

From Signing Day to Summer: How Juniors Can Get a Head Start on the Football Recruiting Process

Introduction

First off, I want to thank you for supporting Recruiting-101 and purchasing this e-book. I have put a great deal of time putting this together in hopes of helping you and your family during the recruiting process.

The reason that I have written this e-book is to expand upon exactly what I believe the keys are for junior football recruits to get a leg -up in the recruiting process. You really are competing for a scholarship offer with other athletes in your area and throughout the country so take that to heart during this time.

There is no doubt the top football recruits across the country will land scholarship offers during their sophomore year or early in their junior years. These are usually the same athletes who end up with four or five stars as rated by the major recruiting networks. But what about the rest of juniors who know that they want to play college football but have not done enough to impress college coaches into offering? There may or may not be attention from colleges but this e-book was written to help you navigate through the process and figure out the best way to be evaluated by college coaches. This evaluation process is what will lead to calls, official visits, and hopefully offers down the road.

Here are a few other resources that we currently have available as well:

Recruiting E-Books

[Guide to the Athletic Recruiting Process for Parents](#)

[How Juniors Can Get a Head Start on the Football Recruiting Process](#)

[How Seniors Can Finish the Football Recruiting Process Strong](#)

[Position by Position Football Recruiting Advice](#)

[Producing a Scholarship Worthy Highlight Video](#)

Specific Recruiting Packages

[Junior All State Package](#)

[Junior All Conference Package](#)

[Senior All State Package](#)

[Senior All Conference Package](#)

Again, thank you for purchasing this e-book and taking the time to read it. If you have any questions, please feel free to comment on any of the Recruiting-101 articles and I will get back to you as soon as possible. We do also offer [individualized recruiting consulting](#) for those athletes who need more personalized guidance.

February of Your Junior Year

At the beginning of February, college coaches, recruiting experts, and recruiting websites have their entire focus on the senior class. These schools are trying to do whatever they can to land the best overall recruiting class possible. The better the players they bring in, the higher the chances are that they have to win games and continue to receive jaw dropping salaries. But once those faxes come in during the morning of Signing Day with signatures on their National Letters of Intent, the focus quickly switches to the junior class.

Some coaching staffs enjoy having their recruiting class secured early on so that they can start evaluating junior film. A normal powerhouse program does such a great job recruiting early in the process and securing in-state commits that they have the opportunity to switch their focus over to juniors earlier than their rivals. Other programs top tier programs always seem to be fighting for the four and five star recruits left on the board shortly before, on, or even occasionally after Signing Day. It really just depends on the school because they have to feel confident about their senior recruiting class before they move on to the juniors.

How quickly they move on really is up to the staff. With spring practice and the spring evaluation process looming, some coaches may take this time to relax and recharge before diving into film evaluation for the junior class. Others may postpone the break for another time and really be aggressive with offers, evaluations, and things of that nature.

One thing that some schools have done in the past for their top rated juniors is send them a letter prior to Signing Day. What the letter gives them is a little more information about their program and a phone number to call on Signing Day. Because the college coaches are not legally able to call prospects, the prospects have to call in order to build the relationships. This does not occur all that frequently so if you didn't receive this, don't feel like you are behind in the recruiting process. For those that do receive a letter like this from a school or two, make sure to call them. It shows these coaches that you are interested in their program and also is an ice breaker between you and the coach (if you have not met them in person previously).

Signing Day always occurs on the first Wednesday of February, regardless if it is February 1st or February 7th. This will not change unless the NCAA adds an earlier Signing Day for football, which is something that has been discussed but still seems to be a pipe dream at this point.

While I would not recommend marketing yourself to college coaches during this week, it is a great opportunity for you to get all of your information together and find schools that could fit you both academically and athletically. The twelve months you have ahead before your own Signing Day may seem like a lot of time but with what you will have going on (workouts, recruiting, school, family, friends, girls, football, and potentially other sports), you could be signing your Letter of Intent before you even realize it. The hope is that you will use these steps and the articles provided on Recruiting-101 to be receiving either a full scholarship or a very large one and you likely have twelve months to accomplish that goal.

In order to go down that path, what do you need to do? It is easy to dream of getting a full ride and having your college paid for, but the process is much more difficult than many assume. The first thing you need to make sure you have done is get on the radar of college coaches. I have stressed early on the importance of having a recruiting profile, a highlight video, and even a personalized website available at your disposal to send to these coaches. The hope is that you have done these already. For those that have, skip this upcoming information.

