

A man in a dark blue suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie, smiling, standing against a white background with a red horizontal band.

GET ***RECRUITED***

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO PLAYING COLLEGE SPORTS

Everything high school athletes and parents need to know about choosing schools, marketing to college coaches, the application and scholarship process, and selecting the best athletic and academic environment.

WAYNE MAZZONI
NCAA Coach and Recruiting Expert

WHAT COACHES ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS GUIDE



“...An extremely valuable tool for high school baseball athletes. I strongly recommend it to any athlete who aspires to play college sports.”

Chip Baker, Director of Baseball Operations, Florida State University



“The recruiting process can be confusing and clouded by misconceptions. This guide is very informative and a realistic tool for guiding a prospect in the right direction...a quality resource!”

Scot Thomas, Head Softball Coach, Virginia Tech University



“This Guide can be extremely valuable if it gets into the right hands. High school athletes should definitely take advantage of what it offers.”

Dan Ireland, Head Cross Country Coach, Yale University (CT)



“The more information an athlete has, the more equipped he or she will be to make a better choice for college. [This book] fits that category.”

Matt Centrowitz, Head Track and Field Coach, American University (DC)



“Deciding where to compete, learn and live for four years is a difficult decision. A guide like this is a perfect investment for someone in need of direction.”

Ben DeLuca, Assistant Lacrosse Coach, Cornell University (NY)



“The recruiting process can be one of the most enjoyable experiences in life and yet it can be one of the most painful. This guide will give both athlete and parent a better feeling of doing the right thing when it comes to starting the process and its eventual conclusion.”

Lance Harter, Head Women’s Track Coach, University of Arkansas



“This guide gives you the opportunity to choose the correct school to fit all your needs, so when your athletic career is over, you are well prepared to lead a productive life.”

Raphael Cerrato, Baseball Recruiting Coordinator, Brown University (RI)



“...A must-buy for any aspiring college athlete.”

Bill Edwards, Head Softball Coach, Hofstra University (NY)



“...A great tool for high school student-athletes and their parents. There is a lot of critical information given with an emphasis on academic considerations.”

Ken Browning, Assistant Football Coach, University of North Carolina

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PROMOTING YOURSELF

Apply To Strong Academic Schools

As you might suspect, college coaches frequently ask admission officers to admit student-athletes who might otherwise not qualify academically or are “on the bubble.” Of course, this does not mean a student whose academic profile is significantly below the school’s minimums will be accepted simply at the coach’s request.

However, if you are within a reasonable distance of a school’s SAT/ACT and grade requirements, and are an athlete the coach wants on his squad, the coach probably has a good shot at getting you if he pushes hard enough.



A good rule of thumb to use is that your athletic ability should be able to get you into one school above where you would be accepted on academics alone.

At some schools, admission requirements may not be as stringent for recruits as they are for non-athletes. An Ivy League school may require students to possess at least a 3.6 GPA, yet a sought-after athletic recruit may only need to have a 3.4 GPA.

Remember, coaches at strong academic schools seek good athletes just like their counterparts at the top D-I programs. Their sports programs have every bit as much tradition and history, sometimes even more than the big D-I schools. And when you graduate, you have an excellent chance of obtaining a great job or being admitted to a graduate school of your choice.

Also, you have a much better chance of competing in college athletics by being a big fish in a small pond if you include some smaller or low profile schools on your list. For example, if your Target List features the U. of Florida (a national D-I powerhouse) where thousands of athletes may apply, and the college of William and Mary (a lesser-known school with an excellent athletic program and academics) where hundreds of athletes may apply, where is it easier to stand out? It’s obvious—the statistics favor you at the smaller school.

The bottom line: use the athletic talents you have worked so hard to develop to give yourself a shot at getting accepted to one of the academic “reach” schools on your Target List. You owe it to yourself to pursue the best possible academic education available.

Don’t focus on a school primarily for its athletic reputation. Years later this will just be another word on your diploma. Would you rather ride the bench at a well-known school or play for four years at a smaller school?

Coaching Communication

This is a vital part of getting into the school you want to attend. If you are academically on the border of being accepted to your top school, you’ll want the head coach and his staff on your side. In many situations, they will have pull in the admissions office and willing to go out of their way to help out. You also want to begin learning about the coach’s particular philosophy and overall strategy as early as possible. This information will help you decide where you want to continue your athletic and academic career.

Initiating Contact

Before your sophomore season, compile a broad list of schools you would most like to attend. Visit each of



these schools' athletic websites to see if there is an online questionnaire that you can complete. Take your time to list all of your accomplishments. Be proud of your athletic career. There is no need to be modest, but never lie! Double check all the information you enter, especially your contact information. If you think your e-mail address may be inappropriate (partyanimal232@example.com, sexygirl37@example.com), create an acceptable one with a subtle indication of yourself (CHSlacrosse2@example.com or longjumper17@example.com). This can be done for free at hotmail.com, gmail.com, and yahoo.com.

