



**SEPTEMBER
2011
EDITION**



Begin the search for your “College, your Program, your Coach” NOW

By: John Dickson, Owner of College Planning Assistance

As a rising senior or junior student athlete, it is time to develop your own personal recruiting timeline! Yes! Get active! Be smart! As they say- ‘Plan the work and then work the plan!’ Additionally, as the parent of a student-athlete, begin those discussions that will encourage your son or daughter to begin thinking and talking about academic interests, career plans, and athletic challenges. Listen openly and carefully as they share their dreams and plans for the future. Try not to be too critical! Keep all possibilities open to discussion and exploration.

Student athletes are never passive so use that athletic and academic activism to search for the best college, sports program and coach that will fit you and your family. We will provide, over several articles, an outline for success in this search. But, it will be up to you and your family!

Let’s get started: It’s never too early to discuss your own goals in life and how college will get you there! And- the journey can be fun and exciting for you! Ask yourself these questions: Is it important to you to earn a college diploma? Are there any colleges of interest to you? Can you visualize yourself playing your sport at the collegiate level? How about the academics? Could playing your sport, preparing for a career and being on your own be important to you? Do you think you could balance sports and studies? Have you done so in high school?

Next, use the internet to ‘virtually visit’ and tour some schools of interest to you, but:

Consider location, size, and costs for each college

Decide if your present academic qualifications are suitable to the profile of that college

Estimate your ability/ potential to play your sport at D-I, D-II or D-III at each program

Discover if your academic/ career interests are available in a major at each college

Later, with your parent, prepare a list of 12 to 25 colleges that you might find attractive.

In our next article, we will show you how to evaluate each college, coach and program!

We will also propose an itinerary for you to visit colleges and get some more information!

In the meantime, work hard- do well & be healthy and safe.

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