

Minutes

Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Corporation Sports Information Directors' Meeting Wednesday, May 4, 2005 Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Present: Jim Miller (Susquehanna University), Robb Dietrich (Lycoming College), Scott Giglio (FDU-Florham), Jeff Feiler (Albright College), Jim Wagner (Widener University), Joel Cookson (Juniata College), Mark Fleming (Moravian College), B.J. Spigelmyer (DeSales University), Jennifer Dougher-Brauner (Drew University), Matt Levy (Delaware Valley College), John Seitzinger (Wilkes University), Ian Showalter (Elizabethtown College), Bob Ziadie (King's College), Kevin Southard (University of Scranton), Ken Andrews (Commissioner, MASCAC)

Excused Absence: Braden Snyder (Lebanon Valley College)

The meeting was called to order and roll call was taken at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Item 1: Timeliness of e-mailing box scores to conference office

Matt Levy felt that we need to be more diligent in our efforts to get box scores to the conference office, especially towards the end of the season when tournament berths are on the line. Recently, with many softball and baseball games on Sunday and make-up games scheduled for the following Monday, Levy felt that we as a group have to do a better job of updating web sites and getting box scores to the conference so we can have accurate standings and to be able to provide up-to-date information in our game programs. The group came to the conclusion that for athletic events taking place on Sunday, that the box score must be submitted to the conference office no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday morning. John Seitzinger feels the conference needs to do a better job of informing the sports information directors of tournament scenarios and that the conference needs to be the official word on what teams are in and what teams are out, not the sports information directors who are often times trying to decipher the conference fact book and may not interpret the tiebreaking system correctly. Ken Andrews urged the group to be more considerate of the visiting schools' sports information office and to be professional in our dealings with one another.

Item 2: Providing visiting institutions with accurate stats for all sports

BJ Spigelmyer received a number of box scores from soccer games last fall that were incorrect. He feels it is our duty to check with coaches after games to make sure goals and assists (in soccer) are credited to the right player and/or players. Jennifer Dougher-Brauner asked how many schools send a scorekeeper with a team and it was agreed upon that most schools do not provide scorekeepers to away events. She feels that if we do send a scorekeeper on the road that we need to do a better job training them for their specific duties. Seitzinger feels we must make a concerted effort the day of the event to make sure that the statistics provided to the media, opposing team SID and the conference office are correct, so that we are not constantly correcting box scores and statistics the following day. Southard told the group that he will look into the possibility of purchasing a video on keeping lacrosse statistics. The sport of lacrosse seems to have a variety of interpretations on some of its statistics. Spigelmyer also brought up the issue that if we do not provide a box score after an event to the conference office, league standings are not updated and this can cause a lot of confusion, especially late in the season. He suggested a separate file, possibly on an Excel spreadsheet, so that Roger McAfee of the MASCAC office can update the standings without a Stat Crew file. It was brought up that we may be able to rectify this situation by writing a letter to the people at Stat Crew to see if we can somehow update the league standings manually when we do not have a box score. Scott Giglio has offered to include this item in his letter to Stat Crew when he writes them to see if they can make a windows interface for their soccer/field hockey and lacrosse programs.

Item 3: Master E-Mail List

Southard feels we can help each other out if we have a conference-wide master e-mail list. He feels that when he is hosting a specific event and the opposing team's SID has other duties, he can take care of their media needs if he knows in advance the e-mail addresses of those outlets. Andrews stated that the conference does have a master e-mail and fax list and he will ask Roger to distribute that information to the SIDs.

OPERATIONS APPROVED THIS MOTION 5-0 BUT NOTED THAT WIRELESS LAP TOPS WOULD BE A BETTER LONG-TERM SOLUTION:

Item No. 4 Providing Phone Lines for SIDs and Media at Off-Campus MAC Tournaments & Championships

Bob Ziadie feels it is important that the conference provide phone lines for SIDs and media outlets for conference tournaments and championships at facilities not on campus. The specific problem seems to be baseball, where the facility at Quakertown, which hosts the Freedom Conference tournament, is not adequate. With some games starting at night and no phone lines available to disseminate information, it's nearly impossible to get media to come down and cover the event. Jim Wagner brought up the idea that you can get cell phone hook-up for laptops and can charge the minutes to your cell phone plan, which is a viable alternate to using phone lines. Seitzinger felt that the conference should look into possibility of getting a cell phone company to serve as the official corporate sponsor for the baseball tournament, for example, and that part of their sponsorship includes cell phone service for the tournament.

