



MONTCLAIR STATE

SPORTS INFORMATION

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2006 ECAC-SIDA WORKSHOP
June 5-9, 2006 - Oneonta, N.Y.

Record Books

In addition to the many duties we have as SIDs, one of the most important “hats” that we wear is the “Historians/Record Keepers”. Keeping track of anywhere between 11-24 sports is difficult enough but when you are dealing with records it can be very hard to keep track. We all use them in our press releases, game notes, nomination forms, etc. But record books can be very time consuming to say the least and that is when you have complete information to work with. What about when information is incomplete or missing?

When I was a student at Montclair State many, many years ago (late 1980s incase you were wondering), the records books were very limited with the “major” records kept (i.e., football rushing yards, basketball points, strikeouts in a game/season/career, etc.) However, there were plenty of pertinent records that were never recorded or in fact never kept. In the summer, a downtime back then, we began to expand our books uncovering old scorebooks, using old newspaper clips and reaching out to other institutions for assistance. By the end of a three-year period our books were increased almost two-fold for all sports.

Over the next few pages, here are some tips on how to maximize you records books not only for the amount of content, but perhaps and easier way to keep track and avoiding mistakes. Below are some of the topics that helped me and hopefully will be a guide to assist you.

- ♦ Organization
- ♦ Expanding Your Record Books
- ♦ Taking Advantage of the Technology
- ♦ Updating Your Records

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Record Books

Organization

As with just about everything we do as SIDs, organization of your record books is the biggest key. There are different ways to organize your records and the method of which way to list them is up to you. One method is the list the individual category such as "Most Points" where it be for soccer, basketball or lacrosse. Using this method, my men's basketball records would appear like this:

Most Points:	Game:	(51)	Gian Paul Gonzalez vs. Lincoln University – January 22, 2006
	Season:	(718)	Pete Capitano – 1967-68
	Career	(1,916)	Bob Gleason – 1964-68

Another way to list you records is by Game – Season and Career. This is the way I prefer to keep my books as I find it easier (and quicker) to look up a game record during the contest. All of my record books are broken down in the following format:

Single-Game – Individual

Most Points: (51) Gian Paul Gonzalez vs. Lincoln University – January 22, 2006

Single-Game – Team

Most Points: (120) vs. Bloomfield College – February 9, 1954

Single-Season – Individual

Most Points: (718) Pete Capitano – 1967-68

Single-Season – Team

Most Points: (2,318) 1967-68 (28 Games)

As for the format in which your records (name first, date (whether you want mm/dd/yyyy or spelled out), etc.) are typed out, that is up to you. You are the one who will be referring to these so, whichever way works for you, go with it.

Expanding Your Records Book

Now that you have organized your records, you may find (as we did) that there are some missing, including some important ones that need to be added. The first step is to identify them and the best way to determine that, as with most things in this business, is to look at other media guides/programs and web sites. They are the best sourced with out having to spend a lot of time coming up with them on your own. Once you narrow down the categories it's time to search and searching you will do plenty of.

Most offices have some sort of "historical binders" or attic/closet space where old records have been kept. These are your starting points and will provide most of the information you are seeking. Next, if they are not together, you might be able to find old scorebooks which will be helpful in producing game records. The last piece is old newspapers and yearbooks which can be a time-consuming, however it may be the only place where you can find the information you are seeking. **Remember too, this is a process that will take time so if you need part of the summer or during winter break, etc., - use it.**

Once you have finished the long painstaking process of expanding your books, inevitably there will be someone who will dispute a record. That being said, all of our record book have the following disclaimer in them:

Please note that many individual and team single-game records were not recorded in the early years of MSU basketball, and that has resulted in new categories which may seem incorrect when compared to some of the older records listed. Every attempt has been made in our research for accuracy and integrity, and we apologize for any discrepancies that may arise due to this lack of historical documentation. We also welcome and invite any information that may be available to further assure that this records book is as accurate as it can be. These records are official and updated as of November 15, 2005. - Office of Sports Information

If you get a situation from someone, the best way to handle it is to try and get as much information from them as possible. This will allow you to focus you search and not waste time. Another thing would be to ask for some documentation (news clips, etc.) that can be sent to you. **All records need to be authenticated by SIDs. Just because someone calls and claims they hold a record doesn't mean they do.**



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Taking Advantage of Technology

Technology has become a driving force in the sports information industry over the past several years and compiling records has gotten a lot easier because of that. In the early-mid 1990s we began to make "Top 10" lists and different categories. At first the only way to keep them was to write them out and put them on computer. However, in 2001 this process was made easier with **Stat Crew Software** which introduced "Career Reports". Since most of us today use this software, if you haven't taken advantage of this feature, you should. It provides you with quick and accurate updates of your Game, Season and Career records at the click of a mouse and generates reports that are not only easier to store, but for your web site which I find more and more people are viewing (and calling/e-mailing about). As with expanding your record book, this too is a time-consuming process, but well worth it.

Like most of us, we may not have the time to do inputting ourselves, but this is a great project for a student-worker or summer intern. Once that task is completed you will immediately find the benefits to be excellent. ***Please refer to the manual on how to accomplish this task.***

NOTE: Using the stat crew software is great, however with all technology there are some glitches that should be known but they will not deter from using the feature. If you have incomplete records it might skew your records. One that comes to mind is field goal percentage for basketball. My basketball program goes back to 1929 and back then they didn't keep field goal attempts (or some others for that matter). It then reached a point where it kept them for some years but not others, meaning that a player's total career attempts are not accurate which could make their percentage higher and skew the list. This is correctable one of two ways: 1) Go under the Career Reports "Settings" menu and deselect the category or 2) pick a starting point where the category is consistent and go from there.

Updating Your Records Book

As with everything else, how you decide to update your records is entirely up to you. For each sport as would most I carry a copy of our records either in paper format for a media guide that I can reference through quickly and mark them up as the year goes along. This actually works best for game records although you can have your stat software assist as well.

Every week or two during the year I will generate the Stat Crew reports and take a look to see if there is anyone approaching a record so I don't miss anything. I'm sure we can share plenty of stories with colleagues who take a look at their season stats or career numbers and realize that an athlete is on the cusp of record or even worse – passed the mark and it didn't get into a release, etc.

Doing the weekly run of the reports will help avoid those situations. When I do find an athlete is approaching a mark, I jot it down on a Post-It note and hang it on my desk, or computer so that I am reminded. I've done this a million times with basketball players approaching 1,000 points/rebounds since that milestone requires much more attention.

Once the season is over, I try to set aside a period of time and go through each sport records book thoroughly using various methods. When they are complete I make sure all of the changes are made either in my publications and on-line.

**ONCE YOUR RECORD BOOK IS UPDATED
MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A COPY STORED
SAFELY ON A CD, DVD OR FLASH DRIVE!!**