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IMPORTANT AUGUST RECRUITING DATES

9-1: Division I and IAA football coaches may resume telephone contact with 2007 Grads

9-12: SAT registration postmark date for October 14th test

9-20: SAT late registration postmark date for October 14th test

9-22: ACT registration postmark date for October 28th test

9-29: SAT registration postmark date for November 4th test.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Tom Randazza – Football – Pine Richland
Tom Bergamasco – Baseball – Plum
Matt Riddle – Football – Kiski Prep
Sam McFarland – Swimming – Derry Area
Liz Donnelly – Soccer – Derry Area
Kyle Helisek – Baseball – Seneca Valley

NCAA News

Report: 300 Schools Could Suffer Academic Penalties

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that up to 300 Division I schools could be hit with scholarship or other penalties next year due to poor academic performance over a four-year period.

The NCAA Board of Directors voted last month to approve sanctions for teams from schools where academic performance lags over a four-year period. Performance is measured by an "academic-progress rate," scored on a scale of 1 to 1,000, and based on whether athletes stay enrolled and make adequate progress toward their degrees.

Teams that have had academic-progress rates below 900 -- the score that corresponds to about a 50-percent graduation rate -- for the past four years would receive a public warning the next spring and be subject to penalties, beginning in the 2007-8 academic year. Among possible penalties would be further reducing scholarships and recruiting privileges, or, in extreme cases, banning postseason play and revoking NCAA membership.

The first four-year period measured would be from 2003-4 to 2006-7, and NCAA officials estimate that approximately 300 teams could be in the danger zone. Currently, in what the NCAA calls "contemporaneous" penalties, teams with academic progress rates below 925 in any single year can lose up to 10 percent of the scholarships they are normally allowed to award. "As with each stage of our academic reforms -- from enhanced eligibility standards to sharper measurements of progress toward degree -- the goal is to help teams and student athletes improve, not to penalize," Myles Brand, president of the NCAA, said in a written statement.

A team subject to "historical" penalties may escape them if its academic-progress rate seems to be improving, if its academic performance compares favorably with that of other students at the same institution, or if its institution's per-capita educational expenses are significantly lower than those of other institutions in Division I.

Princeton Stands Atop 'U.S. News' Rankings

Princeton University has won the coveted top spot in the annual college rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Harvard University was ranked No. 2. Princeton and Harvard had tied for first place in each of the previous three years.

Yale University was ranked third, and the California Institute of Technology, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Stanford University all tied for fourth. The University of Pennsylvania took the seventh spot, while Duke University took the eighth. Columbia University, Dartmouth College, and the University of Chicago all tied for ninth.

In other rankings compiled by *U.S. News*, Williams College topped the list of liberal-arts colleges, followed by Amherst College and then Swarthmore College.

The University of California at Berkeley ranked first among top public universities, and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and the University of Virginia tied for second place.

Another California public institution, the University of California at Los Angeles, made that list's top five, with a fourth-place ranking.

The rankings, which are posted on the magazine's web site at www.usnews.com are released each year with *U.S. News's* annual college issue and 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.

Sports Sponsorships

Rutgers University, NCAA Division I, in New Brunswick, NJ is dropping six sports due to state budget cuts effective next year. Men's heavyweight and lightweight rowing, men's and women's fencing, men's swimming and diving and men's tennis are getting the ax. The university is facing over \$52 million in spending cuts to programs, staff and services this year.

Fresno State University, Division I in Fresno, CA, has dropped its wrestling program and reinstated its men's cross country team for the 2006-7 year.

Lake Erie College, NCAA Division III in Painesville, OH, is adding football as a club sport for 2007. The school is exploring the possibility of making the program a varsity team, possibly in Division II, beginning in 2008.

Financial News

Checking College Costs and Student Aid

Although reports from the National Center for Education Statistics track academic years two to three years in the past, they still provide an accurate snapshot of college costs and student aid.

The most recent data, for the 2003-4 academic year, shows the average tuition and fees for full-time undergraduates ranged from \$2,000 at public two-year institutions to \$18,400 at private four-year institutions, according to a report in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

When taking into account other costs for full-time students, such as books, room and board, transportation, and personal expenses, the total price of attending increased to \$10,500 to \$28,300 per year, depending on the type of institution.

