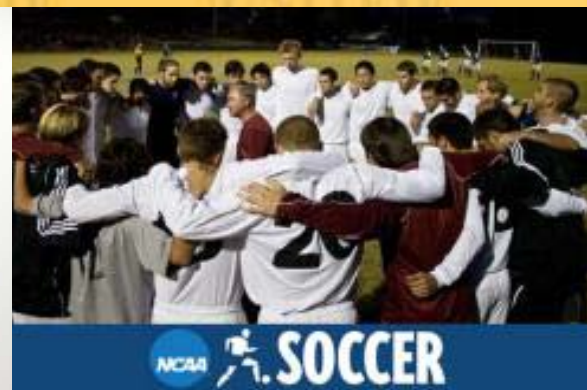


# SRU College Night

April 14<sup>th</sup> , 2010

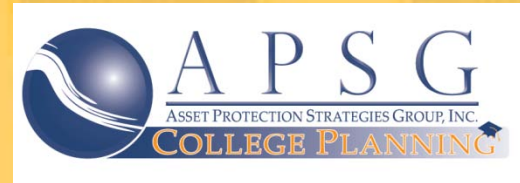


An overview of the college recruiting process



# Josh Sterling, CCPS

- DOC to CCPS
  - SSU, SCA, SRHS, SSU, ID2 and ODP
  - Previous Workshops for soccer only
    - Now!
  - National Institution of Certified College Planners
- APSG College Planning-
  - Admissions
  - Funding



# A few questions

- What year does the player graduate?
- How many parents have been through college recruitment process before?
- What is it that you really want to know or learn?



# Observations

## Main observations

- Families start too late, but better late than never
- Families want information and help, but do not know where to turn or conflicting information
- Not all situations are the same (soccer, funding, planning, academics)
- Families go about the process backwards



# ***Want to become a college student-athlete?***

You have to have G.A.M.E. !

- G-** Grades and test scores
- A-** Ability
- M-** Motivation, are you willing to put in the necessary work
- E-** Exposure



# 7 things you need to know!

1. Search for your “Best Fit” school(s)
2. Know how much college really costs
3. Know requirements and have a timeline
4. Timely communication is important
5. College Visits are crucial to your search
6. Know you are always showcasing yourself



# Academic “Best Fit”

- 25% of students graduate in 4 years?
- 50% graduates in 5 or more years?
- Average graduation rate at public colleges is 6.1 years?
- 27% do not return for sophomore year
- 33% of students transfer

**Finding your “Best Fit” schools will mean a happy and productive student!**

**This also saves you money!**



# The Search

**Location** – is the location of this college satisfactory to your needs?

**Size** - is the size of this college satisfactory to your needs?

**Talent Program** – does this college have a talent program that meets the student's needs (theater, newspaper, debate team)?

**Special Program** – does this college have special programs or facilities that the student needs or must have (learning disabilities, special medical facilities, etc.)?

**Co-op Programs** – does this college have an academic co-op (study/work) program in the student's major that can reduce your college costs and help the student achieve employment after graduation?

**Job Placement** – does this college have a Placement Office that places a high number of students in jobs prior to graduation?



# The Search

**Religion** – does this college have a religious program that fits your needs?

**Attrition** – Does this college have a high number of freshmen that graduate within five years?

**Student/Faculty Ratio** – does this college have a low student to faculty ratio to guarantee a more interactive classroom participation and personal faculty attention for the student?

**Faculty with PhDs** – does this college have a high number of faculty with PhDs?

**Campus Setting** – is this college located in a desirable area or neighborhood?

**Safety** – does this college's campus have adequate security and a good safety reputation?



# The Search

**Student Body Reputation** – does this college's student body reputation fit the student's personality?

**Diversity** – does the student mix at this college fit the student's personality?

**Housing** – is this college's housing (and housing policy) satisfactory to your needs?

**Food** – is the on-campus food at this college satisfactory to your needs?

**Weather** – is this college located in a climate that is satisfactory to your needs?

**Athletic Program** – Soccer program and other sporting events/programs



# The Search- Soccer Questions

- Does school offer academic counseling for athletes?
- How many players graduate? In 4 years? 5 years?
- How many scholarships does the school offer?
- What is the off-season program like?
- How many seniors on the team the year before you attend?
- How many freshmen are starting? Traveling?
- How successful has the team been the last 3 years? Last year?
- Where is the coach from? Style? Do you like his/her personality?
- What system? Style- possession, direct, attacking, etc.?
- What are the facilities like? Weight room? Stadium? Training room? Locker room?



# College is EXPENSIVE!

## 2009 Annual Cost

Junior College	Varies
California State	\$20,000
UC California	\$28,000
Out of State Public	\$32,000
Private	\$48,000

(Tuition, room and board, books, computer & transportation)

**Good chance this is a 5 year cost!**



# Popular and Local College Costs

## 2009 Annual Costs

Sonoma State University	\$ 21,550
San Diego State	\$ 22,002
UC Santa Cruz	\$ 26,338
UC Santa Barbra	\$ 27,257
UC Berkeley	\$ 28,312
University of San Francisco	\$ 46,290
San Diego University	\$ 47,870
USC	\$ 53,618



# Cost over 5 years

Average 6.8% Educational Inflation

Assuming your student starts tomorrow

Averages:

California State	\$118,000
UC California	\$165,000
Out of State Public	\$190,000
Private	\$285,000

