Ohio Baseball Showcase - Oct 29](#)

St. Vincent's College, Latrobe, PA

[Penn/OH Girls Soccer Showcase - Nov 12](#)

Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA

[Penn/OH Boys Soccer Showcase - Nov 12](#)

Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA

CPOA PA Topic of the Month I

CPOA teams with Strength, Fitness and Speed, Inc.

<http://www.strengthfitnessandspeed.com>

Pleasant Hills Facility - Hosmer Industrial Park - 347A Old Curry Hollow Road - Pleasant Hills, PA 15236 – 412-653-7970

North Irwin Facility - 92 Webster Avenue - North Irwin, PA 15642 – 724-863-2800

Strength, Fitness and Speed, located in Pleasant Hills and North Irwin is owned and operated by Mr. Ed Wietholder a certified professional strength and conditioning specialist.

At Strength, Fitness And Speed, he and his staff work with athletes ages 9 through the Olympic and Professional ranks.

Step 1) Evaluate: The athlete receives a functional assessment. The Sports Performance Director designs a routine specifically for that individual based on results and sport. If work is needed to be tracked for the athlete outside of the facility, this is also an option (see at home tracking). The athlete receives a report that explains the results of the assessment.

Step 2) Implement: Performance coaches implement these routines during 1 on 1 sessions. The results of the assessment as well as the athlete's sport, age and position have been taken into account. Athletes train here 1-5 times per week. We strive to set up long term relationships to facilitate total development.

Step 3) Ongoing evaluation: Performance coaches evaluate as we go, provide feedback to the Performance Director, and adjustments are made workout to workout based on sport season by the Performance Director. Each workout has been specifically altered to accomplish certain goals. Testing is done at approximately 8-week intervals initially.

Step 4) Performance reports: These will be sent out periodically to show progress

CPOA PA Topic of the Month II

CPOA teams with Champion Lakes Golf Resort

Any organization or group (min. 4 individuals) wishing to play Golf at one of the areas premier courses, can take advantage of this special offer by calling Dale Gregoritch of Champion Lakes @ 724-238-5440 and mentioning that they were referred by Martin Rock of College Prospects of America.

GOLF OUTING INFORMATION FOR:
SCHOLASTIC/NON PROFFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Champion Lakes Golf Club will donate \$5.00 per golfer to the representative organization on any outing played on Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday (before noon), holidays excluded.

We will provide the following:

- Shotgun Start (depending on the size of the outing)
- Permissible to bring "donated" beverages
- Driving Range available
- On-site over-night accommodations at a reduce rate to those participating in the outing.
- Halfway house/beverage carts for snacks etc.
- Golf rates w/cart - \$39 weekdays & \$44 weekends (18 holes)

OVER-NIGHT GOLF PACKAGES

Valid Sunday, Monday & Tuesday nights – Holidays excluded)

THE BILL MAZEROSKI DOUBLE PLAY

- Unlimited Golf w/Cart for Two Days
- On-Site Bed & Breakfast Accommodation
 - Full Breakfast
 - Lunch
- \$5.00 donation to organization
 - Price: \$140.00
- (\$120. Oct. 15th thru May 15th)

THE JERRY LYNCH THREE BAGGER

- Three days of golf w/cart
(2 unlimited at Champion Lakes)
- 18 Holes at Partner Course
(Hidden Valley Golf Club, Tom's Run Golf Course, Donegal Highlands)
- Two Nights of Accommodations at on-site Bed & Breakfast
 - Two Complete Breakfasts
 - Two Lunches
- \$5.00 donation to organization.

- Reservations Required
- Over Night Accommodations based on Double occupancy
- Tax & Gratuity Not Included

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 \$25 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).