Item No. 5 Finding Roger McAfee an assistant to help with day-to-day operation

Andrews is going to ask the presidents of the conference schools to hire Roger McAfee an assistant through funding provided by the NCAA Technology Grant. It was agreed that Roger does a top-notch job, but that he spends entirely too much time downloading box scores. Andrews will look into finding someone to help out part-time with day-to-day operations. Andrews also indicated that the presidents are looking to take some of the NCAA grant money and examine the possibility of finding local cable companies to televise some athletic events. Robb Dietrich asked if it was possible to use some of the NCAA money to provide each institution with help in their sports information office. He feels he is spending way too much time on data entry and not enough on media relations. Mark Fleming pointed out that two schools in the Centennial Conference, Muhlenberg and Gettysburg, have 10-month, 10,000-dollar stipends for an assistant to help out in sports information. Fleming agreed to check with other schools in conference we compete against (the NJAC, for example) to see who else has a SID assistant-stipend program and to provide that information to the conference office.

OPERATIONS APPROVED THIS MOTION 5-0. THE SERVICE'LEADERSHIP COMPONENT SHOULD ONLY COME INTO PLAY IN A TIE-BREAKING SITUATION BUT SHOULD BE MENTIONED IN BIOGRAPHY AT AWARDS CEREMONY.:

Item No. 6 Review Scholar-Athlete Proposal

Andrews brought up the issue as to whether we need to pick an overall MAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year. The conference is currently selecting an MAC Fall, Winter & Spring Sport Scholar-Athlete for a male and female recipient. Fleming said that the CoSIDA Academic all-America program currently selects a University and College Division scholar-athlete of the year. Seitzinger feels that the current criteria may favor student-athletes from some sport over others. Southard questioned why we need to have a fall, winter and spring sport scholar-athlete at all, that wouldn't it be better to select a Scholar-Athlete in every sport. Seitzinger also feels that we need to look at each sport independently, that in a sense we are comparing apples to oranges with our current system. Fleming also agreed that we should try it by sport for a year and see how it works. The group also agreed that we do not favor an overall Scholar-Athlete of the Year program. Southard asked that we limited the application procedure to 7 lines per nominee. **A motion was made to limit the nomination form for the Scholar-Athlete program to one page. The motion passed 14-0.**

VOTING DELEGATES WILL SELECT THE AWARD THAT WILL BE PRODUCED.

Item 7: Tournament MVPs:

This past season, a number of tournament most valuable player (MVP) awards were presented. Seitzinger asked what the official procedure was in selecting the MVP. Andrews states that in some tournaments, it was left to the winning coach; in others, such as in the case of the Freedom Conference women's basketball tournament, a member of the media and others in attendance who saw both games of the tournament were asked to vote by Scranton SID Kevin Southard. The discussion then turned to the selection of the Player &

Rookie of the Year awards, where there were considerable ties in the voting this past fall, which led to co and tri-player of the year awards. Levy felt that this diminished the quality of the award. Ziadie asked about plaques for the MVP, player, rookie and coach of the year award. Scott Frey of Messiah and Feiler, both of whom have coaching duties, felt that a coach of the year plaque was not necessary, that the student-athletes should come first in terms of receiving a plaque. Andrews explained that it cost the conference an average of \$53.00 for a plaque, so providing a plaque for all four major award winners in a conference as large as the MASCAC will be extremely costly.

OPERATIONS VOTED TO SUPPORT THIS MOTION 5-0:

Therefore, it is recommended that the issuing of a certificate for coach, rookie, player and tournament MVP awards continue. It was brought up that the conference had been paying for the Coach of the Year award and award for most aggregate falls in the sport of wrestling. Southard felt that the conference needs to standardize its awards. Feiler made a motion **that the conference should not pay for the plaques for the Coach of the Year and most aggregate falls in the sport of wrestling. The motion passed 12-1.**

Ziadie said that those two awards are named in honor of a distinguished coach and administrator in the conference and that we should reconsider. Southard said that the names will not be taken off the awards; the only difference now is that the conference will not pick up the cost of the plaques and that the award recipients will get certificates rather than plaques.

Item No. 8 Football Media Day Luncheon

Feiler told the group that Albright College is tentatively sponsoring a football media day luncheon on campus for the conference schools on Monday, August 1. Giglio asked if it was mandatory for the head coach to attend or if an assistant coach and players were available, would that suffice. Although no official answer was given, the general consensus was that it would be more conducive to have the head coach attend.

Item No. 9 Logo Design

Andrews stated the work on the new logo design is on hold for now. He also told the group during this part of the discussion that the NCAA is becoming more technology-friendly and that we can expect to send box scores in most sports to them within the next 2-5 years.

Item No. 10 New Business

The subject of whether or not public address announcer at conference championship games should be allowed to be vocal in their support of the home team, or should it be more in tune with hosting an NCAA event, where public address announcers are asked to be neutral. Spigelmyer feels that its part of the home-court advantage and that pa announcer should be free to excite the home crowd if they choose so. Seitzinger feels that promotes a lack of courtesy and professionalism and should be avoided, if at all possible, since it is a conference championship and not a home event for the host team.

Item No. 11 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, at 9:30 a.m. but an official site has yet to be determined.