



SYSTEM DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

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PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

Subject: CCRI Athletic Department
October 4, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The JAMED Co. has been retained by Mr. Louis Pullano, the Director of Athletics for the Community College of Rhode Island, in order to review the daily operations of the Athletic Department. The scope of this preliminary investigation is to define both the current and future workflow needs of the Department. Upon completion of the preliminary investigation, JAMED Co. will provide the Athletic Department with a detailed analysis of all departmental activities and recommendations for future enhancements, both technical and administrative, for consideration.

SYSTEMS REQUEST SUMMARY:

Currently, the Athletic Department tracks the following information: academic eligibility and statistical information representing both team and individual accomplishments. The Department has the ability to collect viable data. The underlying problem that was initially presented in the system request and later reinforced during a series of interviews (Appendix A) conducted by JAMED Co. is the lack of a collection system that is easy to use, efficient at tracking athletic information, and scalable for future web interaction.

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

The following problems were found during the investigation:

1. Data from sporting events is collected by either student help or the coaching staff. Since the data is stored in several different formats, and is fragmented throughout the Department, accessibility to the data (in both real time and by request) by the administration or even the coaches themselves is significantly limited.
2. For the reasons indicated above in combination with a lack of qualified staff to process and distribute the data, the Athletic Department has a limited ability to quickly process real time requests for individual or team statistics. Said packages could be used in advertising for economic gain, athlete recruiting, or even budgetary hearings.
3. Throughout the academic school year, the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) requires eligibility checks to be performed on all student athletes prior to each competition. The current system only allows for eligibility checks to be performed at the student level. Checking the eligibility of an entire team and then compiling the report to be sent to the NJCAA can be time consuming and an inefficient use of staffing resources.

The following factors contribute to the athletic system problems:

1. All of the Student Academic Information is maintained by the Office of Enrollment Services and stored in the Student Information System (SIS). The SIS system provides the Athletic Department with student academic data upon request in report form (hard copy). Since the Athletic Department has no control over this system, they are interacting with an outside entity that cannot be modified.
2. Due to budgetary constraints there is a lack of hardware and training to facilitate a uniform, automated data entry system for the coaching staff and student help to upload collected data.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The current method utilized by the Athletic Department for collecting data and monitoring student athlete eligibility is not capable of satisfying the needs that the Department has today. As the number of student athletes continues to climb, the demands on the existing system will exceed its abilities, prompting the need for additional staffing to complete all of the tasks currently done manually.

Based upon the information gathered during the preliminary investigation, JAMED Co. recommends a system analysis be performed with an emphasis on the following areas:

- Manual tracking and organization of data for the athletic department.
- Transfer of academic data between the SIS System and the athletic department.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

The Preliminary Investigation performed by JAMED Co. has identified areas within the Athletic Department's student data collection system that should be targeted for further study. Upon completion of the Systems Analysis, we will define in detail the problems that existing within the collection system. Our submittals will include a solution that will efficiently manage the collection and distribution of student data.