In some situations, the coaches will find you and send you information that includes a questionnaire, camp invites, and potentially game day tickets. However, that is not always the case. So in this situation, your family is going to have to be the one that puts together the information that will help you be recruited and eventually get interest from college coaches. The first thing is to start with your recruiting profile.

Basically a recruiting profile is similar to a professional resume. There are a limited number of opportunities (scholarships at schools or jobs at a company) and you need to do what you can to put your best foot forward when sending out your information. The good news for recruits is that regardless of the school, there will always be scholarship openings every single year on the football recruiting front. That is not always the case with job openings.

You want to put your recruiting profile in file format that is easily opened by coaches who will have a variety of different computers. Once completed, make sure to send it out to all of your friends and family to assure that college coaches will have no problems opening it. So what should you include in my profile? This is a subject that has often been talked about on Recruiting-101 but does need to be addressed here. Here is what should be included:

Contact Information - It is important to send the coach as much contact information as possible. Include an address, phone numbers (home/cell), social media handles, and email addresses. Also talk to your high school coach about including his contact information. College coaches would much rather hear that you can play from a coach and not your parent. If the college coach feels that you may have the skills to play at their level, including all relevant contact information will allow him to contact you when things get serious in the recruiting process.

Grades & Academic Information - Coaches know what it will take academically to get into their school so make sure that they are aware of your academics. If you have worked hard enough in high school, this should be something you are proud of and want them to see. If you have taken your ACT and SAT already, make sure to include those scores. If not, either include the date of your upcoming test or the fact that you are awaiting results so they know that you are trying to get it done. The majority of the schools around the country do not have Ivy League standards so even if you have a 3.3 and a 23 ACT, that is still a solid resume. Most coaches seek out kids with these grades because that can get you in at a lot of places. If you have talked to the guidance counselor and know your class rank, include that too. As with contact information, the more you can provide, the better.

Athletic Accomplishments - Make sure you are being realistic about this and not rounding your numbers up. The last thing you would want a coach to find out is that you lied about your stats. So if you rushed for 956 yards, put that instead of 1,000. Keep things realistic because the coaches will eventually find out if things are exaggerated. Other things to talk about in this portion of the athletic recruiting profile include individual stats, post season honors, team records, and team accomplishments. Another good thing to add is accomplishments in other sports. Even if it is a 20-10 wrestling record or a letter earned in track, college coaches like to see athletes to play multiple sports. That is just an added dimension of athleticism that is good for you in the recruiting process.

A Picture - You might as well allow them to see a picture of you with a big smile on your face. If you visit the school in the future, they should have a clue who you are if they consider you a serious prospect. This picture will help that along. Some schools have the coaches memorize the players' names so when they come on a visit, they already know what the player looks like. Having a picture on your profile can really help that along.

Like I said earlier, put it all together into an easily opened document. Double check it and have those around you give feedback as well. Again, an athlete wants to put their best foot forward so typos and format issues are not going to do that. That is why having those around you review it is important.

Once that is completed, it is the time to market yourself to college coaches. Chances are slim that you may have the skills to play at some of the top programs in the county but what is it going to hurt to dream now and send your information to them? Some may get back to you and others may not. But you are still early in the process so you really can shoot for the moon.

For the more realistic schools, your family needs to sit down and talk about what the athlete is looking for in a future college program. Here are some things that I think are absolutely essential to talk about:

- Academics – What do you want to major in? If you don't know, what are you interested in academically? Remember that this is something you will be doing for the next 40 plus years of your life (unless you go back to school, which is another subject).
- Location – How far away from home do you want to go? Do you want to stay in state or go to a program across the country? For those who want no part of being near their home, think about the costs involved of travel for holidays and having your parents visit. The further away you are, the more expensive it will be and that means you will be on more of an island from your family than you think. It may cool going across the country but you need the right mindset to actually do it.
- Athletics – What level do you realistically think you can play at? What level do your parents think you can realistically play at? What level do your high school coaches realistically think you can play at? What makes it tough is when these three all differ. Everyone wants to play at the Division I-A/BCS or Division I-AA/FCS levels. But realistically, the number of athletes who get to live that dream are very small.

- Size of School – Do you want to go to a huge University that has tens of thousands of students? Or are you low key and want to go to a program with 5,000 people or less? Like location, this depends a great deal on your personality and what you will be happy with.
- Money – This might be the most important of all these factors. Who actually will be paying for college? Are your parents going to be fitting the bill for the next four or five years of your education? If they are, please go thank them. If not, there are a lot of great options for academic and athletic scholarships. If that doesn't work, then consider taking out student loans. They may not be a pleasure to pay back but they certainly will allow you to get a college education. The less money that the parents are contributing, the more an athlete really has to think about location and the overall price tag of a school.

