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IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER RECRUITING DATES

9-1: Div. 1A and 1AA football coaches may resume telephone contact with 2006 graduates.

9-7: SAT registration postmark date for October 8th test.

9-14: SAT late registration postmark date for October 8th test.

9-16: ACT registration postmark date for October 22nd test.

9-30: ACT late registration postmark date for October 22nd test.

9-30: SAT registration postmark date for November 5th test.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Matthew Hoover – Golf – Laurel Highlands HS

Brian Routhieaux – Golf – Mars HS

Vincenza Pimpinella – Track – Greensburg Central Catholic HS

NCAA News

SAT: Highest Math Scores Ever

High-school students graduating in 2005 set a record for the highest average mathematics score on the SAT, according to the College Board, which oversees the nation's most popular standardized test.

1.5 million students took the test earning an average math score of 520, two points higher than last year. Average verbal scores remained unchanged from the previous year, at 508. Math scores have been rising steadily over the past 10 years. Male students outperformed female students, on average, scoring 538 on math, compared with 504 for women. But female students have improved their scores more

than men since 1995, with an average rise of 14 points, compared with 13 points for men.

The class graduating from high school in 2005 was the last to take the old version of the SAT, and the new SAT, which made its debut in March, includes fill-in-the-blank questions in the math section and also tests more-advanced algebra concepts. Average verbal scores, meanwhile, have increased only minimally over the past 10 years, by four points. College Board officials used that statistic to emphasize the value of the new writing section they have added to the SAT. The new section requires students to complete an essay in 25 minutes and to answer 35 additional multiple-choice questions on grammar and style.

Because the revised SAT is so new, 47 percent of colleges surveyed said they would not count the writing score in their admissions criteria for 2006. Only 15 percent of the colleges, including Dartmouth College and Harvard and Stanford Universities, said they would give the same consideration to the writing score that they give to the other two sections. Students who are borderline candidates for admission are more likely to have their writing scores scrutinized: 44 percent of colleges said they would use that score as an additional criterion for those applicants, and 43 percent said they would consider using it.

An SAT spokesman said high school juniors who took the SAT during the last school year scored higher on the math test and about the same as previous years on the verbal part.

ACT Scores Remain Unchanged

The average composite ACT score in 2005 held steady at 20.9 for the second consecutive year, yet officials at ACT Inc., which administers the test, said the results suggest that many of the test takers are not prepared for first-year math and science courses in college (see related article on next page).

Only 41 percent of the students earned a score of 22 or higher on the ACT math test, while only 26 percent earned a score of 24 or higher on the ACT science test. Each of the four parts of the ACT -- English, reading, math, and science -- is scored on a scale of 1 to 36.

Students generally did better on the ACT English test, with 68 percent earning a score of 18 or higher, a result indicating that they are well-prepared for composition courses in college, according to ACT officials. Yet only 51 percent earned a score of 21 or higher on the ACT reading test, suggesting that many freshmen may struggle with reading assignments in college. As in previous years, the average scores of men and women differed only slightly. Men earned an average composite score of 21.1, while women earned a 20.9.

Report: Students Ill-Prepared For College

Only about half of this year's high school graduates have the reading skills they need to succeed in college, and even fewer are prepared for college-level science and math courses, according to a yearly report from ACT, which produces one of the nation's two primary college admissions tests.

The report, based on scores of the 1.2 million 2005 high school graduates who took the exam, also found that fewer than one in four met the college-readiness benchmarks in all four subjects tested: reading comprehension, English, math and science.

The so-called benchmark score represents the likelihood that a student will receive a grade of C or better in a given subject during his or her freshman year.

Among those who took the 2005 test, only 51 percent achieved the benchmark score in reading, 26 percent in science, and 41 percent in math; the figure for English was 68

percent. Results from the new optional ACT writing test, which was not widely taken this year, were not included in the report.

