

Gold Fastpitch Organization

College Information Night

March 8, 2009

Liberty Media Center

11 – 12:30 p.m.



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Overview

- Target Zone - Long Tail of College Softball
- Timeline
- Introduction Package
- Insider look at Coaches and Scouting
(conceptions and misconceptions)

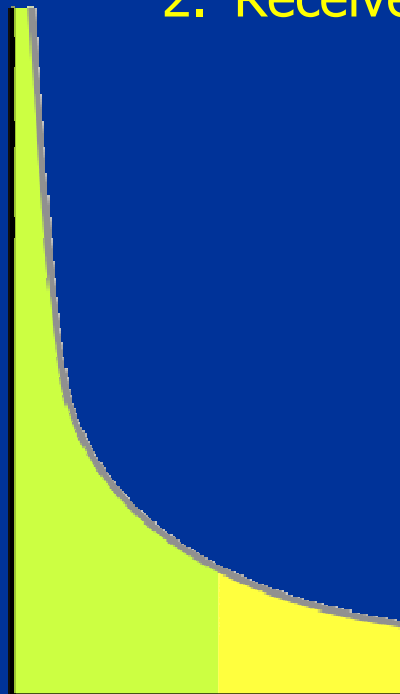


The Long-Tail of College Fastpitch

Are you going to college to:

1. Play softball and receive an education or
2. Receive an education and play softball?

of Student Athletes Applying



Target Zone - Good match for you

- athletically
- academically
- geographically
- financially (cost and available scholarship, aid)

Target Zone
20-30 colleges

Play Time:

- 1/3 for sure
- 1/3 probably
- 1/3 stretch

Top End
of scale

Lower End
of scale

Fastpitch Level



Timeline

It is never too early to start

Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Senior



Details to follow



Freshman

- Enjoy high school sports
- Travel team
- Keep your H.S. coach informed
- Get involved w/ student government, leadership camps, local community groups, student exchange programs, etc.
- All NCAA recruiting rules go into effect
- **You (and only you) can initiate contact**



Sophomore

- Check-out NCAA education requirements (“core”)
- Travel team
- Make a list colleges you might like to attend
 - Try to attend selected college camps
 - It is one way for colleges to talk with you
- Draft and send an introduction letter include updates of your sport and academic achievements
- Prepare a video tape
- **After Sept. 1 college coaches can send recruiting letters and e-mails (no phone calls or text messages)**
- **College coaches cannot return calls until after July 1 of junior year**



Junior

- Register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse (update every semester)
- Send ACT and/or SAT scores to Clearinghouse
- Prepare your athletic/academic resume and send it before Christmas break (colleges practice full-time after Jan. and start their games in Feb.)
- Prepare an updated video and send it to requesting colleges
- At the end of your H.S. season send out another update/status letter to all the colleges on your list
- Watch as many college games (on your list) as possible
- **You are permitted contact with college coaches after your season (coach initiated after July 1)**



Senior

- Focus on NCAA academic requirements
- Send out a further resume with all updated information if necessary
- **Check NCAA “letter of intent” signing dates**
 - **Early: Nov., 2nd Wed.**
 - **Late: Apr., 2nd Wed)**
- Make/take as many paid visits as possible (Division dependent)
- Don't give up on non-visit schools; keep in contact



How to Introduce Yourself to College Coaches

- Introductory packet is best initial contact
- Packet should be/include:
 - Short and specific (coaches don't have time)
 - Letter of introduction (primary ingredient)
 - Coaches first impression will be from the letter
 - Use coach's name, title and correct address
 - Softball resume
 - Skills tape/video (introduction letter and softball resume can go out first)

DO NOT SAY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP



Letter of Introduction

Include:

- Your current H.S.
- H.S. location
- Year in school
- Current position (s)
- Summer team
- Type of classes you're taking in H.S.
- Core and cumulative GPA
- Registered (ing) with NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse
- SAT and ACT scores (and future test dates if applicable)
- What you're interested in studying at their university/college
- A mention to the fact you and your family will probably need financial aid
- A skills video (included or on the way)
- Never send a copy letter of introduction



Timeline Notes

- H.S. activities are a big plus when it comes to the awarding of athletic grants in aid
- The NCAA allows each: (Not all schools are fully funded)
 - Division I, 12 scholarships
 - Division II, 7.2 scholarships
 - NAIA, 12 scholarships (Division I and II, not III)
 - NJCAA 24 scholarships
 - There are ~262 Division I and ~253 Division II colleges that offer softball grants in aid
- Any commitment you make is not binding until you sign a national letter of intent and an offer of financial aid. If you sign and change your mind you will lose 1 year of eligibility. Also, the college is not bound by anything they have said or offered until you have signed.