Once the whole family has gotten together and talked about these areas, now is the perfect time to actually start researching schools that could be a good fit. [This website](#) has a listing of basically all the colleges throughout the country and it has been organized by state. That means you need to think about what your family talked about in terms of location. Could an in-state school or a college that borders your state be a good fit? If so, dive right in and start looking at websites. If you'd prefer the east coast or a warm weather school, start researching those schools as well.

While doing this research, take notes on the schools. Use the other items that you talked about (potential academic majors, level of athletics, size of the school) when picking programs that stand out to you. Don't base your decision on which school has the most updated website. Really use the information your family talked about and put it to good use.

If done properly, this research will take a good chunk of time. As a family, you could easily spend a good portion of a Saturday trying to find 25 to 50 schools that could be good places to send out information. Remember that even if you have every intention to play at the highest level in the country, be realistic and have backup options at all levels. If you think you are a Division I-A player, have Division I-AA and II schools that could be a solid fit academically. Try to pick out schools at all levels when sending out your information. Outside of a little extra time, doing this is well worth it.

Once you have completed your extensive first round of research, then you are ready to send out your recruiting profile and links to your website and highlight video (if they are completed). In the perfect world, you want to start sending this information out the Sunday or Monday following Signing Day. Some families will have that opportunity and others won't. It really just depends on what you have and have not been able to do so far. If not, just do it as soon as you are confident that the information is in a professional format and you are ready to go.

So how do I find the information on a coach to email the information to? It is rather easy and I will give you a step by step walk through for those that have trouble. Our example school is going to be Montana State. They are a Division I-AA program who has had a lot of success over the years and suppose they have an academic program that is of interest to you. Search for "Montana State athletics" and you will be able to find their athletics only site (most bigger schools have an athletics-only site that is not connected to the actual college or University itself).

What you are looking for now is the staff directory. In many cases, the staff directory provides better contact information than the actual football coaching page. At Montana State, the staff directory link is under the "Athletic Department" tab (it is like this or something similar at a lot of schools). Once there, you can scroll down to the football coaches. The majority of email addresses are listed but many of their coaches have football@msubobcats.com listed. Few head coaches at that level will list their actual email so that likely goes to the football secretary and it will be handled accordingly by that person.

DO NOT send your profile to the head coach. The head coach is the figure head and a vital part of the team. But in regards to recruiting, the assistants handle more of the grunt work. They are the ones that build up the recruiting database, handle camps, and evaluate more tape than the head coach. This head coach may be the eventual closer and have final say in the recruiting process but they are not the ones going through hundreds of tapes over the winter and spring.

So which coach should you be emailing your information to? You really have a few different options here. The first option could be based on your position. If you are a wide receiver, Montana State has a coach who deals primarily with the receivers. Because he coaches receivers, he likely does have a lot to say about their recruiting effort at receivers. The second area would be to just pick the recruiting coordinator. On the staff directory, it does not appear that there is a listed recruiting coordinator. Almost every Division I-A program has a recruiting coordinator named and that is a great place to send your information. As the title suggests, they handle the coordination of the recruiting process.

The third place may take a little longer but it would basically involve researching each of the coaches and see if there is some sort of location that they are responsible for recruiting, like a certain state. They may have played years back at a rival high school or even a local college. Most coaches frequently travel throughout the country at different schools and locations so there are usually a lot of different connections.

Regardless of what coach you pick, make sure you log the information. Your notes can be a piece of paper or in an Excel file. Whatever you use, make sure to log the name of the coach, his email address, and the date emailed. If you have written personal notes to each coach (which is something I would strongly recommend to do for each school), then include that as well just in case you have to re-send the information at another time.

In the majority of cases, parents are going to be the ones emailing the coaches. If you are a parent and you are doing this, don't pretend that it is the athlete sending the email. Anything sent from a family email address almost always is sent by the parent. Athletes at the high school level want their privacy and will want their own email address so just be honest about it.

During the email, introduce yourself, your son, attach the recruiting profile, talk about a few of his best accomplishments, link the video/website if applicable, and thank him for looking into it. Don't start by sending a college coach a novel about how great your son is. College coaches know that parents are extremely biased and are not realistic about their children. These coaches also don't want to burn any bridges and will usually reply in a timely fashion. What they will likely say is that they appreciate the

email, thanks for the interest in the school, they are interested and would love to see this certain athlete at their summer camp. I will get into later on, but expect to receive a ton of camp invites.

