



Sports scholarships: Beyond the Basics

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Sports scholarships beyond the basics:

- NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA?
- Eligibility
- Amateurism. Definition and pitfalls
- Assessing your level of play – the real challenge
- Athlete presentations – beyond the athletic CV
- **NCAA Eligibility Center live Q&A session!**



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NCAA, NAIA or NJCAA?

“I want to be the next Michael Jordan, but I don't want to go to North Carolina – what other choices do I have?”



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NCAA

- DI: Typically larger institutions. Offer substantial grants-in-aid
 - 323; 10,000
- DII: Smaller to medium size institutions. Offer grants-in-aid
 - 283; 3,000
- DIII: Largest division, smallest schools. No grants-in-aid
 - 424; 2,000



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Benefits of NCAA Schools

- DI typically has the name recognition and hardest competition
- DI and DII offer the most scholarships
- DIII has become a breeding ground for professional athletes despite keeping true to its mission



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NAIA

- 300+ schools
- 90% offer grants-in-aid
- DI and DII



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Benefits of NAIA Schools

- Plenty of scholarship opportunities at typically smaller schools
- Fewer recruiting restrictions with greater opportunity for contact between prospective students and college recruiters
- Maximum opportunities to participate in regular season contests and national championships
- Flexibility to transfer without missing a season of eligibility



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NJCAA

- 3 Divisions
- 525 members
- Most offer grants-in-aid
- Terrific two-year framework for transferring



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General Scholarship Info

Each sport has limits on the amount of aid that can be given (NAIA example):

- Baseball — 12
- Basketball (Division I) — 11
- Basketball (Division II) — 6
- Cross Country — 5
- Football — 24
- Golf — 5
- Soccer — 12
- Softball — 10
- Swimming & Diving — 8
- Tennis — 5
- Track & Field — 12
- Wrestling — 8
- Volleyball — 8



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Getting a Scholarship Tips

- Coach to Coach Contact
- US Tournaments
- Exchange year at US school
- **Transfer potential from two-year schools**



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Beyond the Scholarship- Who Should I Choose?

- Playing time
- Coaching philosophy
- Competition
- Sport/Class Relationship
- Size of program
- Support structure for success



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Why Should You Really Choose that School?

- College environment
- Major
- Size of school
- Graduation Rate
- Opportunities after graduation
 - GA



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Broken Leg Test

- If you couldn't play sports would you go to school there?



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Amateurism Red Flags

- Receiving \$ (even prize money)
- Signing a contract with a professional team
- Playing with pro athletes
- Trying out for a pro team
- Signing with an agent



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NJCAA Eligibility

- Works with NCAA Eligibility Center
- Non-US citizen restrictions:
 - No more than two (2) non U.S. citizens on athletic aid may compete in the NJCAA Cross Country Championship.
 - No more than one (1) non U.S. citizen on athletic aid may compete in the NJCAA Half Marathon Championship.
 - No more than seven (7) non U.S. citizens on athletic aid may compete in the NJCAA Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field Championship.
- Brian Beck:
 - bbeck@njcaa.org



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NAIA Eligibility

- Beginning in the fall of 2010, students that wish to participate in athletics at a member institution will need to be certified by the NAIA Eligibility Center in order to qualify academically and be cleared as an eligible student-athlete for competition beginning in 2011.
- **An incoming freshman international student must meet the entering freshman requirements:**
 - If the GPA and class rank for an international student cannot be determined from a transcript, the student can be ruled eligible by meeting the specific institution's admission criteria for international students and by meeting the following NAIA criteria:
 - A score of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT
 - Meet the entering freshman requirements as defined for students from each country in the most current *Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility*, published by the NCAA (based on AACRAO guidelines).



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NAIA Eligibility Contacts

- Marcus Manning, director of membership services
 - mmanning@naia.org
- John Leavens, senior vice president for membership services
 - jleavens@naia.org



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NCAA Eligibility Center

- Move from Clearinghouse to Eligibility Center in 2006
 - 80,000 academic certifications from June – August
-
- 877-622-2321
 - Eligibilitycenter.org
 - Ncaastudent.org



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NCAA Eligibility for Counselors:

1. List of approved courses
2. Sending transcripts to eligibility center
3. Submitting fee waivers

– *Secondary School Administration portal is changing in the next six months*



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Core Course Requirements

- International students approval in math, science, social science.
 - English has separate approval process for ESL students
- Exceptions for students with documented learning disabilities
- DIII – no set rules – all institutional



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Professional athlete or not?

