

## Top Ten College Myths vs Realities for student-athletes

*# 10 Myth- My stats/ all-conf. status will attract college coaches and land me a scholarship, I really don't have to worry about my grades, I am going to college to play sports.*

Reality- college coaches are not reading the papers and researching H.S. awards, rather they will recruit kids they like and they feel will help them win. Stats help, but no one offers scholarships or roster spots based solely on high school stats. And college is not about playing sports. It's about earning a meaningful education. Securing your sports arrangement requires focus and attention to your academics. One thing a coach dislikes greatly is losing a good player to academic ineligibility.

*# 9 Myth- A four year college degree will take four years, the college will make sure of that*

Reality- not likely. The national average time it takes to complete a four year degree is 5.8 years. The national average for on-time graduation is 37%. The national average times a student changes their major is 3. The college is a provider of educational services and you are their customer, just like any business relationship. Don't think for a minute that changing majors is by chance, rather, it is more by design of the college to keep you as a tuition-paying client for as long as possible. Buy more services, extend your term. The likelihood of graduating on time is becoming less and less now.

*# 8 Myth- I am just a sophomore, this is too early to worry about*

Reality- no one has ever said they started too early, In fact, certain college qualifications can begin to be built upon in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. And one thing is for certain, the recruiting timeline **waits for no one**. The competition for roster spots and scholarship awards is intensifying each year. It is in your best interests to build value with colleges and their coaches. Although coaches may not need to know you as a sophomore, it is good for you to announce your college intentions to coaches at some time during your sophomore year.

*# 7 Myth- I will lose my scholarship if either-*

myth- *I get injured; coaches will not pull your scholarships due to injuries*

myth- *I don't make the team; being cut is not a cause for losing scholarships*

reality- *I quit playing; expect to lose your scholarship for next year*

reality- *I get into trouble on campus or in town; you could, depends on situation*

reality- *I don't make my grades; no doubt, this can cost you your scholarship*

Note- Do something detrimental to the team/ school, and you will lose your scholarship.

*# 6 Myth- I emailed coaches and have not heard from them...they must not be interested*

Reality- we hear this all the time. Coaches are getting slammed with emails. They don't arrive in their office early in the morning to look for your email. They come in to take care of their many tasks and responsibilities, even those aside from coaching like scheduling, budgeting, and planning. You have to move beyond emails to phone conversations with coaches. It's important to have polite persistence in this pursuit. It's your future at stake, not theirs.

**# 5 Myth- *My scholarship guarantees that I will be accepted by admissions and make the team***

Reality- more and more often this is coming up. People get scholarship offers and assume a college admission acceptance comes along with it. FALSE. Your scholarship guarantees close attention and consideration, but not admission acceptance. You still have to apply and qualify for admissions. Players think their status as a scholarship athlete gives them credibility on the team and a sure opportunity to play. FALSE. You still have to show up and perform well enough to earn credibility and playing time. Do not expect guarantees nor promises to be tied to your scholarship.

**# 4 Myth- *My high school or club coach will get me recruited, it is their job to do***

Reality- this has long been a top 5 myth and will remain here for a long time. The reality is no, it's not their job to find you a college, nor are many qualified to do so. It is your college and your job to find the right one! Your high school and club coach have their own life, their own family, and their own career to attend to, not yours. They may stake claims of their ability to help you, often stating "I have contacts..." but it is your job to market yourself to coaches from colleges matching your qualifications.

**# 3 Myth- *I got some emails from coaches...they invited me to their camp, they must be recruiting me***

Reality- coaches are getting lists from camps and sending out emails to build their own email list. Most emails are sent by assistant coaches for the purpose of drumming up interest in their camp. We call it "Surface Recruiting". Emails from assistant coaches do not typically represent substantive interest. However, if the college is of interest to you, then call the coach right away and ask them specifically what interest they have in you. Only then will you get a sense of their interest level.

**# 2 Myth- *The more expensive school is the better school***

Reality- A new one to the top 10. People are believing the more it cost, the better it is. Colleges are increasing their tuition rates at an alarming clip, primarily for 3 reasons- 1) they can; 2) They want you to believe if you pay more, then it's worth more. Increasing price is their marketing strategy to create perceived value...and it's working; 3) Econ 101, chapter 1 says when demand exceeds supply, prices go up, and they are, just like their endowment funds. But, it's simply not true that colleges are getting better at delivering their educational services, certainly not at the rate tuition rates are climbing.

**And #1 Myth- *If you are good enough to play college sports, then college coaches will find you***

Reality- long been the # 1 recruiting myth. The reality is college coaches are not looking for you. Chances are they don't know you. Rather, they are taking care of their own team which is at least 100 times more important to them. But, they are willing to consider recruiting you if they come to know of your interest and qualifications. So it's up to you to take the initiative and it's your job to find and secure the right college. Granted, coaches from top DI colleges will search for and find the top 1 percent of players, leaving the remaining 99 percent to contend for the balance of open roster spots. Plenty of good players secure college roster spots while better players are sitting around hoping, waiting, and wishing for a call to come in.

**And the # 1 reality- *College costs are negotiable***

**Reality # 2- *College coaches are recruiting good kids,***