About 40 percent of the nation's 2005 high school graduates took the ACT, and the average overall score, 20.9 of a possible 36, was unchanged from the year before. ACT president Dr. Richard Ferguson said it is a source of concern that too many students are not taking the kind of rigorous high school courses that will prepare them for college. In fact, only 56 percent of this year's graduates who took the ACT had completed the recommended core curriculum for college-bound students: four years of English and three years each of social studies, science and math at the level of algebra or higher.

The ACT report highlighted other worrisome trends as well, including a continuing decline in the percentage of students planning to major in engineering, computer science and education.

And at a time when more women than men go to college, 56 percent of this year's graduates who took the ACT were female, and only 44 percent male. As in previous years, men had higher average math and science scores, and women higher averages scores in English and reading.

Ivy Schools Top "Best College" List

Harvard and Princeton Universities tied for the top spot in the 2005 college rankings compiled by U.S. News & World Report. Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania followed, taking third and fourth place, respectively.

The rest of the top 10 changed little from last year. Two universities tied for fifth place: Duke and Stanford Universities. The California and Massachusetts Institutes of Technology tied for seventh place, followed by Columbia University and Dartmouth College, which tied for ninth.

In other rankings compiled by U.S. News, the University of California at Berkeley again claimed the No. 1 spot on the list of top public universities. The University of Virginia was second, followed by the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, which tied for third.

The rankings are released each year with U.S. News's annual college issue in the book America's Best Colleges, and each year they prompt complaints from college officials. Critics argue that the rankings ignore crucial characteristics about colleges and rely too heavily on colleges' reputations.

This year, for the first time, U.S. News included an "economic diversity" ranking that shows the percentage of undergraduate students at each institution who receive federal Pell Grants, which typically go to students with family incomes under \$40,000. The category is an attempt to measure colleges' success in attracting low-income students to their campuses. Of the top 26 colleges in the national rankings, UCLA enrolled the highest proportion of students receiving Pell Grants, at 38 percent, followed by Cal-Berkeley, at 34 percent.

Great Result For Late-Signing '05 Grad

Once again demonstrating that it may never be too late to sign a senior into our program (with a caveat or two), a late-signing 2005 grad went from wanting prospect to recruited student-athlete in a very short time.

Elliott Baume, a top CPOA representative working in the west-central Ohio area with franchise owner Rodd Hale, shared the story of Jeremy Law with us in August.

Jeremy became a CPOA client two days before his high school graduation!

Elliott tells us the same day Jeremy became a client, he was on the phone with a couple of college coaches talking about the pitcher-infielder. Later that same evening, Jeremy received phone calls from college coaches! As his father Jeff wrote in a testimonial letter, **“Several coaches had contacted Jeremy before (his CPOA) paperwork was completed!”**

Elliott Baume continued to work the phones and e-mail coaches about the overlooked baseball player, and Jeremy continued to hear from coaches during the summer. Eventually, he decided on Division III Hiram (Ohio) College. The school offered a financial aid package worth more than \$18,000 the first year.

Jeremy had not been recruited at all prior to hooking up with Elliott and CPOA despite top grades, impressive baseball statistics and district honors. He lives in a sparsely populated area in western Ohio where there are plenty of good athletes that nobody knows about.

Sound familiar?

Becoming a client so close to the end of the senior year worked out well for Jeremy and has for others, but it is contingent on several factors.

First, the student-athlete must be an excellent candidate for our service, not a marginal prospect athletically or academically.

Next, he or she must be willing to consider all options. Jeremy Law was able to stay fairly close to home, but that may not always be the case.

And the CPOA representative must work overtime to help make something happen at such a late date. By making calls on Jeremy's behalf, Elliott was able to get the ball rolling even before we had the paperwork at the corporate office. A family has to be impressed when a college coach calls them the same night they sign a contact for our service!

“I never thought that this could happen, that college coaches would be interested in trying to get me to play for them,” Jeremy Law told his father, a quote that was relayed to Elliott in the testimonial letter. Elliott added in a side note to us, “How much better could it be?”

