

# SEPTEMBER ISSUE CONTENTS

- Important Recruiting Dates
- Additions to CPOA
- NCAA News
- CPOA PA Topic of the Month
- Contact Sheets
- Internet Updates
- Referral Program
- Season End Updates

## **IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER RECRUITING DATES**

**1:** Division I FBS and FCS Football coaches may resume telephone contact with 2012 graduates.

**9:** SAT registration for October 1<sup>st</sup> Test

**16:** ACT registration for October 22<sup>nd</sup> Test

**21:** SAT late registration for October 1<sup>st</sup> Test

**30:** ACT late registration for October 22<sup>nd</sup> Test

## **Recruiting Topic of the Month**

### **CAMPUS VISITS**

I get a lot of questions about the differences between official and unofficial visits. Most people think that if the coach invites you then it is an official visit and if you just show up on your own it's an unofficial visit. That is not true.

Official visits can occur only with NCAA Eligible athletes during their senior year and only at NCAA DI and DII schools. Each student-athlete can only take a maximum of five official visits to five different schools. There is a lot of paperwork involved in an official visit and they are usually reserved for the top recruits at programs that are well funded. Athletic programs can pay for your travel, lodging, meals, and various other expenses during your visit in accordance to NCAA limits during an official visit

Unofficial visits are much more common and differ in a few ways...

1. Student-athletes do not need to be eligible through the NCAA Eligibility Center
2. Student-athletes can take them prior to their Senior year
3. Student-athletes can take as many unofficial visits as they like to any number of schools.
4. Programs can pay for only campus meals and housing (with a few exceptions)

Unofficial visits are very important and there is a wide range of types of visits within the category of “unofficial visits”. Probably the most important thing to know about an unofficial visit is that it can occur before your Senior year. Waiting around in hopes of getting official visits offers during your Senior year is a good way to limit your options and get left behind in the recruiting process.

Whether the visit is official or unofficial is not that big of a deal. The only thing to be cautious of is to realize that if they invite you to a game without ever calling you or writing personal letters or personal e-mails then they probably invited a lot of other athletes. That doesn't mean you shouldn't go on the visit, just realize it's a preliminary part of the process. You can't physically go visit every school, so it may be best to develop recruiting relationships (e-mail, phone, etc.) with coaches and only visit schools that express genuine interest in you after a more thorough evaluation of your film and profile.

Assuming you are on a genuine visit (official or unofficial), be on your best behavior. If the coach invited you then they are likely interested in evaluating you during that visit. Dress professionally and treat people with respect. Don't be afraid to show your personality. Naturally people will assume a shy person is uninterested- so speak up!

Campus visits are a great time to talk with potential teammates and find out what the student-athlete experience will be like. Don't get too worried about what the buildings look like- be more concerned with how happy your future potential teammates and classmates are and how they treat each other.

Finally, let's talk briefly about un-invited visits. Don't do it! Parents, resist the urge to set up an appointment through the admissions office and just pop-in on the coaching staff since you are in the area. Don't do it!

Let me give you an example that occurs many times. Let's assume that I am the college coach at XYZ University. I block out a Wednesday afternoon to watch film to prepare for Saturday's game. In addition I have set up and planned a “recruit day” for Saturday's game. At this recruit day the student-athletes will eat the pre-game meal with the team, take a campus tour, watch the game from behind the bench, and meet the team in the locker room after the game.

When I show up to work on Wednesday morning I get a phone call from the admissions office saying a 'recruit' is coming today and wants to meet with me at 1:30 pm.

Understand that coaches often report to people that oversee enrollment, budget, and academics. So basically you have just given me an obligation to spend my afternoon walking you around and telling you about the school. You get the nickel tour. I'm also a little peeved that I have to now have to stay late Wednesday night to watch the film I was going to watch during the day. Maybe I had a date planned? Not anymore.

Coaches have a name for such a recruit. We call them 'admissions recruits', meaning we meet with them to satisfy the admissions representatives who help us out with our 'real recruits'.

So, what's the alternative? Simply shoot an e-mail to the coaching staff a few days before you hope to visit and ask say something like this,

*Coach Jones,*

*I am very interested in [State College] and would really like to see the campus and get a chance to meet you, even if it's just to say hello. Do you have any dates coming up that would work well for a visit? Also, please let me know if there is anything else I should do to be considered as a potential recruit.*

*Sincerely,*

*[Student-Athlete]*

Most likely the coach will be excited that you expressed interest. In the example I gave earlier I would have likely invited you to the Saturday recruit day. Now you get the royal treatment instead of the nickel tour. At the very least, the coach may instruct you to call the admissions office, or may ask you to send tape or fill out a questionnaire before you visit. While it may be tougher on your schedule, the advantage is that they will likely treat you like a 'real recruit' and not see you as a burden.

