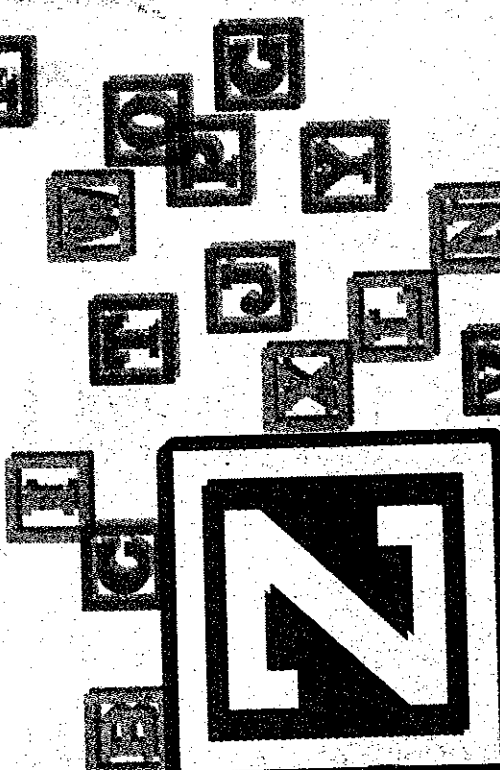


FROM A TO Z



There's a lot to understand about the recruiting process. From the rules to the ins and outs to the unspoken realities. Let this primer help you out a little bit so that you know how to play the game...

ATHLETICISM

Probably the No. 1 thing coaches notice, you can improve yours by strength training, conditioning and working hard on improving your speed, power, agility and all that.



BACK-TO-BASICS

Work on your fundamentals. Besides sheer athleticism, coaches look for the players that make throwing, catching, bunting, hitting and baserunning look routine.



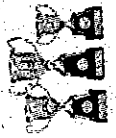
CAMPS & CLINICS

Attending college camps and clinics at schools you are interested in is a great way to not only get noticed but also to see if you fit well with the coaching staff and environment.



DIVISIONS

Only about 25 percent of the 1,100 schools are at the NCAA Division I level. That means that 75 percent of the athletes playing four-year college softball are not at Division I schools.



EDUCATION

After all, that is the point right? Do your research about the school and make sure the school is a good fit for you academically. Most importantly take care of your academics in high school.

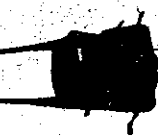


FULL RIDES



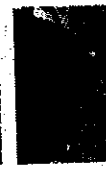
They're rare! Even at 'fully funded' programs, 12 scholarships (Division I) are broken down among 20 players, so most players will receive only partial scholarships and some will be walk-ons.

GEAR



Carry your own, for pete's sake! Respect and take care of it too. College coaches watch who takes care of their glove and who has a "patecake" and who throws their bat into the dugout.

HARD WORK



You wouldn't believe how many coaches that have work as the No. 1 key to success. There are no shortcuts and nothing more impressive than a player who outworks everybody else.

INTEREST



As in, show it! If you are fired up about a certain program, make sure the coach knows it. As long as it's realistic, do what it takes to get there. There are so many players, you have to market yourself.

JUNIOR COLLEGES



The NJCAA governs about 400 Division I, Division II and Division III two-year schools. Only NJCAA Div. I and Div. II schools can offer scholarships based on athletic ability; Div. III cannot.

KNOWLEDGE



Game knowledge can set you apart from the other recruits. Pay attention to the little details in games, and there's no easier way to impress coaches to watch softball. Take advantage of



SCHOLARSHIPS



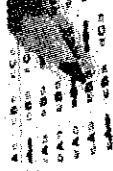
Only about half of all colleges offer any form of softball scholarships. (Div. III and Ivy League schools). That being said... there's tons of financial aid out there, so do not let money deter you from your No.

LEADERSHIP



An extremely valuable commodity to college coaches. Work on developing your leadership skills - be the one player on your team that coaches look to help push everybody else.

TESTING



Taking the ACT or SAT early on is a huge help to college coaches, not to mention it gives you time to improve your score over time.

MENTAL GAME



You hear about it all the time, but have you worked on it? The mental game can have a bigger effect on your results than the physical. Take time to educate yourself and figure out what works for you.

UNOFFICIAL VISITS



Take as many unofficials as you can, but be aware of NCAA dead periods and mindful of coaches' time, especially during season. Do not expect every school to lay out the red carpet.

NEVER TOO LATE



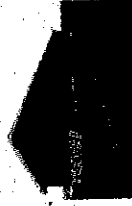
There is a place for every dedicated softball player out there. Just because you do not compete early does not mean there isn't a home for you.

VERBALS



If you make a verbal commitment to a school, have the common courtesy to tell other coaches recruiting you that you have made a decision.

OFF-THE-FIELD



Sometimes more important than on-the-field coaches are watching your interaction with your coaches and teammates, athletes, etc. when you aren't in the action.

WEAKNESSES



Try to pay attention to what you struggle with the most, and talk to your coaches about it. Work hard to improve the parts of your game that aren't your best.

PARENTS



Make sure your parent is not the obnoxious one yelling in the stands! And have a conversation about your college softball goals... make sure you are on the same page.

X'S & O'S



Remember that coaches are looking for certain basic physical skills: baserunning ability, fielding strength and batting skills. You have to work on improving these fundamentals constantly.

QUESTIONING...



Yourself or your game? College coaches want confident athletes, not cocky ones... individuals who trust themselves. So if you are in a "fake-it-till-you-make-it!"

YOUTUBE



For your skills video - it's the easiest method for both you and coaches. Email the link to schools in which you are interested. Keep it short and highlight your strengths.

REALISTIC



As in, be realistic - have both your dream schools and backup schools on your list, because chances are your dream school won't meet your

ZOOM IN



Pick 5-10 schools that are a good academic fit and get your information to them. Fill out their questionnaire, send them a skills video and a schedule, and try to go to one of their camps.