Here is a word-for-word letter from someone who works at a major college program that has won multiple national titles over the years in response to getting information about a recruit. "Our coaches feel he has the potential and would like to see him in our summer camp if he would be interested in coming, as they could get a better feel for him if they could see him personally."

So what does that mean? In quickly going through the tape, it appeared he had enough skills to play at some college level. The coaches will always, always, always push recruits to camps. By telling them that they want to evaluate them in person, it is not burning bridges. It gives these athletes some hope that a big school is recruiting them while it adds to the camp numbers.

A few years there was an athlete who had been calling a school in a major Division I conference. He was a quarterback who was a pretty solid player so he was trying to be a great player at these camps. The school told him that if he comes to the camp and is the best quarterback, they will offer him. That is just a line they probably told to the twenty other quarterbacks that they wanted in camp.

If the coach does not respond, give him one or two weeks to respond. Be realistic and realize that these coaches likely do have a lot going on in their lives do don't get overanxious on day two and fire off an angry email. Track the emails you sent as well as any responses that you do receive. If they don't get back to you in a week or two, then try that coach again. If after a week he doesn't respond, then try another coach on their staff. If he doesn't get back to you by a second time, it may be time to move on from that school. One or two emails may get lost in junk filters and things of that nature but four non-responses should not happen. These coaches should be looking to respond to anything they receive with at the very least a camp invite.

One of the things that college coaches will also be doing during the month of February is hosting Junior Days. What a Junior Day accomplishes is to get some of the kids on their radar onto campus, have a chance to meet the coaches, give them a tour, and show these athletes what the school has to offer overall. A lot of coaches feel that half the recruiting battle is to get them on campus so these Junior Days provide help with that for them.

Here are some quotes from real athletes who attended different Junior Days. This entails what they did throughout the day while on the campus of the school:

"First, we took some pictures for (a recruiting website/expert). Then we went up to the press box and ate. Then we got a speech from (head coach). After that, the parents went off to an educational meeting and the players went into their position meetings where we watched film. We watched a highlight video after the tour."

"They had (a recruiting website/expert) come over and had us fill out questionnaires, give them a highlight tape, and we took pictures. Then I spoke with him. After that, we went right over to (their

stadium) and to the press box. We started interacting with a lot of the coaches. I actually talked to (their head coach). I talked to him and I'm going to talk to him 1-on-1 in the next couple of weeks."

"We ate and talked to the coaches. Then they showed us around and we had a speech from (their head coach). We got to go to into position meetings. After that, we toured the facilities. They wrapped it up and had a highlight video to show us."

"At first, we had individual pictures from (a recruiting website/expert) and then we had a large group picture. We went into the press box to eat and then went into the position groups. We had a tour and finished with a talk from (their head coach)."

"We got up there and went to their shoot-around earlier in the day. We talked with the coaches and strength and conditioning coach. We had dinner and then at night we went to the girls' game. They played (a rival) and then we watched the guys' game after."

These Junior Days can be held at a variety of different times. Some coaches will even do them during January (I rarely hear about them being any earlier) and it gives them an opportunity to gauge the interest from prospective recruits. Showing up at these does mean you are interested in the program but at the same time, a Junior Day invite means much more at certain schools.

Some colleges go with the more is better and mass invite as many kids that they can. I have talked to recruits who went to Junior Days with hundreds of recruits and others with thirty to fifty. It really just depends on the school. If you have friends or teammates who have went through the recruiting process before you, ask them about these Junior Days. It will give you a better feel of which Junior Days actually are important to get to and which ones are a mass invite of any athlete who has a pulse.

I've shared this story before but two kids living in the Midwest received invites to a school on the east coast that was a ten hour drive away from their home. These two teammates were very interested in this program so they decided to make the drive with their parent. They showed up and realized that they were two of 150 kids in attendance. This gave them little face time with the coaches and it was much more of a funny story to tell later. The entire family was not happy after they made the trek to this school. If a school brings in 150 different athletes, how many do you think are getting invites? My guess would be somewhere between 250 and 300.

If the drive is five hours or under and your family has the finances to afford the drive, it may be worth going to. The reason is because it allows you to learn more about a college. This may not even be the school you end up going to but it will always give you something to compare it to after future visits. They will give you a unique opportunity that should be fun for most families.