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- Professional athlete or not?



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- So you are professional, no college sports for you then, or?
- Source: Matthew Marz, NCAA Clearinghouse, mmarz@ncaa.org



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- Stay away from:
 - Gap year
 - Agents!?



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Sports scholarships

- Popular, but...difficult to get
- "High maintenance" advising
- I was giving all the right information, and lots of it, but I was doing it **WRONG**
- Few success stories
- If trying harder doesn't work...



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different!

...try



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My goal:

- Give students the resources they need to become their own "agents/experts"
- Provide information that is useful to them, at their level



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Students' goals:

- Opportunity to combine education and athletics
- Get money for college
- Receive as many admissions/scholarship offers as possible – pick the best one
- Become their own experts



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My (new) strategy

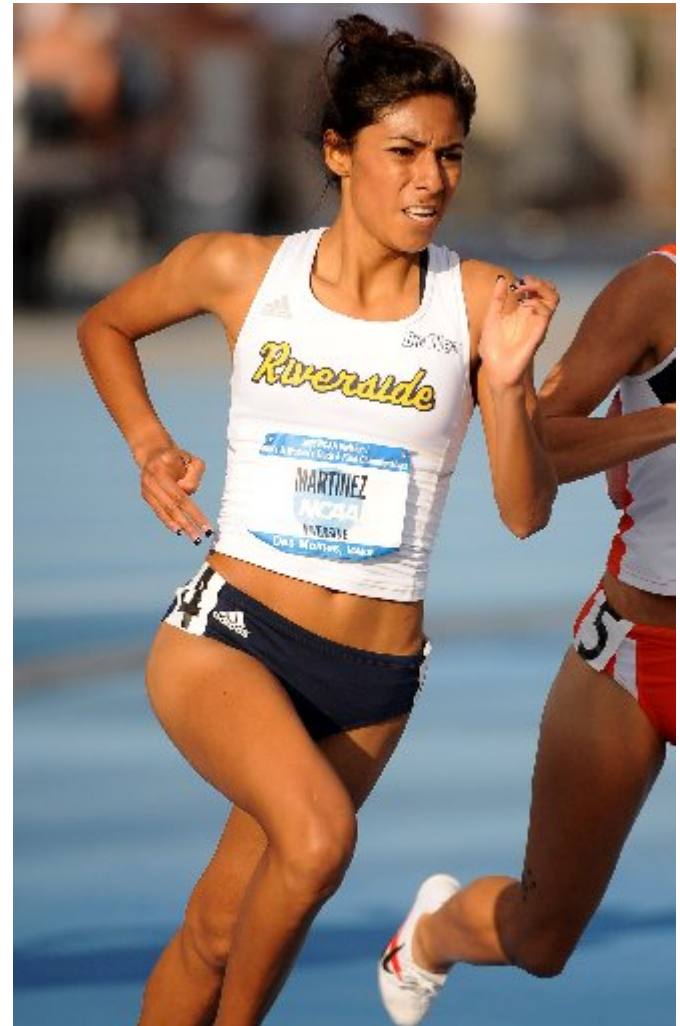
- No point in going through minute details on NCAA Div I and II eligibility rules to an audience where less than 10% has the chance to play these divisions
- **Begin from the "bottom" – NJCAA, NAIA, NCAA Div III – all excellent alternatives**



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The real challenge:

ASSESSING YOUR LEVEL OF PLAY



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How good are you?

- **Easy:** Track and field, swimming, golf
- **Difficult:** team sports such as soccer; tennis
- **Goal:** you want to be good enough to be of value to the team, but not ten times better than the rest of the team.



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How does my performance compare to...

- My teammates?
- My competitors?
- Local and national standards?
- ***Players of college teams in the US?***



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How?

- Ask for objective advice – e.g. coach
- Go to www.berecruited.com, compare with other athletes' CVs.
- Know your college sports teams (“read the sports pages”). How do you measure up?
- Be brutally honest.



