

Interesting Facts and Myths about College Soccer

After high school, what is next?

The estimated probability of competing in athletics beyond the high school level, according to the NCAA (2006):

| <u>Student-athletes</u> | <u>Men's Soccer</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| High school athletes | 321,400 |
| High school senior athletes | 91,800 |
| NCAA athletes | 18,200 |
| NCAA freshman roster spots | 5,200 |
| NCAA senior athletes | 4,100 |
| NCAA athletes drafted | 76 |
| Pct. NCAA to pro | 1.9 |
| Pct. High school to pro | 0.08 |

Soccer Programs in U.S (2006)

- Division I- 198 male and 275 women
 - Division II- 171 male and 199 women
 - Division III- 361 male and 378 women
 - DAIA- 224 male and 219 women
 - NJCAA (Junior College or Community College) - 173 male and 125 women
 - NCCAA- 45 male and 35 women
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- The majority of students and parents believe talented high school athletes are actively recruited and offered “full-ride” sports scholarships by Division 1 college coaches. The reality is that 2 % of these athletes are “actively recruited” by leading college coaches, leaving the remaining 98% to “recruit themselves.” (The Sports Source)
 - As a high school soccer player you should be aware that the standard of play at the college level is very high. It is recommended that you attend a few games to actual gauge the actual intensity and speed of the game. Remember that only the absolute top players will be approached with offers!
 - Women’s soccer is the fastest growing intercollegiate sports mainly due the application of TITLE IX so there **are** many more opportunities out there for women.

- Unlike in football, baseball, and basketball, the majority of college soccer coaches do not rely on high school programs as a recruiting source for potential student-athletes. The US youth club soccer system provides an easier and economically efficient opportunity for college coaches to scout and recruit. College soccer coaches rely on club soccer and ODP, State Cup and showcase tournaments to watch and recruit their student-athletes.
- The lucky student who possesses recognized soccer abilities **has additional opportunities if they become known**. College coaches are constant on the lookout for new prospects. Often you will find coaches at tournaments viewing any number of players. As a prospective college player, **it is of utmost important that you be identified as early as possible**. Important ways to showcase your abilities include tournaments, club soccer and Olympic Development Program. Many coaches begin identifying potential prospects in a player's junior year of high school (club soccer U16 and U17). Most scholarship offers are made early in a student's senior year. Players can verbally commit to schools as early as July 1st preceding their senior year in high school.
- Many fine young athletes are overlooked each year because they didn't submit their athletic resume/player profile to the "right" colleges or left out vital information. It's also a fact that many colleges simply don't allocate all their soccer recruiting funds because "suitable" athletes didn't approach them.
- Most soccer players will have to **market themselves**. You can try to do this yourself (WAFC CPP provides information) or you could use a soccer recruiting service.
- Attending tournaments (ect.), is not all it takes to be recognized by college coaches. In women's soccer **you must let the coaches know you exist, so they can watch you play**. Soccer is so big and so organized albeit under publicity radar that often college coaches won't know how to look for you, unless you let them know, you would like them too!
- Remember, a college coach will have phone calls, emails with not only you, but at least 25 other prospects. **Being prepared both academically, athletically and organizationally will enhance your possibilities as a college player prospect**.