A few things to expect out of Junior Days:

- A free meal
- A tour of the facilities
- A talk from the head coach

- The coaches selling their school onto the recruits
- Position meetings (which happen at some)
- A viewing of the school's highlight tape
- Talks about academics
- Mentions by the coaches how important their summer camp is
- The coaches will tell you to keep working hard and be patient

These Junior Days can happen any time from January to May. It depends a great deal on the school and how they handle the recruiting process. Some schools will want to bring kids in for basketball games (you get front row seats in many cases) or the spring practice. If you didn't take any game day visits during the fall, getting to these is very important just to see what is out there in the recruiting world.

Colleges will also vary about which athletes they invite. It really depends on the school. Some schools may pick their top 100 recruits overall and invite them throughout the country. 50 may only show up but that still is a small Junior Day. Others will invite as many as possible and see what happens. The more that show up, the better for this school because they are covering their bases down the line in case one of these players does end up being a major recruit.

If you really want to get invited to an upcoming Junior Day that you are aware of, begging is not the right step at this point in the process. You will want to get your information and especially your video in front of the eyes of a coach. If you know State University is having a Junior Day and they don't have your information, make sure to email them and show your interest in their school. Again, there is no guaranteed that you will get invited but being on their radar certainly will help garner that invitation.

February Recap

- Finalize your recruiting profile, highlight video, and website
- Scour the Internet for schools that are a good fit academically, athletically, and socially
- Market yourself to the coaches at colleges that fit what you are looking for
- Possibly make a Junior Day visit or two if the location is close

March of Your Junior Year

With February being Signing Day and April being the start of the evaluation period for college coaches, March may be the most boring month a junior football recruit has left until they eventually sign. If you have already followed the advice in February and really marketed yourself to college coaches, then your focus this month really should be either finishing up a great season in basketball or wrestling (if you haven't done that already) or really working hard in the weight room and on the track. The month of March will really give you the opportunity to improve as an athlete. This is important because before you know it, college camps will be here. You need to make this month count and improve overall as an athlete.

The drills you really need to be focused on at this time are the ones that you will be doing at the summer camps. These camps really are the best opportunity to improve your stock in the eyes of college coaches so you have to do what you can to work on the 40-yard dash, shuttle run, vertical, and things of that nature. Also think about what would apply to your specific position. Will you be doing 1-on-1 along the line or 1-on-1 on route running?

The hope here is that you attended a camp or two the previous summer so you will know what to expect. This will at least give you a better feel for what you expect going in. If you didn't, talk to those teammates or your social media friends that have attended camps in the past about what specifically local schools do. All programs are unique but the core testing measurements that were talked about likely will be a part of the camps.

March may also be a great time to talk to your high school coach/coaches about playing at the college level. This may be something that you have already discussed in the past or could be something completely new to them. If you are serious about playing college football, your high school coach does have to be aware of it and be a big part of the process. The hope is that your coach has sent players to the college level before so he has connections with those coaches. That however is not the case in most situations so counting on that is difficult.

What you will need from your coach is his support. If things work out as planned and college coach after college coach stops by the high school in April and May, the person this college coach will be spending the most time with is your high school coach. If your coach feels that you are lazy and not good enough, then getting serious attention is going to be difficult. That is why it is vital that you discuss with him your thoughts and goals for the college level.

You need to also discuss with your coach about what level he thinks that you can play at. As with parents, if you are a favorite of this coach, then you do have to realize that there is a huge bias. I have heard multiple high school coaches tell me how their athlete is a Division I player and they ended up at the Division III or NAIA level. This happens all the time so don't take their word for gospel. However, getting them on your side is a very important thing in this process.

Your coaches can also help you prepare for these upcoming summer camps. The hope is that they know what they are doing and can help you with little things like your start to the 40-yard dash and hand

movements that will give you advantages in 1-on-1 battles. Again, not all coaches have this knowledge but asking certainly will not hurt. Getting a chance to pick his brain and learn what he knows about these camps should give you a better feel of what to expect while competing for that scholarship offer.

The word of your high school coach, while biased, is not nearly as lopsided as that of parents. One way to get on the radar of schools for Junior Days and things along that line is to have your high school coach calling those at the next level about you. Some coaches will, some coaches say they will, and some coaches won't even attempt to do it. Coaches vary and some are more helpful than others. The hope for you is that even if he doesn't make those calls, he will tell the college coaches that you can play and call any back that leave him messages during the day.

