**What Colleges Look for Beyond the Numbers**

**(A coach’s perspective)**

*Getting noticed is a very important step. MPH and 60 yard dash times will help with that. Along with that there are several things that college coaches and scouts look for that you should be aware of as you begin your college search.*

**What kind of student are you?**

Being a good student opens doors at the college level. The higher the GPA and ACT score you have the more options you will have academically and thus will have more options athletically. In order to have as many options as possible, grades are incredibly important. Along with this, coaches do not want players that they need to worry about being eligible. Coaches want players they can count on being there when the spring season starts. Don’t let poor grades be the thing that takes away the scholarship you want. The ultimate goal should be to use baseball to help you pay for college and your education!

**What kind of person are you?**

Any coach who runs a family oriented and respected program will take into account what kind of young man you are. This includes but is not limited to: who you hang around with, the way you dress, the way you act in public, the way you carry yourself when coaches and adults aren’t looking. For example, in programs I run and am involved with we do not allow earrings. A few years ago I had a player go on a college visit to a four year school and I called a few days later to talk with that coach to see how it went. The first words out of his mouth were, “well Matt took his stocking hat off and hat two big diamond earrings in.”

The main point here is that someone is always watching how you carry yourself. The better player you are, the more attention you get (good or bad). It could be during pre-game warm ups, a high school basketball game, the hotel at a showcase. Be sure to carry yourself with dignity and don’t ruin a chance at a deal because of bad decisions.

**Are you a high maintenance kid or a low maintenance kid?**

This is a question we get almost every time we deal with another college. Coaches want to know things like:

1. Am I going to have to worry about the player going to class?
2. Do I need to question if the player is being honest with me?
3. Will the player do what I tell him to do even if I’m not going to be around him at practice?
4. Is the player on time for practices and meetings?
5. Will I need to worry about the player getting in trouble in the dorms/apartments?

Coaches don’t want kids that are going to give them any more headaches than they already have. If you have two pitchers, one throws 86mph and one throws 84mph and the one that throws 86mph is a kid with questionable character and the kid throwing 84mph is a honest, hardworking kid. The player throwing 84mph is going to get the scholarship 99% of the time.

**What kind of work ethic does the player have?**

Will the player continue to get better? Every day you step on the baseball field you either get better or worse. Can you be pushed to work harder by coaches? Do you push yourself to get better on your own? Most coaches are not recruiting the 18 year old high school outfielder, they are recruiting the 20-21 year old outfielder they see you potentially being.

**Are you going someplace you will be comfortable?**

Each coach has a different coaching style. Be sure to pick one that fits your personality best. If you don’t like being yelled at don’t choose a school with an over the top yeller for a coach. You will be miserable for four years. You should prioritize what you are looking for in a college. You don’t have to take any offer thrown at you. You should go someplace that fits you academically, socially, and athletically. Always question a coach who promises you playing time, especially at a school without scholarships. You have to wonder how many kids he’s promising that to.

Don’t settle for a school. I tell our recruits at McHenry County College that we want guys that want to be here. Those are the kids that are going to work hard while they are here and move on to the next level. The same goes for any school you choose.

*The decision to offer a scholarship to one player rather than another often comes down to these topics. Division one schools have 11.78 scholarships. They want kids they can count on and trust. Colleges want kids that are not only talented and have the numbers but they wants kids who have great work ethics that will continue to get better and be successful at the next level.*

*Think of it like this: If you were your coach talking to a college about YOU……..in all honesty, what would you say about you?*