

Seeking a College for Baseball

Sophomore 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: liberal arts education; technical education; field or career preparation; state vs. private colleges; religious affiliated colleges.
 - 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 colleges: -visit three very different colleges close to home just to see what they are like. Arrange a formal (but unofficial) visit with the admissions office so that you get a standard tour of the college. Go with some questions, but use the visits to help you figure out what the important features of a college are to you. Here are some examples:

<u>Large University</u>	<u>State Supported University</u>	<u>Strong Academic</u>	<u>Small Liberal Arts</u>	<u>Technical Oriented</u>	<u>Strong Religious Affiliation</u>	<u>NAIA</u>
Ohio State U	Ohio U	OH Wesleyan	Otterbein	Columbus State CC.	Mt. Vernon Nazarene	Rio Grande
West Virginia U	Miami U	Denison	Capital	Central Ohio Technical	Ohio Dominican	Urbana

U of Kentucky	Bowling Green	Wooster	Muskingum	Sinclair Community College	Wilmington	Shawnee State
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- Once you have had a chance to see colleges close to home, you will be ready to widen your scope and look at out-of-state or distant schools. There is no rush to do that during sophomore year.

One useful tool: <http://www.edref.com/>

Baseball

- Start thinking about you: -your baseball interests, strengths and weaknesses
 - Is baseball your primary sport, 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 likely to have to sit for 2-3 years?
 - 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!)
 - Find out about facilities, activities and funding.
 - Where does the team practice in the winter?
 - Do they travel south in the winter?
 - Does the team have a fall program and what is it like?
 - Does the team have to raise money? Are there extra fees involved?
 - Visit a few league (e.g. Big 10, or Ohio Athletic Conference) and some team websites.
 - Look at the player roster and where the players are from. Are there any on the team from your home town or high school? If so, drop them a line either by email or through the head coach or baseball office.
 - Look at the top 9-10 players on the team (most sites sort by overall stats: batting average or era.). Are there any freshman or sophomores?

Academic Related Activities you should do this year:

- 1) Take the PSAT's.
- 2) Boost your GPA.
- 3) Visit Guidance Counselor to be sure you are taking classes to satisfy your core course requirements. Be sure that your course schedule fits with college prep requirements and

NCAA Clearinghouse requirements.

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 one quality showcase this summer or fall (Buckeye Elite, COABF, Ron Golden, others). Do not pay more than \$150 for this and be sure there is a pre-published list of college coaches who have committed to this showcase.
Ohio University puts on an excellent player development showcase. Check for the announcement sometime after the college season is over.
<http://ohiobobcats.cstv.com/sports/m-basebl/ohio-m-basebl-body.html>
- 5) Attend a camp or clinic at one of your top three colleges you are interested in from your research.