

## **Seeking a College for Baseball**

### **Freshman Year Homework Outline**

#### Academics

- Start thinking about you: -your academic interests, strengths and weaknesses
- Focus on academics...get good grades. Set ambitious academic goals.
- Ask yourself the following are you student-athlete related questions:
  - Are you a good enough student, one that a coach will not have to be overly concerned about? Are you going to contribute to a high athletic team average GPA or bring it down?
  - Are you a good enough student to handle both school and athletics?
  - Are you a good enough student to obtain academic scholarships?
  - Are you challenging yourself with challenging course work in high school?
  - What activities, besides baseball and school, are you interested in?
- Be sure to let your high school guidance counselor and your high school coaches know that you are interested in attending college and playing college baseball.
- Think about your other interests outside of class and baseball.
- Learn to manage your time and develop good study habits. Get help with this if you need to!

#### College Shopping

- Start finding out about the college world. How is it different than high school? What does it cost to attend college? Do you need college for what you are planning on doing for a career?
- Talk with relatives, friends, coaches, teachers and neighbors about why they attended college and where they went.
  - Ask what they liked and disliked about their choice.
  - Ask whether their experience there directly or indirectly influenced their career or profession.
  - Ask what they think about some of the colleges you are interested in.
  - Find out what colleges are affiliated with your church and where they are located.
- Start finding out about specific colleges: -visit any college you can that is convenient. Start with colleges your parents or siblings attended. (Don't focus too much on their stories about what it was like when they were there, which will come up, but what the college is like now and how it feels to you.) Arrange an informal visit with the admissions office so that you get a standard tour of any college you visit that your family doesn't know well. Go with some questions, but use the visits to help you figure out what the important features of a college are to you.
  
- One useful tool: <http://www.edref.com/>

## Baseball

- Start thinking about you: -your baseball interests, strengths and weaknesses
  - Is baseball your primary sport, your primary passion?
  - Could you possibly see yourself not playing baseball? What would you do with your extra time if you did not play school or summer ball?
  - What college baseball team do you follow on TV, on-line, or in the paper?
  - Could you play for a losing team just to ensure playing time?
  - Could you play for a team on which you are not likely to play, just to be a part of the team?
  - Is baseball a part of your academic/vocational interests?
  - Who do you know that played college baseball? Where did they play?
- Start finding out about the college baseball world and specific colleges you are interested in:
  - Who are the most successful head coaches?
  - How do they recruit?
  - Where do they recruit?
  - Go to a college game or two and watch the coach, and the level of play. (If you attend a tournament, you can see four teams at one location!)

### Baseball Related Activities you should do this year:

- 1) Develop a year round physical conditioning program and stick to it.
- 2) Play for a competitive summer travel team. Attend high profile tournaments.
- 3) Play fall baseball if you are not involved with another fall sport.
- 4) Attend a camp, clinic or showcase\* at one of your top 10 college choices you are interested in from your research. Try to do one during August, or in the Fall.
- 5) Attend a camp, clinic, or showcase\* at one of your top 10 choices over the Christmas holiday.

\*Note: The purpose of attending a showcase at this level is to become accustomed to them and get on the radar screen. It is not critical, so don't pay a lot of money.