Not much. Not much at all.

Stupples To Play in Solheim Cup

CPOA Advisory Board member Karen Stupples will represent the European team at the Solheim Cup competition later this month. The Solheim Cup, ladies professional golf's version of the Ryder Cup, will be contested at Crooked Stick Golf Club near Indianapolis September 9th through the 11th.

Just 15 years since its inception, the Solheim Cup has become the most prestigious team event in women's pro golf.

Twelve players from the US and Europe compete in team and singles competition over three days to decide the championship. The European team won easily two years ago

the last time the event was staged, but the Euros have never won the Cup on American soil.

Karen Stupples won the 2004 Women's British Open and has had a fine year in 2005 on the LPGA Tour. Fellow board member Luke Donald played on the European Ryder Cup team last fall. Donald was a key player on the team that defeated the Americans at Oak Hill Country Club in Michigan

CPOA PA Topic of the Month

“Probability of Playing NCAA Division I”.

“There are 327 NCAA Division I men's basketball teams and since each school is permitted 13 players on scholarship, it's reasonable to expect that each will sign three new recruits each year. That's a total of 981 roster spots available. BUT, we know that there are a significant number of junior college transfers and, especially in men's basketball, top players from Europe and other foreign countries who will take many of these roster spots. It's not far-fetched that as many as one-third of the roster spots will go to players who are not seniors coming out of high school. Subtracting 327 from 981 leaves 654 roster openings for seniors from U. S. high schools.

“As we move through the funnel, we see that, according to the National Federation of High Schools, there are 17,333 high schools in the U. S. that have a boys basketball team. If we multiply that number times three players graduating per year, again not unreasonable, we find that there are 51,999 players competing for those 654 roster openings. Dividing that out shows that a prospect has a 1.26% chance of landing one of those openings, or about 1 out of 100.”

Before we proceed, we need to point out what some will say is a flaw in our calculation. We know, ability-wise, that there are not three Division I prospects per high school team graduating each year. Obviously the number of legitimate Division I prospects graduating each year is much less than we have represented. But those who think they are, along with their parents, represent a much higher number. Here's the main point. We are not attempting to evaluate talent. If the person you are sitting across from during your appointment is convinced his son will play D-1 hoops, imagine how many thousands of others have the same expectation! The three high school graduates per team per year simply represents the total pool of players who could be competing for those roster spots. All we are attempting to show with our “probability funnel” is the very small number of opportunities that exist based on the scholarship limits and the graduation numbers that we know are accurate.

Next, to avoid totally crushing Junior's dream that he is going to play college basketball, we move to the second funnel titled, “**What Are The Odds?**”.

This funnel shows the opportunities across all divisions for four-year and two-year schools. In the sport of men's basketball, our sponsorship charts show 1,551 schools with men's hoops programs. With three new recruits per team per year there are 4,653 roster spots available, significantly higher than the 981 on the first funnel for Division I only. The next set of numbers remains the same. There are 17,333 high schools with boys basketball teams nationwide and 3 graduates per team. Note that the 51,999 does not include foreign-born players but does include players at two-year colleges because junior colleges are now a part of the increased opportunities available when we consider

all divisions, not just Division II! When we divide 51,999 by 4,653 we come up with 8.9%. A little less than 1 in 10 will play college basketball, but it's a lot better than 1 in 100 for the NCAA's top division!

What changed between the first and second funnel? Obviously a lot more opportunities were added when we included Division II, Division III, NAIA and junior colleges. We need to point out that these opportunities come about by being marketed to as many schools as possible and not just limiting our reach to Division I schools. We have always compared a full-ride Division I scholarship to hitting the lottery. If it happens, congratulations! But if it does not, and the odds are definitely not in any prospect's favor, then the athlete needs to be ready with "Plan B", and that's where CPOA enters the picture!

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 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).