

Tryouts Are Over, Teams Have Been Created, It's December, Now What??????

December is the perfect month for families to start thinking about the recruiting process. College coaches are completing their seasons and most will be in a quiet/dead period during the month. Quiet/Dead period means that college coaches are not allowed to have in person evaluations of athletes. As a result, they are planning their spring recruiting efforts including creating athlete lists and determining which tournaments to attend to evaluate potential recruits. It is the perfect time for you to *organize your thoughts* and start *contacting college coaches* about the upcoming season.

Some keys to organizing your thoughts:

How far from home do I want to be?
Is climate and weather important?
What size school do I want to attend?
What do I want to major in?
What level (DI, DII, DIII, NAIA) do I want to play?

These are a few of the questions that you need to try to answer to get you started in the process. These answers will allow you to start making a potential interest list of colleges. This list will be used as a guide for you this spring.

Contacting college coaches:

Start creating an email to send to college coaches. This email will be used as a way to introduce yourself to the coaches you have on your list and provide them with the information needed to see if you are a match for their program. Keep the email very simple since it is the first contact you will have with the college and is to serve as an introduction for you. This will start the process of communication and begin to inform the coaches about you and your interest in their program. The goal is to have a list and emails ready to send out two weeks before your first tournament in January.

How CUVC handles the recruiting process

Late last year as a test run, CUVC partnered with Volleyballrecruits.net (also known as sportsrecruits.net) to test their communication and search platform. We were beyond impressed and it immediately made the process more efficient.

Why?

Volleyballrecruits is uniquely designed to allow the player and CUVC to do the following all from one platform:

- Perform a nationwide search with filters that include division, academic strength, size of school, location of school, region of school, and more.
- Email coaches directly from the platform without having to search for email addresses (for example, I can type in "Dayton" and the three coaches on staff will pop up.

- Post video and accomplishments.
- Include a full academic and athletic profile.
- Tag schools that you are interested in and that CUVC thinks would be a good fit.
- See which coaches have viewed your profile, watched your videos, and communicated with you.
- Allows players to copy CUVC recruiting coordinator and coach on all emails to coaches.
- Generates emails as coming from your email, not a randomized account.
- Keep all emails and communication in one, centralized location!

We have tried on our own to track all of this information on our own, but it the amount of time and energy saved using this platform just at the end of last season was incredible, and proved to us that it was worth the investment going forward.

So, we pre-purchased 60 slots for our kids that would like to utilize this platform. If we need more, we can add to that. The cost for your profile is just \$75. To register for your profile you need to click on the “Recruiting” tab at www.carolinauvc.com, and you can register from there. For those that have profiles already, they will stay in place until December 11th, at which point only those who have purchased spots will have access. This is about a 70% savings of what it would cost you to register with volleyballrecruits independently, and independent profiles do not allow us to work with you, to tag schools for you, to communicate with you through the profile, and beyond. We will be posting a video next week showing some of the many functions that volleyballrecruits offers, as well as what you would see from our side of the platform.

Recruiting services may start to contact you about representing you now that our season has started. These services want you to purchase an expensive package through them to help you through the recruiting process. We would highly advise you to stay away from these services. And, college coaches want to communicate with you and with us; not with outside recruiting services who don’t know you, your personality, your strengths and weaknesses, your desires, the unseen strengths that you have, and beyond.

Please read the links below to view articles discussing this same issue.

http://www.stltoday.com/sports/high-school/athletes-seek-help-finding-colleges-are-recruiting-services-the-answer/article_6162a3a9-618c-57c6-b9f9-d7f14baad0d4.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Recruitment is a long process and you need to have patience and persistence. Follow through and follow up are essential to the success of your process. College coaches will see the value in your ability to effectively communicate and follow up on information. You never get a second chance to make a first impression.

CUVC will be hosting a recruiting seminar on December 10th at 10am and again in January to answer some of your questions. We will discuss the process and have sample introductory letters and a list of further questions for you to consider when considering a college.

Our next newsletter will discuss creating videos and continuing communication with colleges.