

COLLEGE RECRUITING PROCESS

PART 1

RESEARCHING

Before a high school student athlete should ever get involved in writing a college coach an email or attending any college camps, he needs to sit down and start researching colleges from an academic and athletic standpoint. Below are some questions that each student athlete should be asking themselves.

3 Key Academic Questions That Have To Be Answered

1. What do I want to study?
 - a. Even if you are a freshman or a sophomore and have no idea what you might be interested in, start looking and getting an idea of what majors are out there and where each major can lead you in the future.
2. How far away do you want to be from home?
 - a. 1-2 hours
 - b. 3-5 hours
 - c. 5+ hours
3. Big school or small school?
 - a. Big classes or small classes?
 - b. How do you learn better?

Note: You don't have to answer all of the questions above. Honestly, most high school athletes won't have those answers early on in high school. Some won't later on in high school. But it is a good idea to start here with the process. Once you have thought and asked the above questions, then add athletics into the equation.

2 Key Athletic Questions That Have To Be Answered

1. Research D1, D2, D3, NAIA, and Junior College Baseball. Keep options open!
2. Look at the rosters for each school that you are researching.
 - a. Do they have players from your area?
 - b. Do they have a lot of young players at your position that could conflict with your recruiting class?
 - c. Do the larger schools (D1/High D2) play many freshmen?

COLLEGE RECRUITING PROCESS

PART 2

ASSESSING COLLEGE TEAMS

You have just started your research and are now out of the starting gate. Now is the time to start assessing yourself as a player and student to see what levels of college ball might be a fit. Many times, players and parents have false understandings about their level of play and how that fits with particular levels of college play.

Create Action! Be Proactive In Your College Assessment:

1. Go to a game at each level
 - a. D1
 - b. D2
 - c. D3
 - d. NAIA
 - e. Junior College
2. Where to find college schedules & timeline?
 - a. Each college or university will have their schedules listed on their website.
 - b. College seasons start early and go long
3. Examples of what to look for when watching college games
 - a. Get to know how fast players are down to 1st base
 - b. How fast are the pitchers throwing?
 - c. How hard are the hitters hitting the ball?
 - d. How crisp is their fielding and what type of range do those players show?
 - e. How do the players act during games?
 - f. How long are the players spending at the field on game days?
 - g. Ask yourself. Do I fit here? Can I fit here? Do I want to be doing everything these players are doing?
4. Go to a college practice if you can
 - a. Most college practices are early on in the afternoon on off days throughout the season.
 - b. Most schools will not worry if you watch unless they have a blocked gate.
 - c. Check out the daily routines of the college players and the amount of work they do

Know what it takes from an athletic standpoint to play college baseball at each level. It will surprise most parents and players at how good D3 teams are let alone the D1 teams that you see playing in Omaha every year for the College World Series.

COLLEGE RECRUITING PROCESS

PART 3

ASSESSING THE PLAYER

Self-awareness is overlooked by many recruits. It is important to understand where your current abilities fit in the college landscape.

5 Self-Awareness Tactics for Each Player to Consider

Ask an honest coach that you trust to give you their honest opinion of where your current skill levels are and where you are at right now in terms of recruiting and where you could be.

- a. This is very important. Honest self-assessment. You won't get this by asking yourself. You will always think higher of yourself, as you should. Go ask a coach who you trust to give you honest feedback. Not just someone who will build your ego. Ask for your:
 - i. Strengths
 - ii. Weaknesses
 - iii. Current level of college they would feel comfortable pushing you recruiting wise.
 - iv. Where you could fit in with a little bit of work in certain areas.
 - v. Other useful information pertaining to the process.
2. Once getting this information, don't take it as a personal attack to you as a player. That coach is doing you a really big favor. Now you know where you are. It is your job to find out how to improve to get to the level that you find desirable.
3. Keep putting in the work and trusting the process. Players assessments are always fluid. Some go way up, some go way down.
4. Stay in contact with that coach over time. They will let you know when you are making jumps and what you need to continue to improve upon.
5. Find out the small intangibles that college coaches are looking for and make sure you are working to improve those.
 - a. Velocity -- both hitting and throwing
 - b. Speed
 - c. Fielding ability
 - d. Baseball IQ
 - e. Work ethic
 - f. Academics

Once you get good information about where you fit and what you need to improve upon, keep working harder! You only get a short amount of time during high school to do this. Don't waste it.

