



## 8 Keys To Being Recruited

### 1) Academics, Academics, Academics:

This should be, without a doubt, the #1 priority both at the high school and collegiate level. Why? Less than 1% of college volleyball players will have an opportunity to play at the professional level in the U.S or around the world. There just is not the opportunity in volleyball as there is in other sports. We know and understand the importance of playing volleyball competitively and for as long as possible. But in the end, you will need your academic background and interests to fall back on when the majority of you graduate from college. By excelling in academics both at the high school and collegiate level, you will be giving yourself more choices and opportunities to succeed in life after college to the point where you can now make a difference in your community and your life. We stress academics a great deal and put a great deal of emphasis on thinking about long term goals as well as short term goals.

### 2) Attitude, Work Ethic, Coachability:

These qualities in a person are very important. A coach can tell what type of desire and attitude you have by the way you act, practice and the effort you put forth on the court. This shouldn't be a problem, but it can be if you don't take it serious enough. One's attitude and work ethic is many times derived from by your family structure, self-discipline and how much you want something. Also, don't be afraid to be coached. Ask questions and try and learn or come away with something new each day. It is not about just soaking up all the great comments you get, but how do you take constructive criticism from coaches to help you improve as a player.

### 3) Individual Skill Development:

Never assume you are good enough to the point you don't work hard and decide that you can't improve anymore. Each person or player can improve in certain areas of their game. Continually work with your coaches and on an individual level, work to improve your athleticism, on court training and skills. You have not even reached your full potential yet and by continuing to put forth maximum effort you will become a better player. Attitude and work ethic are a big part of succeeding in this area. Don't be satisfied with where you are and be content. Create some individual goals that you would like to meet that are realistic and take the steps needed to meet them.

### 4) Don't Assume Anything:

Volleyball recruiting is highly aggressive and competitive. Just because you get a letter or questionnaire from a school does not make you a recruit. It is just one of the first steps in the recruiting process. Take your contacts from coaches seriously and respond back. Don't assume that since you have heard from them before that you will in the future. There are too many qualified student-athletes across the country working to attain the same goals and results you are. If you become passive and content and do not follow through, you can be putting yourself in a difficult situation. Instead of assuming things during the recruiting process, why not communicate your thoughts and questions to coaches instead. This way you are getting answers and creating a dialogue with coaches. Assumptions cause problems so be sure to ask.

### 5) Be Aggressive and Be Pro-Active:

**Being Aggressive:** What is meant by this is you should take an aggressive approach towards your collegiate future, both academically and athletically. Don't become content, but rather keep communicating and researching schools and programs to find new opportunities that meet your needs. Become the recruiter in a sense. If you receive info from colleges, respond, ask questions and let them know the interest you have in their program and university or college. When you are playing

volleyball, usually the team that is more aggressive, focused, has a set game plan and executes all parts of the plan will come out on top. Take the same concept and incorporate it into your recruiting plan and you will get great results.

**Being Pro-Active:** This correlates directly into being aggressive. Don't sit back and wait for things to happen. Believe it or not, many college coaches start contacting and learning about 'prospective student-athletes' in ones freshman and sophomore years. With many college coaches actually looking 2-3 years out in some cases, it is vitally important that you understand the importance of starting early and getting recognized and communicating with coaches early instead of waiting for your senior year to arrive.

#### **6) Think Long Term, Not Just Short Term:**

This goes back to academics. When looking at schools, try to look at other aspects of a college as well and not just the volleyball program. Things you should be looking at are: 1) does the college have your academic major of choice, 2) size of school, 3) location or region of the country, 4) other groups or organizations you may be interested in on campus, 5) size of classes, 6) graduation rates, 7) schools retention rate of returning students, 8) campus life and living conditions, social life and many other areas that you feel are important for you. By choosing a school that meets your academic needs, you will be working towards becoming successful in life after college.

#### **7) Understanding the Recruiting Process:**

This is by far one of our biggest priorities. The very first step is to inform the player and parents with better education of the recruiting process. A majority of the families don't have a great deal of understanding of what is all involved. The goal of these resources is to give parents and players as many tools as we can to be educated about the process. The old saying is, the better prepared you are the better the results you can attain. Don't take this part of the recruiting process for granted, it is very important.

#### **8 ) Visit, Visit, Visit**

Depending on where you are at in the recruiting process there is a high likelihood that you do not know exactly what you want in a school. What better way to figure this out than visit as many schools as you can? Mix in a variety to see everything you can. Maybe you want to be in a city setting. Or maybe that's too busy so you want something more rural. Some of you will enjoy a school with a large student population. Others will prefer a much smaller student body. This process will help you prioritize what you like and will shape your future choices. Maybe you can cross a few schools off of your list because they all have a quality you definitely don't want. Visiting schools can be costly, but if you are able to, visit as many schools as you can.