

College Process Cheat Sheet

TALENT DICTATES THIS PROCESS

Managing Expectations and Realities--- CWS teams in Omaha are not the right fit for most players

⇒ Athletic Fit

⇒ Academic Fit

Need to look beyond Omaha and ESPN

SOME REAL NUMBERS

450,000 High School Players

8,000 Freshman Roster Spots (D1, 2 and 3 Combined)

50 US States

= 160 Roster Spots per State

Max Number of Scholarships Allowed by the NCAA

D-1--- 11.7 (Ivy and Patriot Leagues do not give out Athletic Scholarships. They do have multiple Grants and Academic money available though)

D-2--- 9.0

D-3--- 0.0

- 25% Rule---The NCAA dictates now that every scholarship must = 25%. Schools cannot just give out the cost of books now and have you on a partial scholarship
- Just because this is what is allowed by the NCAA, that does not mean that every school funds these maximums.
- Coaches do not have 11.7 available for every recruiting class. Coaches must recruit off of their Senior class*. If a coach has 20 returning players and they are taking up 8 of those 11.7 scholarships then that coach has 3.7 scholarships to use on the incoming class.
 - *Drop outs due to grades, or players transferring or getting drafted will affect this also.

Example: 35 Roster Spots

27 Players on Scholarship per year

8 Walk on positions (This is not a bad option if you get a high test score, get Academic money, and the coach Guarantees your roster spot. If you do not get this guarantee you are basically trying out for a month. Once you step on campus your year of eligibility begins. Because of the new transfer rule from the NCAA a player cannot transfer to a school with in the same division, D-1, 2, 3 without sitting out a year.)

Don't lock into just playing at D-1. Take that emotional tie out of the equation. If you want to play college baseball there is a program out there that is right for you The challenge finding the right fit

HOW DO I PLAY COLLEGE BASEBALL

Talent---This is God given and must be developed on a daily basis. Players must work on their skill level, mechanics, foot speed, swing, strength and nutrition on a daily basis. You are not competing against just the people in this room, but rather all over the country for these limited scholarships. To develop in this area it takes sacrifices. If you are not willing to make those then you will have no one to blame but yourself.

It doesn't matter what your talent was at 13, 14, 15 or 16. What matters is your talent at 17/18.

Exposure---Start Early!! College Coaches and recruiters do not have the financial means within their budget to criss-cross the US to see kids.

Exposure Options

- A. Showcases
- B. Tournaments
- C. On Campus Camps
- D. Major League Tryout Events

Early in the Process 3 Big Check Points in determining what events to choose:

1. Is the athlete Emotionally and Physically ready for Showcase and Tournament Events. If he is emotionally ready, starting very early is a good way to prepare him for these events later on. It will show him what he is up against down the road. Parents and Players realize what talent evaluators focus on.
 - a. Body Action
 - b. Swing
 - c. Foot Speed
 - d. Mechanics
 - e. Arm Strength
 - f. Make up

Results are not mentioned here. At some point you have to produce, but evaluators have the ability to see what they are looking for without seeing you go 4-4 in a camp, tournament or showcase.

2. What is the purpose of an event I am considering
 - a. Instructional
 - b. Competition
 - c. Exposure
3. Get the most Bang for your Buck—You are going to get invited to numerous Showcase events.
 - Early in the process attend events that will have several schools represented
 - Later in the process attend events on campuses of schools that have legitimate interest in you, and you have interest in them

“Showcases are opportunities to demonstrate or “show” your ability to evaluators

Different types of “Showcases”

1. Open Showcase—anyone can attend if they pay the fee
2. Invite Only--- you need a referral from a respected coach or scout
3. I.D. Camp and State Camps--- Often times these are not attended by coaches, but rather the coordinators who are hosting the event. They then post the information for coaches.

Note: When attending a Showcase event one thing to consider is what Period of the Recruiting Calendar is the Camp in. If it is during a “Dead Period” college coaches cannot attend. The Camp organization has evaluators there and they get the information to the coaches.