To finance their education, three-fourths of full-time undergraduates received some type of financial aid that year, the report says, and one-half took out student loans. The average financial-aid package was \$9,900, and student loans averaged \$6,200. Only 9 percent of students received student loans as their sole form of financial aid; most financial-aid recipients combined loans with grants, Work Study, or other aid.

Fast-forward to 2005-6, according to *U.S. News and World Report* and citing different data than the National Center studies, we can confirm what most of us suspect. The average public university hiked its tuition last year by 7 percent, more than twice the rate of inflation or wage increases for most Americans. Still, the population trend through 2009 shows a record number of kids will graduate from high school each year and will file a record number of college applications. These kids want a higher education and mom and dad will figure out a way to pay for it.

The NCES report clearly supports what we tell our families and what we have known to be true for many years. 75 percent of undergrads receive financial aid. We know the number would be higher if more families applied for aid. Parents of college-age children have a marketable commodity. Those with outstanding grades, athletic talent and other desirable qualities have something very special. Colleges and universities will compete for admissions and financially if given the opportunity to do so for these students. If parents understand only one concept of all of those that we teach, we should hope it is that one.

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

SSNs No Longer Required For Clients

Effective September 1st, we are no longer collecting Social Security Numbers (or Social Insurance Numbers in Canada) for clients – except in one instance for a very specific reason – due to privacy and identity theft concerns.

Colleges and universities no longer use SSNs as the primary identifier for students. For us, the SSN was simply a convenience for pulling up client information in the database. There is no longer a need for the number to be listed anywhere and with identity theft becoming commonplace, we feel it is more important to ease the mind of our customers to not request that they turn over this critical nine-digit number.

Except in one circumstance.

For clients whom we file the FAFSA, we will need the student's and parents' Social Security Numbers due to Department of Education requirements. It is impossible to file the FAFSA without the SSN. This requirement has been and will continue to be explained on the FAFSA instructions we send to Ultra clients and those who buy our Super Service. We have very few problems collecting the SSN in these circumstances once we explain why the number is required. If the client declines to provide it, we simply must tell the parent that we cannot file the FAFSA form without it.

We have begun to remove the SSN line from our worksheets and evaluation forms and if you are not already doing so, stop asking your customers for it. If we can do our fair share to curb identity theft by not delivering someone's SSN into the wrong hands, we owe it to our clients to do it.

CPOA PA Topic of the Month II

Average ACT Score Soars at Record Pace

The average score of high-school seniors who took the ACT exam in 2005-6 rose two-tenths of a point, to 21.1, the biggest one-year increase in scores over the past two decades, but even though scores have reached their highest level since 1991, and a record number of members of the Class of 2006 took the test, ACT officials said many students were still not adequately prepared for college-level course work.

Scores for both men and women rose one-tenth of a point, with the average score for men at 21.2, slightly higher than the average of 21 for women. All racial and ethnic groups except Hispanics also raised their average scores. Asian-American students scored 22.3, up .2; white students scored 22, up .1; and scores for African-American and Native American students both rose .1, to 17.1 and 18.8 respectively. Average scores for Hispanic students remained unchanged at 18.6.

The ACT exam consists of four sections: English, mathematics, reading, and science, and each section is scored on a scale of 1 to 36. Those four scores are averaged for the total score. Beginning in February 2005, the test added an optional 30-minute writing

section, graded on a scale of 2 to 12. Only 36 percent of students took this portion of the test, and the average score was 7.7.

Students with scores above a certain level on each section are considered likely to earn at least a C in related college course work. Only 21 percent of test takers in the Class of 2006 reached the recommended threshold in every section, the same proportion as last year.

Over all, students did best on the English test, with 69 percent reaching the minimum threshold score of 18. While 53 percent of students met a similar benchmark on the reading test, only 42 percent scored high enough to reach the threshold on the math portion. The science test had the lowest rate of students reaching the threshold, with 27 percent of students meeting the minimum score of 24.

The ACT is becoming more popular as an alternative to the SAT. In the past the ACT was primarily taken by students in the Midwest, but this year the number of test takers rose by double-digit percentages in several states outside that region. There are other trends as well though, including that more students are taking these tests in general and more colleges now accept the ACT as well as the SAT.

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).