Timeline Summary

It is never too early to start

Freshman

Fall Winter Summer

- Enjoy high school sports
- Travel team
- Keep your H.S. coach informed
- Get involved w/ student gov't, leadership camps, local community groups, student exchange programs, etc.
- All NCAA recruiting rules go into effect
- **You (and only you) can initiate contact**

Note: These H.S. activities are a big plus when it comes to the awarding of athletic grants in aid

The NCAA allows each Division I softball program 12 scholarships, and in Division II, 7.2 scholarships, are available. There are ~262 Division I and ~253 Division II colleges that offer softball grants in aid.

Sophomore

Fall Winter Summer

- Check-out NCAA education requirements ("core")
- Travel team
- Make a list colleges you might like to attend
- Draft and send an introduction letter include updates of your sport and academic achievements
- Prepare a video tape
- **After Sept. 1 coaches can send recruiting letters and e-mails (no phone calls or text msg)**
- **Coaches cannot return calls until after July 1 of junior year**

Junior

Fall Winter Summer

- Register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse (update every semester)
- Send ACT and/or SAT scores to Clearinghouse
- Prepare your athletic scholarship resume and send it before Christmas break (colleges practice full-time after Jan. and start their games in Feb.)
- Prepare an updated video and send it to requesting colleges
- At the end of your H.S. season send out another update letter to all the colleges on your list
- Watch as many college games (on your list) as possible
- **You are permitted contact with college coaches after your season (coach initiated after July 1)**

Senior

Fall Winter Summer

- Focus on NCAA academic requirements
- Send out a further resume with all updated information if necessary
- **Check the NCAA "letter of intent" signing date (Early Nov., 2nd Wed.; Late Apr., 2nd Wed)**
- Make/take as many paid visits as possible (Division dependent)
- Don't give up on non-visit schools; keep in contact

IMPORTANT:

Any commitment you make now is not binding until you sign a national letter of intent and an offer of financial aid. If you sign and change your mind you will lose 1 year of eligibility. Also, the college is not bound by anything they have said or offered until you have signed.



An Insider Look at Coaches and Scouting

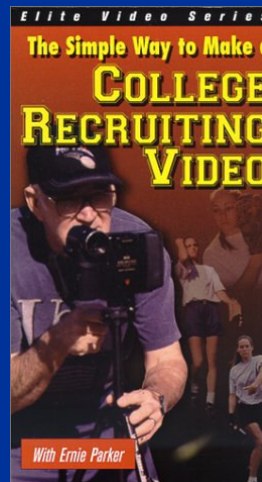
(ref. C. Aradi, pg 94)

- Coaches go to tournaments with a list of players who have contacted them.
- Inaccurate player information (athletically and especially academically) simply is not acceptable. Know the difference between an H.S. v. core GPA, semester v. cumulative GPA and communicate accordingly)
- Coaches try to see these kids first and build their scouting tournament schedule around this list
- Unrealistic expectations of parents and players
- Coaches will try to see the best teams and to visit those teams/tournaments they've successfully recruited from in the past
- Coaches cannot see every team in a tournament unless it is a very small tournament
- It doesn't take much to throw the coaches scouting schedule off. Sometimes they don't even get to see the players on their lists.
- Coaches won't necessarily remember a "star" performance from a player who has not previously contacted them.



References

- Preparing to Play Softball at the Collegiate Level, by Catharine Aradi (ISBN #0-9664310-0-6)
- www.fastpitchrecruiting.com (Cathi Aradi's website)
- www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/NCAA/common/index.html
- www.nfca.org (national fastpitch coaches association)
- www.njcaa.org (national junior college athletic association)
- www.naia.org (national athletic intercollegiate association)
- Ernie Parker's video



Questions?



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