COLLEGE RECRUITING PROCESS

PART 4

CONTACTING COLLEGE COACHES

Once you have identified the level of college ball, schools that fit academically, schools that fit your distance from home, and have your coaches' endorsements on those schools, it is time to start reaching out.

1. Start with a good introductory email. Try to keep the email to the key points below and eliminate the fluff. Coaches have very little time to read these emails so keep it short and to the point.
 - a. Email Head Coach, Recruiting Coordinator (if they have one), and coach that coaches your position.
 - i. Dear Coach (Last Name),
 - ii. Introduce yourself
 1. Where you are from?
 2. High School?
 3. Travel Team?
 4. Etc.
 - iii. Why are you interested in this school and program?
 1. Academic fit
 2. Baseball fit
 3. Like the style of coaching
 4. Etc.
 - iv. Video of you showing off your skills.
 1. Keep it short. 1-2 minutes tops
 2. NO HIGHLIGHT VIDEOS
 3. Show off raw ability
 - v. Contact information of high school coaches, travel coaches, and your contact information.
 - vi. Academic information
 1. GPA
 2. ACT/SAT
 3. Honors accomplishments
 - vii. Finish with asking about upcoming camps or showcases
 - viii. Let them know you will follow up with summer and high school schedules when they are released.

This is the first level of contact with a college coaching staff. This gets your name out there and shows that you have specific interest in this school. This email should always come from the PLAYER and not the PARENT. Coaches want to establish a relationship with the player who they will be coaching in the future. Parents will have their time to talk, just not during this part of the process. Be there to answer your player's questions and help them stay on the process.

COLLEGE RECRUITING PROCESS

PART 5

CAMPS – SHOWCASES – GAMES

Now that you have contacted your specific schools and coaches that you are interested in, it is time to find ways to get in front of them. This can be found in the forms of college camps, showcases, and games. There are some levels that can privately try you out but they will generally want to see you in one of these formats before inviting you to do that.

As you start contacting schools, or going to events, colleges will have your information and they will be inviting you to their camps. This is the first step and you are at the beginning stages of being recruited. They only know you by name, email, and phone number. Not by your skill set. They are inquiring and have interest in seeing you at their camp.

The Rundown on Camps, Showcases, and Games

1. College Camps
 - a. Most, if not all, colleges and universities will list their upcoming camps on their websites.
 - b. Camps allow players to get on campus and to meet the coaches of that specific school.
 - c. All of the coaching staff will be there to get to see you show off your skills.
 - d. You will get to work 1 on 1 with those coaches and learn about their program.
 - e. Choose specific schools of interest rather than throwing darts at random camps.
2. Showcases
 - a. These are run by independent companies not directly associated with the colleges. They are run to show off your specific skill set and give you an evaluation
 - b. This can be used as an independent source to show off your measurables (velocity, speed, hitting, fielding, etc.)
 - c. Some showcase companies create online profiles that college coaches can access
 - d. There is a list of showcase companies on the Tigers website.
3. Games
 - a. Games are normally the last step in the equation for a coach. After receiving your email, seeing you at a camp, showcase or on video, if a coach is interested, they want to see you in a game.
 - i. Send your high school and summer schedules to coaches as soon as you have them.
 - b. Some coaches will come out to one or numerous games to watch you play.

Recruiting Letter Template

Coach (Last Name of Coach, Check Spelling),

My name is _____ and I am very interested in attending _____ to further my academic and athletic careers. **List in this paragraph the following.**

- Why are you interested in the school? Both Academic and Athletic.
- Site both past academic and athletic achievements of that school that excite you about your future possibility of attending.
- Athletic: Quickly explain how their program and the values/coaching styles/prestige is what you are looking for in a program.

Next Section:

- Include GPA, ACT, and academic accolades.
- Any athletic achievements that would matter to a college coach. Ex. All State, All Conference, etc. Not anything like Team MVP or Freshman team batting AVG leader.
- Link to high school schedule or attach it.
- Link to summer schedule or attach it.
- Link to recruiting video that you have had made. Example below.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwqbGRxdLIw>
- Your High School, Summer Coach, & Summer Program Director Contact Information
- Your Parents Contact Information

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Phone Number

Your Email

Below is advice from the Head Coach of Tennessee Tony Vitello on how to reach out to a college coach.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXGaEqJsfcs>