



rawlingstigers.com

3. PROBABILITY AND THE ODDS...COLLEGE AND PRO BASEBALL

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

- Less than three in 50, or about 5.6 percent, of high school senior boys interscholastic baseball players will go on to play mens baseball at a NCAA member institution.
- Less than eleven in 100, or about 10.5 percent, of NCAA senior male baseball players will get drafted by a Major League Baseball (MLB) team.
- Approximately one in 200, or approximately 0.5 percent of high school senior boys playing interscholastic baseball will eventually be drafted by an MLB team.

COLLEGE VS. PRO

For many blue chip high school baseball players the most difficult decision to make is whether to sign a pro contract or attend college. Thousands of high school senior baseball players will be looking forward with great anticipation and hope to the Major League Amateur Free Agent Draft, held each June.

Four or five seniors will become instant millionaires. Perhaps a hundred or so others will be very happy with the draft. All others will likely be disappointed because they were chosen late or not selected at all.

Major League teams can make as many selections as they want. Often several teams bow out after the 45th round while others go beyond 60 rounds. But the later a player is drafted, the less likely he is to sign.

WHAT IS BEST FOR YOUR SON?

Be realistic and look at the numbers. Pro teams thrive on players that think they will overcome long odds against becoming a major league player. Only 5 to 6 percent of drafted players ever play a day in the major leagues and about 40 percent of the first round draft picks never make it either.

Opting for a pro career will have a significant effect on your son's formal education. Each family has to weigh all of the options.

Questions to consider:

What is a degree worth?

If a pro career does not pan out, is entering college later an option?

How will delaying college affect the student and his career options?

If a high school player signs a bonus of \$100,000 (roughly third round money), how long will it last? Uncle Sam claims 31%, for taxes, leaving your son with \$69,000. He may use \$10,000 for a down payment on a car which leaves \$59,000. His minor league

salary will be about \$1,300 per month during the six month season only. He will not be paid during spring training (only room and board). So, if he wants to live on \$20,000 a year, he'll have to use his bonus money. At that rate, he'll use it up in four or five years. By then, he'll be either out of baseball, still be making \$15,000 a year in the minors, or possibly be in the Major Leagues.

On the other hand, major league teams do offer players entry into professional baseball at a younger age, which can translate into earlier higher earnings and additional benefits.

Both college coaches and Major League Baseball believe that they have the best baseball instructors in the world. What is the best for your son?

WHEN DEALING WITH SCOUTS

Always be honest and consistent. But remember, you do not have to give them direct answers to all of their questions. Scouts commonly ask if your son wants to sign out of high school and how much money it would take to sign him. Don't give a range or a figure. Many parents simply respond, "My son would be interested in signing, if it's the right offer."

Teams not only draft for talent but also for signability. If you do not want your son to sign a pro contract out of high school and you let the pro scouts know that, then be prepared for the fact that he probably won't be drafted at all. Players who have signed scholarships with top academic universities often go undrafted or get chosen later than expected because teams are worried about their signability.

If your son may be a high draft pick, you'll notice large numbers of scouts at his games late in the high school season, and a major league team's top scouts - regional supervisors, cross checkers, and even scouting directors will attend.

AS A PARENT OF A POTENTIAL DRAFT PICK

Try to keep your son from being distracted by all the hype. The only way he can enhance his draft status is by performing well on the field -- and distractions can hurt his performance.

Prepare your son emotionally for what might happen in the draft. It's nice to dream, but you and your son need to be realistic.

Always consider not taking a team's first offer. Many players earn more money by holding out a week than they would have earned in a whole season had they taken the first offer. However, this strategy may have diminishing returns if the hold out lasts too long.

Deciding between college and an immediate pro career can be a difficult decision. There's no magic formula. Look at all of your son's options, which may include a couple of years of college first, then discuss them with him.

Enjoy the attention your son receives. It's a once in a lifetime experience.

Student-Athletes	Basketball	Football	Baseball	Ice Hockey	"S" Word
High School Athletes	549,000	983,600	455,300	29,900	321,400
High School Senior Athletes	157,000	281,000	130,100	8,500	91,800
NCAA Athletes	15,700	56,500	25,700	3,700	18,200
NCAA Freshman Athletes	4,500	16,200	7,300	1,100	5,200
NCAA Senior Athletes	3,500	12,600	5,700	800	4,100
NCAA Athletes Drafted	44	250	600	33	76
High School to NCAA	2.9%	5.8%	5.6%	12.9%	5.7%
NCAA to Professional	1.3%	2.0%	10.5%	4.1%	1.9%
High School to Professional	0.03%	0.09%	.5%	.4%	0%

***	National Federation of High Schools		***
Teams			Participants
14,988			455,414 (1,622 girls)
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association		NCAA
Division I	Division II	Division III	
274	224	319	
Participants	Participants	Participants	
8,439	6,899	9,825	
***	National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics		***
Teams			Participants
320			9,600
NJCAA	National Junior College Athletic Association		NJCAA
Division I	Division II	Division III	
185	114	85	
Participants	Participants	Participants	
5,550	3,420	2,550	
COA	California Junior College Association		COA
Teams			Participants
87			2,175
***	Totals For 2 & 4 Year Colleges / Universities		***
Teams			Participants
1,608			48,408

