

To all of our Aspiring Athletes out there,

Happy Holidays! As we approach the close of 2009, take the time to reflect on this year in regards to your progress both as a student and an athlete. What did you do well this year? What can we do to further improve ourselves for next season (academically & athletically)? What did you learn in 2009 that will benefit your game heading into 2010?

Being that we are “Aspiring” to play at the next level, you as a player should begin to take this journey very seriously. Consider this: No one on Earth’s green planet can do what you do, the way you do it. So take pride in your academics, take ownership in your game play, and most importantly; always commit yourselves to excellence. If you can train yourself to take care of the small details both in and outside the foul lines, winning a ball game will become the easy part. Some small details include but not limited to: good grades, good ACT scores, staying out of trouble, being a respectful person, taking care of the baseball, not dropping your head after an error, making the most of your game play, executing when given instruction, and most importantly to lead by example. Failure becomes imminent when a person lacks focus in a particular area, so take this transitional period to make 2010 a complete experience for you and your family.

This week’s focus will be for the “unsigned-senior” who is becoming frustrated because of the lack of attention they may/or may not be receiving. Please read it carefully, for it will give you insight on what you should be focusing on during this “Quite-period.”

Best Regards,

Coach Dominique Rodgers





Camps:

Bowling Green	Jan. 24 (12-4)	\$90
-Ohio Elite Showcase	Jan. 3	\$110
-Shawnee State	Jan. 16 (9:30--)	\$50
-Pittsburgh	Feb 14 (9-1)	\$100
-Mentor TPF showcase	Jan. 18 th	

* Check School's Athletic Website for Additional Info *

This is a good site to see additional camps for specific universities.

[Http://www.collegebaseballcamps.com](http://www.collegebaseballcamps.com)



Time to Re-Evaluate, Revise and Regroup!

By Kelly Kulina:

So, if your an unsigned Senior, Sit down. Take a deep breath and relax. It's ok; most players don't make their decision in the early period. Now, making the most of the time you have is the KEY!



Players that sign early are the ones that have been proactive in the recruiting process and on the coaches' radar for months (and years!). Yes, it's a payoff for hard work, determination and baseball skill, but I think it's a poor measure of "success" for most prospective student-athletes. The reality is that for someone to sign early, several things have to fall into place. Players that sign early have had many conversations with coaches, have been seen in person and have spent the night on several campuses. You can't expect to sign early without having these things happen, and to try to rush through them would be a mistake!

The bottom line is that you can't beat yourself up over not signing early, or even worse, shut down the process. Let's look at the positives:



- You have more time to research and look at schools. Chances are you never had a chance to visit the campus of many of the schools on your list and meet with a coach while there. Now you've got time to do that!
- Additional time to get your grades and College Board scores up.
- You have more time to get bigger, stronger and faster. This is a great time to take your game to a higher level. If you take advantage of the off season, you will be prepared and ready to open some eyes this spring!
- You don't have to rush applications, which will be non-binding. Signing or committing early could mean that you'd have to apply with a binding application.
- Schools may have new recruiting needs, and not all coaches make their decisions early!
- You'll have a much better idea of what your financial aid package looks like before you make your decision. In addition, more time to research grants, scholarships and loans available.

So, where to go from here? After the dust settles, it will be time to evaluate where you're at with schools on your list.

- What have you heard from coaches? Have you received personal phone calls, or just camp information?
- Which schools have you visited? Campus tours and information sessions are great, but how many coaches have you met with on campus? This is a great chance to show your interest, but you have to make it happen! Be proactive with coaches over e-mail and phones, and usually they can accommodate you.
- Have a plan in place and execute it! You can't rely on coaches coming out to come see you play- be active in the process! The winter is a great time to market yourself to coaches using your Personal Player Page to separate yourself from other players. **Remember, with video, there is no dead period!**

Now is not the time to panic or resort to knee-jerk reactions. You're not going on vacation, college will be your home for the next four or five years! Take inventory of what you've done up until this point- what you've seen and heard and where you're at with schools on your list. What do you need to do to put yourself in a better position?



You have plenty of time to find a place to play baseball and study if you're willing to take the appropriate steps NOW. Remember, more mistakes are made in Early Period by college coaches and players! Take advantage of the time you have today to reap the benefits of tomorrow!

My motto was always to keep swinging.
Whether I was in a slump
or feeling badly or having trouble off the field,
the only thing to do was keep swinging.

-Hank Aaron