Some families get down on their high school coaches for not helping them in the recruiting process and that happens more often than not. But you also need to realize that high school coaches keep very busy lives. With teaching, their families, preparing for football, and things of that nature, few will be willing to step up and start calling schools at the drop of a hat. The most you can ask for is their support. If they do more, than that will be a great thing for you. If not, it means more of a workload for your family but it is an obstacle that you can easily overcome.

March Recap

- Work on camp specific drills that will help you compete during the summer camp circuit.
- Try and get a realistic evaluation as to what level you are capable of playing at in college.
- Speak with your high school coach about your dreams and aspirations to play college football.
- Enlist his support during this time.

April of Your Junior Year

If you have been patiently waiting for the recruiting process to really start heating up, then April of your junior year is when things start getting interesting. Not everything you want will be revealed in the month of April but it certainly should be a start. This month is so interesting because the long awaited calls and visits from college coaches are hopefully going to start coming your way. Here is what the NCAA says regarding the time period of April 15 until May 31:

An authorized off-campus recruiter may use one evaluation to assess the prospective student-athlete's athletics ability and one evaluation to assess the prospective student-athlete's academic qualifications during this evaluation period). If an institution's coaching staff member conducts both an athletics and an academic evaluation of the prospective student-athlete on the same day during this evaluation period, the institution shall be charged with the use of an academics evaluation only and shall be permitted to conduct a second athletics evaluation of the prospective student-athlete on a separate day during this evaluation period.

This means that the college coaches who do visit your school will be looking for your academic transcripts in order to get more information about you as a student. The hope is that you kept your focus throughout high school and were able to do well in school so there should be no worries getting into their college. Good grades may not get you an athletic scholarship but bad grades will take you off the evaluation list for an offer. Unless you are a top 100 athlete in the country, there are few schools that will stick around in hopes that you get your GPA and qualifying scores up. Borderline prospects are left on the wrong side of the border if their grades are in question.

During the visit, the college coaches will also get an opportunity to talk to your coach. As I discussed in March, it is vital to be on the same page as your high school coach and let him know about your hopes and dreams to play at the college level. If you had not talked to him at all and he was oblivious to the situation, what exactly would he say or think when coaches start strolling through the doors in late April?

Per NCAA rules, all the college coach can do is say hello to a junior recruit if he accidentally runs into him at this time. I am not going to say that the rules are ever broken by college football coaches but they normally have the high school coach pull you out of class in order to say hello. My guess is that more than both of you saying hello happens as this coach wants an opportunity to see you up close. You may feel like a piece of meat but he is giving you the eyeball test.

This eyeball test is one of the most interesting concepts that we have talked about on Recruiting-101. These coaches either have evaluated tape in their offices or they have been watching film with your high school coach. They know your size based on information in your profile or questionnaires you returned. But is that really your true size or did you add an inch and 20 pounds to make yourself be a bit more intimidating? Unless you have already visited the college and met with the coaches, this eyeball test gives the coaches an honest assessment of both your height and weight. These coaches have been training for years in this and know when someone is 6-foot-4 instead of the 6-foot-6 that they are listed

at. It will be something that they are very aware of and will talk about with their fellow coaches once they get back to the office.

The coaches also will use this eyeball test to see how you carry your weight. Some coaches will take notes about a 6-foot-6, 295 pound lineman who has what he considers to have sloppy weight and compare it with a 6-foot-7, 245 pound lineman who is well put together. The most important evaluation tools that a coach has are the summer camps, your highlight video/full game tape, and then the eyeball test. Your film may be the most amazing video that they have seen of a lineman all year. But if you don't pass the eyeball test because you are 5-foot-11, 215 pounds and this is a Division I-A coach, you won't cut it. Sometimes it is tough to swallow but important for athletes to realize.

As an athlete, if college coaches really are coming during this period, do whatever you can to make sure you are in school. Limit the sick days and stay in class. Don't skip school because some non athletes want to go out to lunch. The last thing you want is a college coach to have a bad impression about you when they come to see you at your school. Timing doesn't always work out but being around your school will certainly help.

Going back to the eyeball test, there are some things that you can do help pass. Here are a few things to think about for this month and a half time frame.

Wear your BIG shoes

I am not saying to put anything in your shoes to make you taller. What I am saying is pull out the shoes that you know you look tallest in. If I had someone eyeing me up, I know exactly what shoes I would be putting on that day. This is something minor but appearing 6-foot-4 in your big shoes versus 6-foot-2 in flip flops may be the difference between a scholarship spot and walking on. The bigger the better here.