**BUT THIS IS NOT THE REAL COST!**

**You must pay with AFTER- TAX dollars!**



# Tips for every grade

- Develop and review your goals and objectives
- Set academic goals that exceed NCAA requirements
- Participate in high school extra-curricular activities
- Keep record of ALL academic and athletic achievements and statistics
- Meet with your College Guidance Counselor
- Work to get good grades and establish good study habits
- Be sure your taking appropriate classes
- Create an organized filing system



# Tips for every grade (cont)

- Visit as many colleges as possible-UNOFFICIAL VISITS
- Participate on high school team- Freshman/JV or Varsity
- Participate in soccer programs and camps for exposure to more
- Read and study about colleges, college soccer and the recruiting process
- Watch college, MLS, European games whenever possible
- Continue to improve as a soccer player (put work in when nobody is watching)
- Meet regularly with your SRU coach to get a realistic evaluation



# Grade Level Guide- Freshmen

- Try to learn from Junior and Senior players about the recruiting process
- Create first list of colleges you may be interested in
- Create a 4-year academic plan
- Begin to create a Student Player Profile / resume to send to coaches
- Over the summer, update your Profile and send out with a Cover letter to college coaches that you have an interest in



# Grade Level Guide- Sophomore

- Take the most difficult classes that you can handle
- Attend College Nights or College fairs
- Start a list of colleges (contact list) you are interested based on academics, social and soccer
  - At least 10-20 schools
  - Begin to send information to these schools (the more they hear your name, the better)
  - Request information from your contact list
- Look to attend Summer Camps by Colleges or other organizations if it makes sense
- Begin considering future careers you may be interested in
- Take PSAT and PLAN
  - Evaluate your test scores and seek assistance in areas of weakness



# Grade Level Guide- Junior

- Recognize that this is arguably the most important year of your high school career
  - Colleges often put a heavy emphasis on junior year grades
  - Be prepared to put in extra study time
- Register for NCAA Clearing House - [ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://ncaaclearinghouse.net)
- Start to gather letter of recommendations (if needed)
- Begin to research Financial Aid resources
- Register and/or take PSAT or SAT, ACT (TOEFEL)
- College level should you target? Ask coaches?
- Send letter of interest and resume to college coaches or continue communication
- Begin or continue research on colleges you have interest in. Involve parents, counselors, coaches, professionals
- Make unofficial visits to the schools that interest you



Grade Level- Senior

Contact me



# Communication

- Initial contact- resume and letter
  - Who you are, what you do and why their school
- Coaches want players that are truly interested in their college and show it
- All calls, emails, questionnaires should be returned promptly
- Follow-ups- more contacts, schedule reminders, accomplishment updates, etc.
- Ask questions!



# Campus Visit

- **Information Session**
- **Visit Admissions**
- **Support Services**
- **School Activities**
- **Class Environment**
- **Campus Environment**
- **Community**
- **Financial Aid Office**
- **Career Placement**
- **Department Head**
- **Athletic Department**
- **Coach**



# Showcasing yourself

- Someone is always watching
- Before, during, halftime, and after the game
- Give your best effort and showcase your strengths
- They are watching you not the scoreboard
- Give your team the best chance to showcase well
- Team success and individual player's participating in the recruiting process can add to the college coaches that attend the games



# Myths

- **If colleges don't contact you first they are not interested- WRONG.** Very few players are pursued without them putting in effort to let the college know who they are and where they play.
- **If I don't play ODP I can't play college-WRONG.** Honestly, State, Regional or National team experience will definitely help your cause, but if you don't play it won't ruin your chances to play college soccer.
- **I have to get a scholarship- WRONG.** There is financial aid, grants, loans, academic scholarships and jobs. Very few players get full-rides. It is usually a combination of the list above.



# Myths

- **If the school I want to really go to doesn't recruit me I am not a very good soccer player- WRONG.** Sometimes players of lesser talent get chosen over you based on various reasons:
  - Teams style of play- counter-attack teams need fast players, 3-4-3 needs a strong target player
  - Coach saw you during a bad game
  - No players graduating in your position
- **If your grades or test scores are too low the coach will get you in- WRONG.** It does happen occasionally if the coach really wants you and you are close to the standard for general acceptance. If you don't have the right courses or you are not cleared by the clearinghouse generally the coach cannot help you.
- **If I haven't signed with a college by March of my senior year I can't play college soccer-WRONG.** Some players decide late. You're better off deciding as early as possible so that you can plan, but not everyone is able to make a quick decision.



# What next?

Sign in sheet for emails

Additional seminars/workshops

– Topics, gender, age groups, etc

Updated website with easy to use resources

Exploring new online programs to better serve SRU families

Exploring various ideas to get college coaches to Trione

Contact- Josh Sterling

Email- [josh@apsgcollegeplanning.com](mailto:josh@apsgcollegeplanning.com)



# SAT v ACT

- Aptitude/Reasoning (SAT) vs Achievement (ACT)
- Essay
  - ACT – 4 subjects and optional Essay question
  - SAT – 3 subjects and mandatory essay question
- Different Scoring Methods
  - ACT awards up to 36 points for a given section
  - SAT awards points up to 800 per section
  - SAT subtracts partial (1/4) points for wrong answers
  - ACT does not penalize for wrong answers
- Virtually every college accepts scores from either test
- Experimenting with each is a good idea

