

Hello Everyone,

Your College Placement Director has been hard at work again attempting to provide you with the best information that will assist your journey into collegiate athletics. After completing many of our College Placement Interviews with our families this week, many of you are stuck spinning your wheels with finding colleges that offer a certain major. Although I cannot provide the answers for which programs are more academically sound, I will suggest calling that institution and asking how they stack up. The following link is a FREE college degree search engine that will provide you an avenue in figuring out your future **ACADEMICALLY**. You'll have to cross reference the school with what division that baseball program plays at (You can find each level of play in Ohio in last week's C.P. Newsletter). <http://www.uscollegesearch.org>

Secondly, many of you are looking for a "Timeline" for when your family and baseball player should start concerning yourselves with the college journey. I normally suggest that every family should map out their college journeys: academically, geographically, and athletically, as well as financially (in no particular order) in the player's sophomore year of high school.

Lastly, as we approach this winter season in which every northern baseball player dreads, please keep in mind that players all across the nation are desperately training to polish their skill sets. There are only a set number of roster spots available, so answer this for me, what are you doing to play College Baseball? There is no better experience as a ball player than to know people are eagerly looking forward to watch your production, either offensively or defensively. I also feel every kid needs to experience playing in front of a sold-out crowd, so.....how will you get there?





**ASPIRING ATHLETES™**

~~~~~ College Placement Newsletter ~~~~~

\* If you have yet to sign up for your College Placement Interview with me, please do so. I cannot fight in your corner, for those unsigned seniors out there, if I do not know your school of choice, academic major, level of play, etc. This will be my 4<sup>th</sup> and final notice for those Unsigned Seniors. I will then proceed to opening up my schedule for those Juniors and Sophomores who are serious about the College Placement/recruiting support.

For all of you who I have met with, thank you for sharing your journey, I hope your recruiting process is clearer.

Best Regards,

Coach Dominique Rodgers

College Placement Director

Head Coach of The Akron Braves



This is a general lay-out of the schedule or "time line" that a high school baseball player can follow, in an effort to play baseball at the college level. This timeline was developed by getting input from former college players, parents, college coaches and high school and college academic advisors.

**To the Player:**

You will get very tired of hearing this ... but if you do not take care of your academics (grades) it will not matter how good you are on the baseball field, if your dream is to play college baseball academics are a part of the package!

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**Freshman (9th grade)**

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Settle into the high school environment ... get to work developing good classroom and home study habits. Learn to manage your time.

*September*

Play fall baseball, if available  
Long toss after school  
Run sprints and medium distance

*November*

Plan your winter baseball schedule  
Locate an indoor facility that offers "top level" instruction.  
If possible target and attend one (1) college Christmas camp

*November - January*

Continue winter work-outs / get ready high school team try-outs  
Keep working hard on those grades

*February - May/June*

High school season

*May - July/August*



Summer league seasons

Play the best and most competitive baseball that is available to you. Best teams, best tournaments, against the best the competition possible

*June - July*

Attend a college baseball programs "week -long" camp

This is the best way to "get noticed" by your favorite school. Many colleges sign players as a result of their attendance at the camps.

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### Sophomore (10th grade)

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Continue to "hit the books" hard your grades this year count as much as any other year.

Follow the same off - season schedule as last year.

Meet with your high school guidance counselor -- tell him/her of your desire to play college baseball ... you want to be "on track" with the required core courses, as well as other needs, such as foreign languages. Follow the same spring and summer schedule as last year.

Play as many summer baseball games as possible ... the more you play the more experience that you will get... And the more you should improve.

*July - August*

Attend a Pro Try-Out Camp in your area -- these will be listed in the message section of your daily newspaper's sports section.

Start learning about Showcases and make contact with several of the directors -- find out if they may be interested in including you in one of their events.

Check out a listing of showcases around the country.

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### Junior (11th grade)

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*September*

Send out your first contact letters --



Ask your high school coach to write letters to a few preferred colleges  
Include a copy of your fall schedule (if available)

## SEPTEMBER 1

Written contact by college coaches is allowed  
Register with the NCAA Initial - Eligibility Clearinghouse (your high school guidance counselor should have these forms)  
Register for the fall ACT / SAT standardized tests ... most students take these tests at least twice ... try to avoid the spring dates, as they may conflict with your high school season Request that your ACT/SAT test scores be sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse (there is a box on the application form that you check for this code = 9999)  
Find more information about the [NCAA Clearinghouse](#) follow this link  
Continue the fall and winter schedule as you did for your freshman and sophomore years

## DO NOT LET UP ON ACADEMICS

Familiarize yourself with the NCAA admission / eligibility requirements  
[NCAA Online](#) or check with your school's guidance counselor

## *Feb -March*

Send out your spring high school schedule  
Prepare a videotape to be sent out when requested (do not send unsolicited tapes)  
Plan visits to as many schools as possible this spring and summer  
Some schools have "Junior Days" during the spring season ... don't be shy write a letter to the coach and ask about them.  
All of these visits are "unofficial" this means that the college cannot pay for any part of the visit. These are done on your own.  
Make contact with showcase groups - Work on getting your information to them - So that if you qualify they can send out an invitation - If you wait until school is over for the year, it may be too late! The better showcases fill up fast.  
June and July are the primary showcase months

## *Summer*

Send out letters to college programs - Tell them about your high school junior year (11th) season - Sending stats is okay  
Focus this summer should be on attending "Select or Advanced" College Camps.



In this environment you will be able to gauge yourself against some of the best players, at each camp. The college coaches will be able to do the same.

The summer between a player's junior and senior year of high school is very important

### JULY 1st

Phone contact from college coaches is permissible

July is Showcase month.

Attend a **Pro Try-Out Camp** in your area -- these will be listed in the message section of your daily newspaper's sports section.

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### Senior (12th grade)

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#### *July - August*

Seek out a team that plays fall "showcase" tournaments (pro scouts can be helpful with this)

#### **DO NOT LET UP ACADEMICALLY**

Review core academic requirements with your guidance counselor. Make sure you are "on track"

Send out your fall baseball schedule

If you do not think you will sign in the early National Letter of Intent (LOI) period, usually the second week of November. Request information on Christmas camps ... especially from schools that you are most interested in, or those that have shown an interest in you.

#### *November*

Early signing period -- dates vary slightly from year to year

Update college coaches on any changes to your fall schedule

You can contact college coaches (by phone) at any time (prior to July after your Junior year they cannot call you)

Continue your fall and winter schedule as you have in previous years

#### *Official Visits*



If you are offered an official visit -- prepare for your visit with a list of prepared questions. Be prepared for any questions the college may have for you.

This is it! The year that you have been preparing for! ENJOY IT!

***Good Luck***