

RECRUITING

The process of becoming a college athlete can be scary. Most families begin their search for information on the web. The internet is a wonderful tool. But this tool can offer so many choices that it becomes confusing. There are many people out there in cyber space who share their stories, give advice, agencies who offer their services for a fee. Who is right? Which path is the best path to take?

Most high school football players have dreams of receiving a scholarship and attending a college/university like Ohio State. Out of thousands of high school football players each year, fewer than 1% achieve the D1A goal. Does that mean you can't play college football? Of course not. There are many divisions and opportunities for high school football players to attend college and play football. Each player must find the school that is the "best fit" for them academically and athletically. If it's a D1A school, then go for it. Maybe a DII school or a DIII school can meet your needs better. There are opportunities out there if you work hard enough and do the very best you can. It's great to have dreams.....but keep your reality in check.

College recruiting is a tough business for everyone involved. Don't wait until your senior year to begin preparation.

NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY "THE CLEARINGHOUSE"

http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp

HELPFUL TIPS FOR HOPEFUL COLLEGE BOUND ATHLETES

Introduction: The following information is intended to help students and parents have a starting point into the world of college/university recruiting. This information is not a guarantee that a student athlete will be accepted into a college/university. They are provided to help you plan and better understand the road to being a college/university athlete and the recruiting process.

Most high school football players dream of graduating with a scholarship to a D1A college like Ohio State or Notre Dame. Although this is a dream that is possible for about 1% of student athletes, the reality is there are many good college/universities where a student can get a degree and play football. Keep an open mind and remember that what is important is that you find a college/university that meets your needs. It could be a D1A school. It could be a DIIA, DII or a DIII school. Whatever your choice, you will need to work hard on and off the field to get there.

I. Tips for 9th Graders:

A. Visit the NCAA web site at www.ncaa.org and become familiar with the eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires specific number of core classes, which differs by college/university division, to be eligible. Not all high school classes are accepted by the NCAA as meeting their credited criteria. Check your classes against the NCAA core class requirements list to ensure you are taking the proper classes.

B. Take six classes per semester.

C. Now is the time to establish good study habits. Learn to balance your time so you can complete your schoolwork, train, and do outside activities. Your freshman year of high school is just as important as the other three years. You must keep your grade point average (GPA) up.

D. Participate in other sports and clubs in school. This will be important when you fill out college/university applications and/or apply for scholarships.

E. Never stop training. During the football season lift at least 2 times a week. Outside of the football season lift 3 times a week.

II. Tips for 10th Graders: Continue to build on what you began in your freshman year.

A. Become familiar with the different divisions of college football.

B. Attend a football summer camp at a school that you have interest in.

C. Take on some leadership roles in clubs and/or outside activities.

D. Focus on developing your strength, speed and agility to the fullest.

III. Tips for 11th Graders: This is a very important year. Keep building on the foundation you have established in the 9th and 10th grades.

A. Keep taking 6 classes a semester.

B. Stay involved in other clubs and sports.

C. Attend camps at schools you are interested in and/or schools that are interested in you. Keep in mind that smaller division schools often attend the larger school's camps. This is a great way for them to scout players as well.

D. Attend junior days if you are invited.

E. Make unofficial visits to schools that you would like to learn more about. Most school faculty will be on vacation in July. Plan to visit in June so you can meet the coach and learn more about their football program.

F. If by the end of your junior season you are not already being recruited put together a highlight tape/DVD and a resume. Include an action photo and a still photo with your resume. Send them to all the schools you like.

G. Keep track of the mail you receive. If you receive questionnaires, fill them out and send them back promptly. Remember that form mail does not make you a college recruit. It means your name is in a database at that college. Different types of communications from college football coaches:

1. Form Letter - You are one of thousands in a database that receive this letter.
2. Hand Written Note/Letter - Shows true interest from a college/university. Although hundreds of soon-to-be seniors receive these notes/letters, it means there is some genuine interest.
3. Phone Calls - Coaches are able to call you in your senior year and not before. Visit www.ncaa.org and become familiar with the recruiting rules. If you receive phone calls, there is interest in you.
4. Email and text messages are considered written communication and can be done as often as a coach chooses. Take advantage of this form of communication. DO NOT solely communicate to schools and coaches through email unless it is THEIR choice. Only sending emails will not get you recruited.

H. Take the SAT and ACT at the first opportunity possible.

I. Continue to train all year.

IV. Your Senior Year: Keep those grades up and continue training and getting better.

A. Visit some schools in the fall and attend some games.

B. Keep a note pad, pen and a list of questions by the phone for important calls you receive. It's not uncommon to be nervous when talking with someone about your future. Be prepared. When nerves kick-in our minds can go blank. Have at least four good questions written down that you can ask. When the coach asks "Do you have any questions?" you will be ready.

C. When speaking with a coach in person or over the telephone, always speak clearly and answer yes/no questions with "YES SIR or NO SIR". For example;

1. Are you working out? "Yes Sir."
2. How are your grades? "Good Sir, I have a 3.2 GPA."
3. Have you taken the SAT test? "Yes sir, but I don't have my score yet."

D. Send two complete game films to schools of interest. This should be done approximately the 3rd or 4th week of football season. If you have created some highlights, put them at the beginning of your film. The game films must come from raw footage from the high school. Having friends and/or family members tape the games are nice. But two complete game films must come from the high school's game films.

E. Coaches will only watch a whole game if they like what they see. Cut-ups are a good way to catch attention.

F. Always keep your resume up to date and make sure you send an updated one with your game film.

G. Work with your school counselor and begin filling out college/university applications and scholarship applications.

I hope this information will help guide you in beginning your preparation. Always remember that recruiting is a business. There are hundreds of high school athletes out there working hard in hopes they will have the advantage. It's all up to you now. Do the best you can, train hard and take a good look at all the different division schools and select the one that meets your needs. GOOD LUCK!