Wear the appropriate clothing

If you have lost weight since football or have been sick, chances are that you will likely be skinnier than normal. If that is the case, make sure to wear loose fitting clothing so that your weight loss is not obvious. If you have been bulking up and added some muscle since the football coach last saw you, make sure to wear something a little tighter to show off your physique.

Stand up straight when saying hello

Make sure to not slouch when talking to coaches. You want to make sure they see your full height. With your big shoes and your tight shirt on, you should be confident so stand up straight when talking to the coach.

Look them in the eye

This may not be a way to pass the eyeball test but it certainly will help them overall in their thoughts about you. Looking them in the eye, regardless of which big time coach it is, is a great way to show them that you are confident in your demeanor and mature enough to show them that you are listening to what they are saying. How would a college coach feel if you as a recruit are shaking with nerves and

your eyes are looking everywhere? He wants confident players ready to help him win football games and that is not the way to sway him into thinking that.

The one thing these coaches love to do on these high school visits is hand out camp brochures. What that means to me is that even though these visits are a nice thing, I would not consider them higher of a priority than a Junior Day invite or even a hand written letters. These assistant coaches spent a good amount of days on the road during this time frame and they hit up a lot of high schools. A coach at a high school in the Midwest commented to me a few years back how UCLA used to always pay visits to their school during the spring evaluation period. During those years, UCLA had never once offered a prospect from that school and rarely recruited that state. While it is nice to say hello and pass the eyeball test from the coach, there are far more important things to base your recruiting off of.

And outside of an official visit or a scholarship offer, the next closest thing really is a call from a college coach. These coaches are allowed one call per athlete from April 15 until May 31. Here is what the NCAA rule states per their website:

All electronically transmitted human voice exchange (including videoconferencing and videophones) shall be considered telephone calls. All electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., electronic mail, facsimiles) shall not be considered telephone calls (see NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1).

This is where things get kind of tricky. These college coaches are legally allowed to call you and keep calling you until they get a hold of you. The problem is that due to this rule, they cannot leave a message unless they are okay with that counting as their call. And considering a good portion of high school athletes don't even bother checking the voice mail on their cell phone, these coaches know that their best option is to call and keep calling until they get a hold of you. Your imagination may run wild during this time frame when checking your missed calls without messages left so feel free to call them back. If you do talk to them over the phone when you called, the coaches could legally call you again later on because they were not the ones that initiated the conversation.

When you marketed yourself to college coaches, logging your calls and what was discussed is very important. I know for parents this is going to be tough but you need to have your son handle this and handle the calls. I have dealt with far too many parents over the years who need to listen during these recruiting calls and my belief is that they don't trust their son during the conversation. If they don't trust them, then the parent also doesn't believe that they properly raised their child as well because you need to have faith that over the last 17-years or so you have helped them develop the social skills needed to properly talk to an adult. So relax and let your son handle the attention that they have earned.

During the call, make sure the entire focus is on the call. Turn off video games, Internet access, social media sites, the television, or anything else that will take your attention away from the college coach. A great way to show the coach that you are interested in their program and what they have to offer is by asking them questions. Remember, they are taking the time out of their day to say that they are really interested in your abilities as a football player. There are a wide range of questions but here are just a

few that you could break out (as a note, the questions do change from your junior year calls to your senior year calls):

- (If the team is struggling), what is the coaching staff doing to turn things around?
- (If the team is doing well), what is the coaching staff doing to continue to help the school have success?
- (If the coaching staff may be good enough to move up to a better job), what are the possibilities that the staff will be in place during my four or five years at the school? This same question applies if the staff is doing a poor job as well.
- Where do you see the program in the next four or five years?
- How do athletes balance academics and athletics?
- Is there help in the classroom if I am struggling in a class?
- Are you able to help set up internships with former alumni in my field of study?
- How would you describe your coaching style?
- What are the best features of your school?
- How is the admission process handled and will any preference be given to student athletes?
- Will the facilities be updated any time soon (take what they say with a grain of salt)?
- How will you help me become the best player I can be?
- What does the depth chart at my future position look like?
- How well does the school/student body support the program?
- Does the team go on any unique travel opportunities during the year or the summer?
- How is the training staff at your school?
- Is there a full time strength and conditioning coach that is willing to help me become a better athlete?
- How would you describe the overall attitude of the team?
- What did you think of my highlight video?
- How important is coming to your summer camp (the answer is obvious but good for conversation)?

