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10. THE JUNIOR COLLEGE ROUTE

A junior college may be your best bet for college. Junior colleges are schools that generally offer two kinds of programs for students who are interested in higher education.

The first is called the transfer program. It enables you to enter the school as a college freshman, complete one or two years at the school, and transfer your credits to a four-year school.

The second program is called a terminal program. It results in an associate's degree after two years and provides the qualifications for you to then find a job in your field of specialization.

Certain junior colleges may award scholarships to recruited student athletes. They provide excellent educations.

Think about these facts:

If you haven't done as well academically as you wanted, a junior college may provide an additional opportunity for you to improve your grade point average, before you apply to a four-year school. Remember, you will be gaining college credits while you are improving your GPA.

Junior colleges provide valuable educational and career experiences in their own right. They have some excellent programs that might meet your career interests.

If you have failed to meet the provisions of the NCAA's Bylaw 14.3, also known as prop 48, a junior college may provide you the opportunity to continue to play baseball in college and ultimately transfer to a four-year school. If you are in this situation, be sure to see your coach and guidance counselor for additional information about attending a junior college to satisfy the NCAA's requirements.

Junior colleges generally offer an open-door admissions policy. You probably don't have to worry about acceptance. You do have to plan on working hard in each of your classes.

If you have been contacted by coaches from one or more four-year decide to attend a junior college as part of a transfer program, be sure to meet the counseling personnel at the junior college to make sure that you meet admissions requirements and to guarantee that the courses you take at the junior college will transfer to the four-year school(s).

The junior college route can also be great for a player with Division I or Division II aspirations but did not get recruited out of HS by those divisions. It is a great place to play competitive baseball, develop as an athlete and a student, and keep the door open for Division I, Division II, or the draft down the road.