



## 4 College Recruiting Mistakes to Avoid When You're the Best Player on Your Team

A lot of high school players and their families believe that being the best player on their teams is their ticket to playing at the college level. The truth is that star high school athletes are likely to make some assumptions about their ability that will undermine their chances of playing in college. Here are four college recruiting mistakes based on assumptions of talent that you must avoid.

**The player and/or the family thinks the player is actually better than he or she is.**

Players in sports where wins are measured by time or distance generally have a pretty accurate view of their ability. After all, they only have to compare their numbers with those posted by college teams. It's more difficult for everyone else.

Players need to take every opportunity available to have themselves evaluated by different coaches against different players. It's easy to fall into the trap of believing that you can judge your ability because you have played other teams and haven't seen anyone as good as you. Unless you play the equivalent of post-season championship games on a regular basis, this is a dangerous assumption.

Players need to know how they match up by the common physical standards for their sport and position. Are they smaller than the average D1 player or have lower general stats? These by themselves don't necessarily indicate an athlete's true ability. However, it will be a perception that the athlete will have to work to overcome.

The best thing an athlete can do is to get an evaluation by someone who knows nothing about him or the "quality" of his league or conference.

## **You're good enough to make up for poor grades.**

Your grades may have been good enough in high school to keep you competing but that's not necessarily going to be the case in college. If you're looking for a scholarship, you have to meet minimum academic standards. These are [NCAA/NAIA](#) rules, the coaches can't make an exception for you because you are just that good. If you can't meet the standards, it doesn't matter how good you are.

And remember, some conferences have even stricter standards for their conference. There just aren't that many coaches out there running out of potential recruits--if you don't have the academic qualifications, they simply go to the next recruit.

## **You think that you're good enough for the coaches to find you.**

This mistake appeared in last week's list of [general recruiting mistakes](#). I'm including it again because too many athletes believe that because they are stars on their teams, they obviously have the ability needed to play at the college level and coaches will be falling all over themselves to recruit them. I covered the numbers issue previously. This time I want to talk about the ability aspect.

Let's assume that you are really as good as you think you are. Are you that much better than the other players that are taking the initiative to contact the coaches that you think should be recruiting you? Think about it. The coach can [recruit a player](#) who has contacted him, provided him with the appropriate recruiting material, and shows interest in his school. Or the coach can go scouring high school reports for a player who might have the ability to play but hasn't shown any interest in the coaches' school or might not even meet the minimum academic requirements. Which do you think is easier for the coach?

## **Assume they'll be recruited because they're better than other athletes being recruited.**

When star athletes see players of lesser ability being recruited, they often think that "if Joe is being recruited, there are going to be plenty of colleges that want

me." To begin with, if a player is truly that much better than Joe, those colleges aren't going to look at you and say "why are we wasting time with Joe?" They assume that you'll be playing at a different level and won't waste their recruiting efforts on you. I guess you could consider this a compliment but I suspect most players would rather be recruited than complimented.

Furthermore, you really don't know how other coaches are rating Joe's ability, especially to play a position different than yours. Joe may also have some technique the coach prefers for his players or had a great showing at a showcase or camp that you didn't attend. It could also be that coaches find Joe easier to recruit because of his grades and he has [let the coach know](#) he's interested in playing for him.

Next week we'll look at financial mistakes in the recruiting process.

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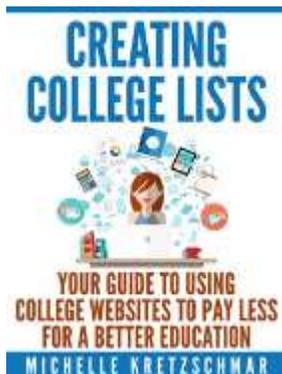
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