

U15 (Freshman Year): Research and Preparation

As a Freshman in high school, the thought of college and potentially playing college soccer is still a long-term goal. While this year is not a prime recruiting time for most college coaches, there are still steps to be taken by the player in this early stage of the recruitment process:

-Identify potential College Options: Players at this age can begin formulating a list of schools that might be of interest to them. Within this list should be a wide range of schools across all divisions and in a variety of geographic locations. At this point in time, take soccer out of the equation and determine the type of school that is right for you. Don't feel the need to limit/restrict this list. This is an early time in the college search and players' preferences are bound to change over the course of the next few years. There are several resources at players' disposal to aid them in this research. A few are listed below:

-princetonreview.com

-www.collegeboard.com

-College Navigator: nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

-US News College Rankings

-Contemplate College Soccer: College athletics are not for everyone and they do require a certain level of commitment. This is a time when players can start deciding whether or not they have an interest in playing collegiate soccer. There are definite benefits to being a part of a collegiate team, but as many players will confess, there are drawbacks as well.

-Prepare Academically: While only in the first year of their high school experience, players should remember that entry into college is first and foremost about your academic pedigree. Getting a head start on a solid GPA is a good first step toward ensuring that you have as many college opportunities available to you as possible. Don't limit your choice of school by performing poorly in the classroom.