Following Up

If you do not hear back from the coach right away, do not worry! He will likely enter you into a pool of potential recruits for the coming year. If you do not receive general information from the college via e-mail or snail mail within a month, you may want to write a brief, handwritten note to the coach politely asking if he received your questionnaire. This is also a good opportunity to inform him of any upcoming camps or showcases you will attend, and also include a copy of your team schedule.

Let Coaches Know You're Interested

During your junior year, send a letter of interest to each head coach on your Target List. The purpose of the letter of interest is to let the coach know that you would like to attend his school for academic reasons and to compete for his team.

It is extremely important to personalize your letter of interest. You will get even more mileage out of a handwritten letter. Make sure you spell the coach's name and address correctly, and include something specific about his team (i.e., team's record, top rivals, great facilities) so he knows your interest is based on knowing something about his program.

One cardinal rule: whether your letter is handwritten or printed from a computer, do not send a coach a photocopied letter. How would you feel receiving a letter that pretends to be written to just you, when it's obvious that same letter has also been sent to many others?

You feel like the sender has no idea who you are and doesn't really care, right? You want a coach to understand that you have genuine and specific interest in his school and that you have devoted a lot of time to researching his program. So make each letter of interest an original, from start to finish!

Begin the letter by explaining your interest in the school's academic program. Mention the major you will pursue or ones that interest you. Perhaps the school boasts some prominent professors whose classes you'd like to attend, or famous graduates who had similar interests to yours.

Discuss your educational and career goals, leadership ability, and your personal values. These characteristics demonstrate to the coach that you are well-rounded and that you plan on staying in school all four years. Avoid the temptation to discuss only athletics in your letter. Athletes who treat academics just as seriously as sports really impress coaches.

Don't forget to emphasize your athletic accomplishments and why you can contribute to the team.

- ◆ Let the coach know that you have a video available if he would like to see you in action.
- ◆ Do not send your video unless a coach specifically asks for it.
- ◆ Request literature about the college, a media guide, any camps they may offer and a schedule.
- ◆ Mention you'd like to attend a home game.

Along with your letter of interest, you should also provide your personal statistics, which is discussed below, and a copy of your high school schedule in case the coach decides to send a recruiter to one of your games. Limit your letter of interest to one page (not including the schedule or profile).

Sample Letter of Interest to a Coach

JAMIE TEGLAS

10324 Town Walk Dr.
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Phone: 914-555-1000 E-Mail: jumpshot7@aol.com

Jan 3, 2009

Mr. Keith Kessinger
Head Basketball Coach
Carson-Newman College
2130 Branner Avenue
Jefferson City, TN 37760

Dear Coach Kessinger:

After I graduate from Yorktown H.S. this June, I am interested in attending Carson-Newman College. My goal is to graduate with a Pre-Med degree from your prestigious McCarthur School. I am writing to express interest in attending your school and more specifically, playing basketball next year.

As a three-year captain of my high school basketball team, I have developed the skills and leadership ability to contribute to your nationally ranked squad. Last season I was nominated to the All-Section Team while leading my team in points per game (27) and assists (11).

My interest in Carson-Newman College has always been strong. I have had the opportunity to attend seven of your games. In fact, two alumni from my high school, Jim Nicholson and Spencer Davis, played for your team in the late '90s.

Attached is an Athlete Profile that details my academic and athletic accomplishments. You'll notice that I take my studies just as seriously as I do basketball, and I'm confident that I will represent your program with distinction.

Please add my name to your prospect list and send me information about Carson-Newman's basketball program. I would especially like to see a copy of your media guide.

Good luck this season. Go Eagles!

Sincerely yours,

Jamie

Jamie Teglas

ENDORSEMENTS

“Coach Mazzoni is one of the leading coaches, authors, and speakers on athletic recruiting.”

—FOX Good Day New York

“Wayne Mazzoni’s seminar and books are a staple at our school. They are by far the most comprehensive information you will find on the athletic recruiting process.”

—John Levandowski, Athletic Director, Princeton Day School

“Mazzoni is the national expert on college recruiting.”

—News 12 Connecticut

“College coach and recruiting author and speaker Wayne Mazzoni provides state of the art information on the athletic recruiting process.”

—ABC TV

“Wayne Mazzoni is the leading authority on athletic recruiting.”

—Sports Radio 660 WFAN, New York

ABOUT THE BOOK

GET RECRUITED is the most comprehensive guide to the college athletic recruiting process. Written with contributions from more than 70 college coaches, this book offers real life tips from the coaches who are directly involved in recruiting high school athletes. It details the information athletes need to know to master the recruiting process and highlights a wide range of techniques that will give you an edge over the competition.

COACH WAYNE MAZZONI

As a star high school athlete, Wayne was shocked when he did not receive scholarship offers from interested colleges. For the past 15 years, he has focused his career on understanding the nuances of the college athletic recruiting process and helping high school athletes and parents find the college of their dreams. Wayne is a current college coach, a national lecturer and author of three books on the college athletic recruiting process.

ISBN: 978-0-9792896-0-6



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