



\$50 flights from Lancaster to Baltimore



Cape Air, based in our own Lancaster Airport, is offering a \$50 one-way trip from Lancaster to the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), with free parking to boot. The trip, which

would take about two hours by car, can last as little as 20 minutes, according to Scott Smith, Station Manager for Cape Air's Lancaster location. Of course, you'll need to be comfortable flying in a small, 9-seat aircraft; but the size can have its advantages.

The pilots are approachable and interactive, even personally helping passengers load their luggage. As Smith describes it, the Cape Air experience is interactive and easy-going,

SD of L Athletic Director lays it on the line!

NewsLanc conducted an hour long interview with Jon Mitchell, Director of Athletics for the School District of Lancaster. We were impressed.

At one point Mitchell challenged NewsLanc's contentions that coaching skills was pivotal by asking "*If two programs have the same coaching staff and one is experiencing success and the other is not, then there must be more at play than purely coaching.*"

At another point *NewsLanc* urged Mitchell to stop blaming team failure on the kids. Mitchell said he had pointed out multiple factors but they were not mentioned in published articles. (A short lesson on dealing with reporters followed.)

Mitchell says he has three initial tasks in what he concedes will be five years of rebuilding from top to bottom:

- 1) Six full days will be provided this summer, devoted to the training of all SDoL coaches in CPR and First Aid (Each coach must attend one day to receive certification). Mitchell indicated that safety is his highest priority.
- 2) Get all of coaches nationally certified. It requires course work and assignments. This will be done either under the auspicious of the National Federation of High Schools or American Sports Education Program. The coaches will learn "*broad coaching concepts applicable to all sports.*"
- 3) Mitchell has also submitted for approval a 2009-2010 budget that includes funding

for sport-specific training. Head coaches will be able to use funds to determine appropriate trainings for their staff. He says through professional development provided by other successful coaches and trainers in their sport, SD & L coaches will grow in the areas of sport-specific skills and tactics.

The first training sessions conducted by sports professionals will be OneOnOne Soccer clinic on May 16th at which time coaches will participate in the same drills that their player will do in the future.

“I am going to expect each coach to participate in sport-specific training. This should be led by the head coach. I expect head coaches to be able to sit down with me and evaluate their program.”

Mitchell indicated that coaches must foster passion in kids so the students independently seek to pursue their skills off season. *“If we are unable to provide out of season opportunities coached by our district staff [to play on teams], then we must at last provide information to*

Feasibility Study recommended “alternate use” for the CC Project site

(Eighth in a series)

Despite countless misrepresentations to public officials and the public by sponsors of the Convention Center Project, the only actual Feasibility Report was ordered by the Lancaster County Commissioners from PKF Consultants, Inc. and received in May, 2006.

The PKF study concluded by recommending *“either a downsizing of the project or an alternate use for the site.”*

Thus their analysis was consistent with the PricewaterhouseCoopers recommendation in its 2002 market study report that the

athletes about other avenues and facilitate off season opportunities for them.”

Mitchell said that low turnout has been a problem in many sports. He said that the varsity swimming coach has had to teach student athletes enrolled in swimming who have not yet learned to swim!

NewsLanc encountered one of the region’s most respected coaches after the Mitchell interview. The coach, speaking not for attribution, indicated that the number of youngsters turning out is important but this is part of a loop effect, because if teams are not successful, youngsters aren’t interested in joining.

He went on to say that the SD of L should only use qualified head coaches who are thoroughly knowledgeable about the sport and qualified to teach it.

Lastly, the coach indicated that he perceived a need for Mitchell to have a full time assistant to work with the elementary and middle schools.

Convention Center not be increased in size from approximately 110,000 square feet to the actual 181,000 square feet. The 1999 Ernst & Young market study envisioned 61,000 square feet. Both expressed Project misgivings for similar reasons, even at the lesser scales.

Both Penn Square Partners and the Convention Center Authority under Ted Darcus had declined to cooperate with PKF on the grounds that the an internationally renowned firm, trusted by the worlds largest financial institutions, was somehow biased.

After allowing for net operating revenue, hotel tax revenues, and the full State Act 23 TIF grant, they predicted an annual Project loss of \$2,241,000 in 2006 dollars.

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