Academics---STUDENT__ATHLETE...Notice which is listed first. You are going to school to get an education. Your Academic accomplishments in High School can make it much easier to attain money for school. Because of the new NCAA rule which forces coaches to give a 25% Athletic Scholarship athletes with good high school scores are even more attractive. There are certain scores on your ACTs, SATs, GPAs and Rank in Class that can qualify for dollars that do not count against the coaches’ Athletic money.

Academic Number Guidelines...these are not the same for every school, but are within a general range.

SAT---1200, Math and Verbal combined

ACT---27

3.5 on a 4.0 scale

Top 10% Rank in Class

Example: At Arkansas St. if you score a 27 on the ACT you get an automatic 40% Academic Scholarship* from the school. The out of state tuition is \$20,000, so that Academic Scholarship is worth \$8,000 a year. Now if the coach likes you, and wants to give you a scholarship and goes with 25%, that is another \$5000 a year. So now you basically have a 65% scholarship.

A 50% Athletic Scholarship in Baseball is HUGE...simply because of the limited number of scholarships available, and also because of the 25% stipulation.

- To qualify for an Academic Scholarship you need to apply to the school by December of your senior year.

Make Up---Character, Integrity, Coachable, Good Teammate, How do you handle stress, How do you Things that coaches and evaluators look at with high regard. Again, notice that Results are not listed here:

- ⇒ Handle failure
- ⇒ How do you handle expectations,
- ⇒ How do you wear your uniform
- ⇒ How do you interact With others
- ⇒ How do you get on and off the field regardless of your results that day !!

Show Case What To Do's---Once you have chosen to attend a Show Case or Exposure event there a several things you should do prior to, during and post Camp.

Prior to the Event

1. Be physically and mentally prepared.
2. Research the list of schools the Event says is attending.
3. Call the College coach to verify they are attending
4. Write a personal letter to each coach of the Colleges you are interested in and let them know you will be in attendance and that you would like them to evaluate you and give you feedback.
5. Send an email following up the previously mentioned letter

During the Event

1. Introduce yourself to the Coaches you have contacted as well as others. This puts a face to the name and number
2. Put your name on the back of your shirt--- you are trying to sell yourself
3. Ask them to look at you during the camp
4. Ask for feedback from the Coaches---This is an opportunity to get information and help you understand what level of school you should be looking at
5. Ask for feedback from the Event organizers
6. Take time to thank the people who are running the event as well as the Coaches you have spoke with. This is the simplest of tasks, but the one most seldom done.

Following the Event

1. Write a follow up letter mentioning your conversation and thanking them for their time.
2. Send a email following up your letter.

Communicating with a College Coach---When writing letters, emails, or posting your profile on sites be professional. Use proper punctuation and grammar. It is a reflection on you as an individual and you are trying to sell yourself.

Freshman Year---Begin writing coaches and asking them about camps and showcases they may be attending. Attach a profile of yourself as well

Sophomore thru Junior Year---Continue to communicate with coaches and update your profile. Your profile is an evolving document as you progress through the different stages of your High School career. Following your Junior High School season put together a video to send out to coaches, either via email or DVD.

What to include in this Communication Process---Once talent is established, regardless of whether it is D-1,2,or 3 talent the coaches begin to look at other very important variables. Character, work ethic and integrity can all be communicated through letters and emails.

- STATS DO NOT MATTER MUCH TO COACHES---they can be misleading. A .375 average in Missouri is not the same as a .375 average in Florida
- Use credible and verifiable material. EX. Velocity and 60 time from a reputable Showcase.
- Make it easy to Recruit you and Easy to give you a scholarship
- A coach wants to know he can count on you and rely on you. Being consistent and professional in your communication is a way for him to get to know yo

Choosing A School---The school needs to be a good fit for the athlete. The school needs to be a good fit for the Student Athlete. Ask yourself if you would go there whether you were playing baseball or not ?

