2019 MCAC Football

Coaches' Preseason Meeting Minutes

Roll Call: CLC, DCB, FDL, ICC, MRC, MSFF, MnWest, NDSCS, RCTC, VCC.

Guests: **Major Murray**, USMC; Casey Northcraft HUDL Rep; **Bill Moore**, Nicklasson Athletics Company; **Eric Hamm,** Officials Coordinator.

USMC: The MCAC and USMC will continue to partner in 2019-20. The goal of the USMC is to produce Marines who will win our nations battles and return as good citizens. Student-athletes often make great Marines and the USMC offers a great career path for those interested. The USMC recruiting office at Fort Snelling is seeking to improve awareness of the USMC as an option; there are very few Marine bases in the Midwest, so it is important to the USMC to be seen in public, working with young people and sport organizations. There are several free resources for athletic departments from the USMC, including the Educators Workshop (flyer attached) and Leadership Cohesion Exercise. These are free and a great resources for staff and student-athlete development. Several football teams in the MCAC have had the USMC on their campus to run programs.

USMC Contacts: Capt. Reese & Sgt. Reif: brandon.reese2@marines.usmc.mil and Michelle.Reif@marines.usmc.mil

HUDL Football: Hudl currently serves as the Conference fill exchange platform. Hudl offers a specialized stats tracker platform (Hudl Assist) in football through a recent acquisition. The Conference office noted it is in the best interest of coaches to speak with their admins to explore cost-effective ways to bundle Hudl services to include other sports to lower overall cost. Currently the MCAC has mandatory film exchange in football and M/W basketball. Casey Northcraft, HUDL: casey.northcraft@hudl.com

Nicklasson Athletics Company: Bill Moore will be the primary point of contact for Nicklasson and Adidas for MCAC programs. Teams/programs which sign with Nicklasson in the future can accumulate promotional dollars for products for staff and team, and use team store platforms as fundraising mechanism. It is Bill's goal to be on campus 3X a year for MCAC programs; with the NJCAA – Adidas agreement, MCAC schools can significantly elevate their recruiting and community presence with Adidas products. Bill Moore: bill@nacnorth.com

MCAC Officials: Eric Hamm serves as the coordinator of officials for MCAC football. Schools should have received their assignments and are reminded to please pay their assigning fee. Noted that one crew from 2018 was not retained; other crews will include officials from the UMAC and MIAC crews, offering schools some new faces in officiating. Schools are asked to be sure to have a person available for penalty recording and to have ball-boys on sidelines. These are important roles that help the game go smoothly and lets officials concentrate on their work. Coaches will have the opportunity to evaluate officials through a survey with Eric. Please be sure to recognized good performances as well as areas that should be addressed for improvement. It is the philosophy of the Conference office to look and listen for common themes when concerns are raised about a crew or individual official. Overall sportsmanship has improved, but isolated incidents tend to overshadow the good. Coaches should designate captains who are well suited to the role, including coin toss duties. Officials can throw flags at coin toss, if needed. Ultimately, head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team, including captains. **Eric Hamm: ericjhamm@yahoo.com**

Agenda Items:

'19 Coaches Group President: Noted that Greg Medeck (CLC) is on sabbatical this fall, which calls for need for interim coaches group president. Tom Inforzato (MRC) shall serve in this role for the fall; Jeff Linder (MnWest) shall serve as secretary.

MCAC / Nicklasson Athlete of the Week: This year, Nicklasson Athletic & Adidas will be the sponsor of the Athlete of the Week and Coach of the Year awards. T-shirts (athletes) and sweatshirts (coaches) will be awarded in selected sports and these items will be available for purchase for all who earn these awards. In selected situations, the USMC will deliver the shirts and certificates on campus; please make sure to have the campus take pictures and share this info with the Conference office. Please note that the award has been moved from "Player" of the Week to 'Athlete of the Week' in all sports in the MCAC.

In football, the Conference has moved to add a **Lineman-of-the-Week** to the weekly awards. This is to recognize athletes in those roles who do not always get the opportunity for recognition through stats, etc. Candidates can be from offensive or defensive line and coaches can use team performance narrative and/or other criteria for selection.

'19 NJCAA Score & Result Reporting: A reminder to all coaches and admin that programs need to record results and upload box scores as soon as possible after a contest. Home team is responsible for posting of stats; away team should communicate with home team and review box scores for errors. The NJCAA Presto portal feeds the Conference website in terms of updated scores, standings, etc. Coaches should text/email the Conference office if they observe a mistake or have questions. Also, if scores are reported via text, email, the Conference office will report them on social media feeds.

Important: Coaches new to the league should run a practice score reporting and box score upload to be familiar with the process.

Important: In some stat platforms, if a college edits their side of a box-score after it has been posted, it may pull-down the stats for their opponent. It is the coaches responsibly to be sure box scores are visible and accurate after any edits.

MCAC Fall Meetings: The MCAC and Region XIII fall meetings are on Tuesday, Sept. 17; they will be a hybrid Zoom-in person format, with the in-person meetings hosted in Blaine, MN. Be sure to communicate with your AD/AC or Admin Rep on items or issues in your sport that would you like to see on the agenda.

MCAC Website/Sport Code/Icons: With the addition of Century College and Alex Tech, Presto is working on some glitches in the website. Currently, the college icons are not correct, the sport code link reflects last year's code and there are some other small issues. Presto hopes to have this resolved this week.

MCAC Important Forms: A reminder that if an ejection occurs in a contest, BOTH colleges must complete the NJCAA Ejection Report. This is the case in all ejections. Ejected players must leave the facility and be out of sight and sound; for visiting team, this may be the team bus or other space. It is the duty of the team with ejected players to be escorted, even if it is a staff coach or other staff member. Schools which fail to follow ejection protocol may be subject to further fines or sanctions.

Important: Coaches and colleges should have in place a plan for how to deal with ejections for both home and away contests. Be proactive in this process to avoid further issues this fall.

Other Items As Presented:

Eric Issendorf (NDSCS) noted the importance of all programs doing a better job in terms of program conduct. The Last Chance U phenomenon has set back NJCAA football and given the sport a negative image. It is important that coaches are the most proactive in looking to counteract this situation.

A reminder to complete the ’19 MCAC Football Preview and Coaches Poll.

Thanks to all and congratulations to the new coaches in the MCAC. Best of luck to all as the season gets underway soon.

The Conference office is always available via email peter.watkins@northlandcollege.edu_ and phone: 1.507.450.0681