## **RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania**

Julie Slezak – Soccer – Greater Latrobe

Luke DiFrancesco – Football – Bishop McCort

Jordan Potter – Soccer – Woodland Hills

Bryce Tramuta – Soccer – Penn Trafford

Lucas Teagarden – Baseball – Leechburg

Hanna Green – Cross Country – Greater Latrobe

Rachel Conrad – Softball – Greater Latrobe

## **NCAA News**

### **Div. I Presidents Support Strengthening Academics**

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors, made up of university presidents, have unanimously approved increasing the required academic performance of all teams and mandated that teams must meet those requirements in order to participate in any NCAA-sponsored championship or football bowl game. The announcement was made following a two-day retreat focused on improving intercollegiate athletics in a variety of ways: academics, fiscal responsibility and integrity called by NCAA President Mark Emmert.

The board voted to raise the Academic Progress Rate (APR) benchmark from 900 to 930 and supported a penalty structure that will require teams to earn at least a 930 four-year, rolling APR in order to participate in postseason competition. Currently, the most serious APR penalties are assessed when a team falls below a 900 four-year APR. The move to 930 will be significant, especially as it relates to championship participation. The 930 APR predicts an approximately 50 percent Graduation Success Rate. The presidents may formally adopt the plan in October, but changes would be phased-in over a one-to-two year period.

The board is also expected to recommend other reforms, including simplifying the mammoth NCAA rule book, potential revenue sharing and the involvement of agents with student-athletes. There is also discussion among the presidents of allowing conferences to make athletic scholarships multi-year awards – currently they are renewed annually – and to allow scholarships to cover the “Total Cost of Attendance”, permitting athletes to receive additional money for living expenses.

In other NCAA news, Division I conferences submitted 55 proposals for the 2011-12 legislative cycle, including one to regulate “oversigning” in football and another to allow football student-athletes five seasons of competition.

Division I is just one year into having established a limit of 28 prospects who can sign National Letters of Intent, but the Southeastern Conference is proposing a reduction to 25 for the 2012 season.

The argument to support oversigning has been that prospects often sign a national letter and then don't qualify academically or change their minds about attending the school. Either occurrence could leave a coach with a shortage of athletes. By signing extra prospects, a coach avoids being left short. But if the anticipated attrition doesn't occur, a coach can be left with more scholarship promises than actual scholarships. In those situations, a prospect can elect – or be persuaded – to delay enrollment until the spring (a practice known as “grayshirting”). The spring enrollees then take the place of any fall graduates from the team, take advantage of spring practice and begin the next fall already conditioned and prepared for the season. Often, the student-athletes will take part-time classes in the first fall to keep pace academically.

Meanwhile, discussion is scheduled that would allow a fifth season of eligibility in football, as long as two are spent with the same institution. Many schools extend a student-athlete's scholarship beyond four years now because of redshirting, a missed season due to injuries or insufficient progress-toward-degree requirements. This idea has been proposed previously but has never gained enough traction to pass. These two proposals are being announced early in the legislative cycle. They may be tweaked or voted on at the NCAA Convention in January.

### **Free Textbooks An Incentive?**

The University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, is offering a new incentive to prospective members of its 2012 freshman class: Applicants who visit the campus and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by the university's March 1 application deadline will receive four years of free textbooks.

Dayton officials describe the offer as a way of encouraging visits during a tight economy—and as a way of nudging families to complete the federal-aid form, especially those who may not think it's worth the trouble.

Students who fulfill the above requirements will receive up to \$500 per semester for textbooks purchased at the campus bookstore. The school is expected to spend about \$1.5 million on the program. About 75 percent of those who enrolled at Dayton this year would have qualified for it.

## [NAIA News](#)

PlayNAIA.org is the official clearinghouse for NAIA eligibility. Every student-athlete must [register with the NAIA eligibility center](#) to [play sports](#) at an NAIA college. The eligibility center is also a powerful tool to help athletes connect with coaches and NAIA schools - and find money for college through thousands of NAIA athletic scholarships.

## [Academic News](#)

### **ACT Update: Some Good, Some Not**

The number of high-school graduates who took the ACT and met all four of its college-readiness benchmarks has risen for the third year in a row, with the ACT also testing its largest class ever this year. But the numbers are not rising fast enough says the ACT's interim president.

“(Benchmarks) are rising gradually, but gradual is not enough,” said ACT president John Erickson.

Twenty-five percent of the class of 2011 met the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in math, science, English, and reading. The benchmarks are the ACT's measurement of the likelihood a student will earn a C or higher in a typical first-year college course in that subject.

The gains, though, were marginal: 24 percent of all class of 2010 test-takers met the four benchmarks last year.

The average composite score was nearly the same this year as it was last year, up from 21.0 to 21.1. More than 1.62 million graduating seniors took this year's test, or 49 percent of the class of 2011.

Math and science scores have been trending higher the past two years than English and reading, a disappointment for advocates of the No Child Left Behind Act. No Child Left Behind promoted an emphasis on reading and comprehension. It had been national policy for those students who graduated in 2011 since they were in fourth grade.

## **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!

## **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 spring 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).