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What is a coach looking for?

- Are you coachable?
- Are you a positive team member?
- Are you competitive?
- Are you mentally tough?
- Show, don't tell!



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Athlete Presentations:

BEYOND THE ATHLETIC CV

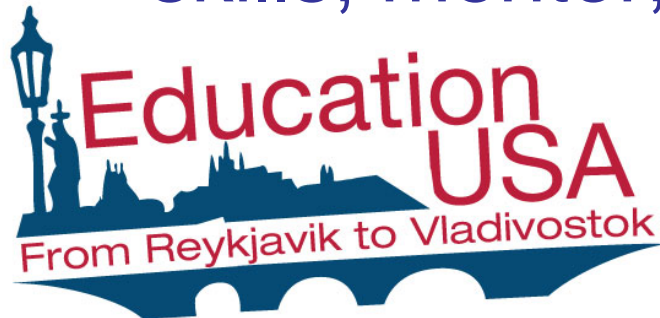


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The Well-Rounded Student

- **50% Athletics:** size, speed, projectibility, skill level, strength
- **25% Academics:** GPA, Core GPA, class rank, ACT/SAT, TOEFL, Eligibility
- **25% Intangibles:** Character, leadership, work ethic, follow-up, communication skills, mentor, competitive, exposure.



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Student presentation "packet"

- **Well-written point of contact e-mail**
- **Sports bio/CV**
- **Video**
- Coach recommendations
- Upcoming tournament appearances
- Other media (articles, official listings, etc)



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Point of contact e-mail

- Google the coach/team beforehand
- "Dear Coach LastName:"
- Briefly mention recent wins, interviews, etc
- Short, concise presentation of student
- ***Why am I a good fit for your team?***
- Serious e-mail (not waybetterthanbeckham@hotmail.com)
- "Smart" attachments (Olsen_anne_CV.doc)



Sports CV

- Great resource:
<http://www.collegesportsscholarships.com/resume.htm>
- Also go to www.berecruited.com to see how other athletes present themselves – statistics, results, etc.



Video

- Not too long, 4-5 minutes
- Begin with closeup, present yourself, wear team shirt
- Highlights
- Be visible!
 - Digital highlights or visible clothing
- Post on web



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More on video

- "Every student athlete needs a highlight and skills video to convey their athletic abilities to college coaches. These videos are now typically streamed online and sent through e-mail. The best videos are digitally enhanced, sequenced properly and have spot shadowing."
- "Your video must focus on what college coaches want to see. Make them want to watch you!"
- "In this age of YouTube, you can be in the back woods of Alaska and coaches can find you," observes David Ridpath, an assistant professor of sports administration at Ohio University.



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Strategy

- Send point-of-contact e-mail
- Follow up with phone call (Skype)
- Keep coach updated throughout season with accomplishments, wins



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Odds and ends:

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS... DID YOU KNOW?



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Did You know...

- **Title IX**
- Title IX stipulates that schools has to offer to women what they offer to men. That is, just as many athletic scholarships. Sounds uncomplicated until you realize that so many scholarships go to men to play football. And there is no equivalent sport for women.



Title IX issues...

- Best chance of snagging a scholarship: women rowers. According to a NYT analysis, 2,359 high school girls rowed and 2,295 captured a rowing scholarship. Average amount: \$9,723.
- NCAA bowling scholarships: only for women.
- Wanted: women soccer players



Did you know?

- Ivy league schools play Division I sports but offer no athletic scholarships
- Swimmers who compete in several events and strokes are more sought after. Same for long distance runners as opposed to field and sprint.
- Cheerleading is not recognized by any of the athletic associations as a sport, but there are 225+ colleges and community colleges that offer full and partial cheerleading scholarships



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Good resource:

- Messy website, but with lots of good information on sports CVs, how to write letters, and more:
- <http://www.collegesportsscholarships.com/>



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Essential: get to know US college sports!

- <http://espn.go.com/college-sports/>
- <http://www.ncaa.com/>
- <http://www.njcaa.org/index.cfm>
- <http://naia.cstv.com/>
- www.youtube.com

