

Recruiting Program 2015

The Decisions

- Why do I want to play at the next level?

If the answer is: I just want to keep playing because I really love to play – then the recruiting process is over. The athlete should find a school that she likes, talk to the coach and see if she can be a walk on. If this does not work, most schools sponsor a university club volleyball team.

If the answer is: I want to play at the next level because I want someone to pay all or most of my college expenses, then the work begins.

The Hurdles

- Parent and Athletes ego
We would love for our daughters to play on a national championship team at the biggest and best school. For a small few, that will happen. For the rest of the kids we have to keep in mind the goal – to have someone pay all or most of our athlete's college expenses. There are many fine NCAA, NAIA and Junior Colleges that will pay for your athlete's education.
- How far away from home can I go?
It is important not to limit the area you in which you try to find a school that will make an offer. Limiting the area should come later in the process once offers are made.
- Schools having my major
It is also important not to limit the schools according to a major until offers are made. Going off to college is two years away for many of you. Majors may change drastically by then. Also, nearly 60% of all students change their major during their college career.

Exposure

- **High School Volleyball**
It is a wonderful part of a player's volleyball experience and much is learned participating in high school sports. The down side of this is that the college coach's season is at the same time. They very seldom are able to break away and watch you play in your high school matches.
- **Club Volleyball**
Participating in club is not a guarantee you will be seen by college coaches. It is the best time to show your skills but if college coaches do not know you exist, then your time and money will be for not. This is the time you market yourself to as many colleges as you can.
- **Summer Camps**
Many college coaches will try to get you to come to their camp during the summer. Personally, I feel these are more money making projects for the colleges than actual recruiting opportunities. Plus they are becoming quite expensive. My suggestion is that you call the coach and work out a situation that will allow you to attend their camp for a day. The coach will usually agree to this. The key is to get the coach to allow your daughter to play with the college players after lunch and dinner besides participating in the camp. If your daughter can compete with the college kids then she has a foot in the door. You will be able to do many of these in the summer vs. one camp. You will get a bigger bang for your time and money.
- **College Open Gyms**
Work with the college coach to have your daughter attend an open gym they are having. The college coach cannot be at the open gym but if your daughter plays well the college players will let the coach know. Again, her foot is in the door.
- **Try-Outs**
Colleges are allowed to have Try-Outs. There are many rules and regulations that deal with these events. Attend as many of these as you can. This will give you an idea of where you stand with the college and give you a real idea of your skill level.
- **VB Exposure Events**
Many clubs are starting to run Exposure Events that you pay to go to. They are one day events where college coaches are invited to come and watch you play. I am not a big fan of these but any exposure your daughter can get will be to her advantage.

Marketing Yourself

- Send out hundreds – yes hundreds of emails to colleges – one at a time. DO NOT SEND THEM OUT ON A DISTRIBUTION LIST!! If you do, the college coach knows you are phishing and not really interested in their school.
- Research each school for mascots, colors, player awards, season records, etc. Mom and Dad will be a huge help here.
- Research to see if the college will even need your position the year you graduate.
- Send high school volleyball and club volleyball schedules to all coaches.
- Send reminders to all coaches of when, where, and what court you will be on each club tourney you are in.
- Send emails with non- volleyball accomplishments – NHS, other sports, clubs, plays, etc. This will let them know you are not just a volleyball player but an all around student.
- You should write the emails. Mom and Dad can send them. Again, they must all be sent individually and during a time the college coach knows the athlete can send them.
- Create a video as soon as possible, place it on YouTube, and include it in the emails. College coaches are lazy and do not want to work hard to find and view your video. (Google Jena Braden recruiting video to see what we put out.)
- Send newspaper articles, school paper articles, and links to local TV highlights of you, etc. Anything that will swing them your way.
- Emails should be sent out once every week and a half and could be staggered. This will even get busier during club season.
- **Un-official Visits** – It is very important you show the college coaches how interested you are in their school. Push for an un-official visit at schools that appear to show interest. (We took 22 un-official visits with Jena and she earned 6 offers.)
- Your marketing of your daughter needs to be simple, honest, personal, specific, and a large number of emails. It is very easy but very time consuming.
- The time you spend now should pay off in a big financial savings to your family.
- Free Recruiting Services
 1. University Athlete – universityathlete.com (My Choice)
 2. NCAA College Connect – ncaacr.com
 3. berecruited.com

PSEOP – Dual-Enrollment – Flex High School Credit

- It is important that you consider one or a combination of the above course opportunities.
- Obtaining college credit while in high school could possibly save you a whole year of college costs.
- It would allow many more doors to be opened creating opportunities such as, graduating early, additional majors or minors, graduate school paid for, etc.
- You do not have to have certain scores on the ACT or SAT to enroll in PSEOP. You can take the Compass test and qualify.
- You do not have to leave your high school to take the PSEOP courses. You can take them online.
- The PSEOP courses are taken at no cost to you. Your high school pays for them.