Things To Do and Consider When Choosing a School

1. Is the School close to home? If it is not mom and dad may not be able to see you play and they have been a huge support group to help you get to this point..
2. Cost of the school. As mentioned, 50% Baseball Scholarship is huge. That still could leave a considerable dollar figure that comes out of pocket.
3. Can I get into the school Academically
4. Will I play my Freshman or Sophomore year? Are you willing to sit and watch while the Junior and Seniors play ?
5. What is the Coach like? You will be around this person for 4-5 years of your life. You should like him somewhat.
6. Check the Roster of the schools you are considering. They are listed online.
 - a. In state verses out of state players
 - b. Underclassmen verses others on the roster
 - c. Number of Juco players on the roster. This gives you an idea of whether the coach brings in several Juco players each year and diminishes your chances of playing.
 - d. How many players are returning at my position.
 - e. How long has the coach been at the school and how long is his contract. There are no guarantees that the coach who signs you will be there when you get there.
7. Get a talent evaluator to help determine what level of play will suit you at the next level. This is typically someone who makes a living from baseball. The harsh reality is it probably is not your mom or dad. The emotional side needs to be removed so it is a realistic, unbiased opinion. This does not have to be me. If you don't like my opinion we will work off of some one else's. I AM GOING TO BE VERY HONEST WITH YOU, and tell you maybe not what you want to hear, but what I feel is true.

This background work is vital to this process. The new recruiting calendar put in place by the NCAA has put pressure on the coaches to start seeing players earlier than in the past.

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW

September 1 of your Junior year---College Coaches can begin corresponding with you through the mail.

July 1 of your Junior year---College Coaches can begin calling and texting you.

November 1 of your Senior year---National Letter of Intent Day

December – February 1 of your Senior Year (for most schools)---Applications to the school must be in, in order to qualify for Academic money.

Athletes can initiate a phone call and the coach can accept it at any time.

When an athlete is on campus the College Coach can converse with the athlete at length.

If you are paying to play baseball, then you are a participant in this process. You may not be an active one, but you are a participant. If you want to play college baseball, you need to get active and not let the process control you

GAMER DEADLINES

- 8/1 After 16u Season
 - Player Evaluations, with recommendations on potential level of college baseball:
 - Top 50 D1 program
 - D1/D2
 - D2/D3, Junior College

- 9/15 Junior Year
 - List of 24-30 potential colleges, 8-10 reach, 8-10 attainable, 8-10 safe (from either academic or athletic perspective)
 - 25% of colleges at D2 and D3 level (unless we tell you that you are top 50 D1 player)
 - ***Reviewed by Matt, Scott, Dave, Mark***
 - ***October 1st***

- 9/15 Junior Year - Develop player profile to include with communications
 - ***Reviewed by Matt, Scott, Dave, Mark***
 - ***October 1st***

- 9/15-11/1 Junior Year - Letters/emails to coaches, expressing interest in program and asking about camps/showcase schedule, questionnaires, other recruiting information.
 - ***Review status of communication with Matt, Scott, Dave, Mark in November***

- June After Junior Year – complete Video and post online
 - ***Reviewed by Matt, Scott, Dave, Mark***

- June After Junior Year - Update communications to coaches with video, updated player profile and summer tournament schedule

- August 15 after Junior Year - Narrow to 10-15 and update communications. Develop schedule of Fall showcases, tournaments camps, campus visits
 - ***Reviewed by Matt, Scott, Dave, Mark***

- November 1 of Senior Year - Narrow list to 5-10 => Campus visit, Applications
 - ***Reviewed by Matt, Scott, Dave, Mark***

WHAT CAN THE GAMERS DO FOR YOU

1. Baseball training and skill building
2. Information and Advice on the college process => College Resource Center, College Gameplan Online
3. Exposure – summer tournaments, showcase events
4. Structured environment to interpersonal and life skills.
5. Connections and Networking

Scott, Dave and Matt have an extensive network of relationships with coaches and scouts from coast to coast, including a number of MLB Scouting Directors and General Managers. They are respected and have credibility. College coaches will return their phone calls and will trust their judgment.

At the right time, Scott, Dave and/or Matt want make phone calls recommending players to college coaches. But, it needs to be the right college and the right situation for each player.