

Tips for Collegiate-Bound Softball Players

See also [Myndie Berka's](#) additional resources on recruiting guidelines, financial aid, etc.

- GO TO COLLEGE CAMPS.

Be proactive and showcase yourself to the schools YOU want by going to their camps.* There are recruiting agents out there who charge big bucks to “get your name out there”, but ***YOU are your best advocate***. Put yourself in front of a coach you want to play for so they can see your hustle and experience your personality more than just looking at a video you may send or stats they can look up. Coaches want top-notch people, not just top-notch athletes. So, contact the coach ahead of time and tell them of your interest in their program. Make sure you've looked things up about their previous season and comment about that. Express that you'd like to schedule a college visit and a meeting with them the same day you're in town for the camp. This personal approach of you being proactive is your ***best plan of action!***
Note: Go to each individual college's web site to get info on current coaches, camp/clinic dates, conference, division, cost, admission requirements, etc.

- MAKE ACADEMICS A PRIORITY.

Your grades are a big deal. Great grades are a good indicator that the athlete has time-management skills, a solid work ethic, and potential for a high softball IQ. (Also, college coaches want players who will be eligible to play!) The better grades you have, the more opportunity you have to earn academic scholarships, too, which coaches really love.

- MAKE ATHLETIC TRAINING A PART OF DAILY ROUTINE.

Make it a priority to be at the weight room regularly. Agility drills would be very helpful. Go out for other sports so you experience different coaching styles, develop other muscle groups, and improve your coordination.

- PLAY OUTSIDE OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL SEASON.

Get involved with a travel team if it fits your family's schedule / priorities / etc. This one might be tricky or unavailable... but many that get recruited generally play on a team (usually more intense than a school team that plays fall or spring ball just to stay sharp). I played with a team in Omaha. There are organizations here in Iowa [see notes at end of this doc, but reach out for most up-to-date info].

- CONSIDER WHAT LEVEL.

- Community college (2 year) - good place to start when you're unsure what you want to study. The level varies greatly... depends on the program. For example, some athletes go here before switching to a DI school!
- NAIA - level of play varies greatly, but a good choice for good high school athletes (especially from a small school like Kuemper) that want a shot at playing time. The commitment required allows you to pursue other activities in college, too.
- DIII - they cannot give athletic scholarships like all the other levels, but they can find other ways to get you money if they want you to play for them. Similar to NAIA-level of play.

- DII - much more intense... softball is your job.
- DI - softball is your life. You must be the best of the best to earn playing time. (1.7% of high school athletes play DI college softball.)

- JUNIOR YEAR = PIVOTAL

Go to camps, establish a connection, then invite the coach to your games. Junior year is the year to excel and put up good numbers.

Travel Team suggestions for college exposure

[See this document.](#)

Opportunities for Private Instruction

[See this document.](#)