

# **So you want to play soccer in college?**

## **JUNIOR YEAR**

As of September 1st of your junior year, prospective student-athletes may begin to receive letters, media guides and other soccer/university information from college coaches, faculty members and students (not boosters). Your "Top 10" list will vary from week to week or even day to day.

Therefore, it is a good idea to continue your research and recruiting. You must also begin to research the academic side of schools in great detail.

Your recruiting should continue along the same lines as your sophomore year but with some more focus and deliberateness. Even though the high school season coincides with college soccer season, you should watch as many women's college games as possible. I can't stress this enough! Continue to request further information as well as take unofficial visits.

I strongly encourage you to take your ACT/SAT tests during the fall and as many times as you can. Don't wait until the fall of your senior year. Most academic packages from colleges are put together in the fall of your senior based upon earlier scores and early deadlines.

## **SENIOR YEAR**

As of July 1st of your senior year, you may receive phone calls from coaches of both Division I and II schools. Coaches are limited to one phone call per week. Messages don't count as a phone call. If your parents speak with the coach about the university and/or soccer program, that phone call will count for that week even if they did not speak with you directly. Letters, emails, faxes, etc. are unlimited. Also, beginning your first day of class, you can begin official visits. You have five official visits total. Official visits are by invitation only, however. Official visits are expense paid visits.

### **Build a custom website for your player...**

**You can now build your own affordable website to help promote your player. Visit <http://www.siteskins.net/> and take a tour. It is 9.95 a year for the domain and another 8.20 for a year of security (so no one can do a google search for it. It will be private, not public. A school or coach would have to be given the site name. ) It is 38.00 for two years. You can put video on it, pictures, really anything you want. After this is over, you just don't renew it. It's that simple.**

## Results of a Recent Soccer Recruiting Survey

The following are the final results of Soccer RoundUp's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual College Coaches survey. The statistical sample is valid, however each must draw their own conclusions about the data given no personal interviews with coaches were included to insure consistency in their interpretation of the questions.

Link here to the survey questionnaire used by college coaches

Recruitment Identification Age	D1	D2	D3	NAIA
High School Freshman	15%	0%	3%	0%
High School Sophomore	58%	15%	8%	9%
High School Junior	27%	76%	81%	83%
High School Senior	0%	9%	8%	8%

(rating system for the following: 5 - high value factor, 1 - low value factor)

Assume a degree of error (+/- .2) in= each rated category.

Factors in Actively Recruiting Athlete	D1	D2	D3	NAIA
High School Experience	2.2	2.5	3.4	3.4
Club Experience	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.4
ODP State Experience	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.5
ODP Regional Experience	4.2	3.5	3.2	3.6
Academic Standing	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.1
Ability to View at Least Once	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.8
Ability to View Multiple Times	4.4	3.5	3.3	3.1
High School Coach Recommendation	2.4	2.0	2.7	2.1
Premier Club/ODP Coach Recommendation	4.0	3.4	3.8	3.1
Interest in Your Program if Qualified	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.2

Where Likely to Find Athletes	D1	D2	D3	NAIA
Premier Tournaments	4.8	4.7	4.6	3.6
Your Website Input Form	2.4	2.8	3.8	3.4
High School Coach Initiative	2.4	1.8	3.0	3.2
Premier Club/Coach Initiative	3.8	2.9	3.4	3.4
Athlete Initiative	4.1	3.9	4.5	4.3
Scouting Services	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.9

We want to thank all 220+ coaches that provided input to our survey. Soccer RoundUp is a new service for athletes. Our mission is to work with participating clubs and ODP programs to help them and their athletes with college planning, recruitment advice, and visibility. We are not a scouting service. We leave athlete evaluation to the experts. We provide a channel of communications for athletes that are willing to take personal responsibility for researching and promoting themselves to college programs. We will be reorganizing our services in a September timeframe to streamline athlete searching and provide planning assistance to athletes. We'd appreciate your visit to our site to learn more about us:  
[www.soccerroundup.com](http://www.soccerroundup.com)

If you would like to offer comments on the survey results or have questions about our program, please contact us at:  
[info@soccerroundup.com](mailto:info@soccerroundup.com)

### **Valuable Link to All Women's College Soccer Programs in Every State**

This link is to a site that contains many, many links of interest pertaining to women's soccer, especially college soccer.

### **An Article With Some Advice for Young Athletes**

MR. SOCCER: College Soccer Guidance For High School Players And Their Parents

So you want to continue playing soccer in college? Here's How:

You don't have to make the Olympic Development Program or be an all-star selection to play on a college team...if you are realistic about yourself and the colleges you want to attend. There are hundreds of college soccer teams and lots of kids playing college soccer who were simply solid high school players--not stars. Your first priority must be finding colleges which will provide you with the education you want and need. But unless your educational requirements limit your choices to just a few schools, if you were good enough to play soccer on a premier level club team and start on your high school varsity as a sophomore or junior, you can probably find a college soccer program where you can play.

**Freshman/Sophomore Years:**

1. Get your grades up--Must be 2.0 or better in solid college prep curriculum
2. Find a good club team & play year round
3. Aim at making high school varsity as a sophomore
4. Try out for Olympic Development Program...don't worry if you don't make it.

**Junior Year (This Is The Most Important Year):**

1. Make sure your grades are good...between 2.5 and 3.5 will get you in most schools
2. Take the PSAT as soon as possible...take the SAT and ACT too if possible
3. Start on the high school varsity
4. Make the best club team you can
5. Play year-round on as many teams as you have time for
6. Begin studying colleges for educational interests and soccer programs
7. Develop a list of 50-75 schools which serve your educational needs--where you could play
8. Prepare a package documenting your educational and soccer qualifications
9. Send your package to each head soccer coach on your list spring of junior year/summer before senior year.

**Senior year:**

1. Take the SAT and ACT if you have not already done so
2. Keep a list of all the college soccer coaches who respond to your package
3. Keep notes on your conversations with coaches, if any
4. No response from a top choice..... resend your material
5. Make unofficial, unannounced visits to 10-12 schools you are most interested in
6. Keep playing on as many good teams as you can
7. Division I prospects--make ODP pool team if you can
8. Find out your high school schedule; send it and test results to college coaches
9. Narrow list of top choices down to maximum of 10-15 schools

**During Senior Year Season:**

1. Set goal to improve your GPA
2. Be a varsity impact player--starter for sure, captain, all-league or all-star, etc.
3. See as many of the college teams you like play as you can--meet coaches
4. Analyze the style of play of the college teams--where would you fit in?
5. Decide if there are coaches you like...and coaches you don't like
6. Which schools did you like? Big, little, rural, city, etc. Which programs?

**After Senior Season:**

1. Pick 5-7 schools, send applications
2. Send senior season package to college coaches where you have applied
3. Keep in touch with admissions departments and college soccer coaches
4. After January 1, fill out all financial aid documents
5. Continue to follow-up with admissions offices, financial office & coaches until decisions are made
6. Review any new possibilities that present themselves (sudden interest from a different coach, etc.)
7. Review all offers of admission and financial aid
8. Revisit or make formal visits to 3 schools you are most interested in
9. Pick the school with the best combination: education, financial aid, right soccer program for you.

**Berecruited.com**

This is one of several online services that are available. Probably you won't hook up with any major D1 schools here, but odds are good that you will be contacted by some school...

**GOOD LUCK!**