Again, there are many other questions that your family can easily come up with but those are some of the ones to keep in mind. For parents, print that list out and have your son start asking them when on the phone. But again, be confident that they know what they are doing and can hopefully have a meaningful conversation.

Having a great conversation with a college coach may not be enough to get a scholarship offer if you are not good enough on the field but showing little interest and a lack of social skills certainly would turn off the coach. I have talked to multiple college coaches and they all remember some of the best and worst athletes that they talked to on the phone. And usually, the ones that stand out are the ones that give one word answers and make the conversation tough on the coaches. These coaches know that they have to do most of the talking but carrying the entire conversation would likely make it a situation where it will be tough to call you again during the fall unless you can really play.

With the weather improving throughout the country, April also is a great time to really be able to travel and get to spring practices and spring games. Some schools where the weather is fantastic will have their spring games during March but many have it on weekends during April. While the game is fun to be at, the practice is what athletes should really get a chance to see if they are invited.

These practices are important because it really gives a high school athlete a taste of what they will have to be ready for when playing at the next level. You may be the stud of your high school team but the entire college roster consists of athletes who were also in your shoes. These practices will have a much faster pace, players will be going harder, and the quality of play obviously will be improved as well. Coaches rarely invite athletes to practices during the fall so taking the time to visit in the spring is very worth it.

Make sure while there to follow the position you would be playing. What is the style of the coach you would be playing for? Could you handle all of his yelling or would you prefer a laid back style? If you went to this school, this would be the coach you would be working with everyday in season and many days out of season. Keep that in mind when thinking about things.

April Recap

- The spring evaluation period starts on April 15th.
- College coaches are now legally able to call you and visit your high school.
- Prepare to pass the eyeball test by wearing the proper clothes and shoes.
- Get ready for calls from college coaches and be ready to ask questions about their program.

May of Your Junior Year

It was talked about in great deal during April but the entire month of May is all about the calls and the high school visits by the college coaches. From what I have noticed most coaches do wait until the month of May to make these calls. Some start their high school visits during April but it seems that most calls, for whatever reason, come in May. So with that in mind, refer to the April section if you haven't done so already.

What the focus should be in May is reevaluating where you are at in the football recruiting process and finalizing your plans for college summer football camps. In regards to the camps, you really want to hold out as long as you can before submitting your payment. The months of April and May are the only opportunity for you to really see what schools are seriously recruiting you. So even if the big in-state program gives you a camp invite, that doesn't mean that would be the smartest way to invest your money.

Schools throughout the country send and hand out tens of thousands of camp invites. They bring hundreds with them during their visits to the high school and make sure to hand out as many as possible. These are the most worthless recruiting item that you can get from a school. I have talked to countless athletes who have told me that an out of state program sent them a camp invite so they are going. This camp invite was the only recruiting interest that they showed this athlete and yet their family is paying hundreds of dollars and the coach has no idea if this kid can play. The assumption is he cannot because the coaches want to be able to pad their camp numbers which in turn pads their pockets with money.

I have talked to athletes who have attended a single week of football camp where there was in the range of 700 athletes. Do you really think that you can stand out among 700 athletes? That number is staggering to even think about and impressive that the staff was able to pull it off. The problem is that the sheer numbers left these coaches working harder to pull off the camp rather than use it as a recruiting tool.

Some schools have a senior camp that is invite only and won't be listed in their regular camp brochure. These senior camps are a great opportunity because the coaches really bring the best of the best in terms of their recruits in. Instead of going 1-on-1 with a kid who is not going to play college football, you will get a chance to play against scholarship kids. For the coaches, this is a fantastic opportunity to see who really is the best of the best for the kids that they are after. This may be something worth asking about because it is over a short period like Saturday-Sunday. These camps are for recruiting purposes and the money that they take in is very small.

If you properly logged the emails you sent and the calls you hopefully received, figuring out what schools you should camp at will be much easier. You can go through your Excel sheet and judge the overall interest in a school. If they have called, sent mail, emailed, and invited you to a Junior Day, the only thing left really is for you to attend their camp. Hopefully that school is within a reasonable distance so that getting to their camp will be a breeze.

What you should do is use the overall recruiting interest that you have logged to help put together a calendar of camps. Write down all of the camps and the dates (there will be lots of overlapping) so that you know when you could hit certain ones. Hold off to finalizing these camps as long as possible. If your family has the flexibility to wait until the last week of May to do this, that is great. If not, finalize things a few weeks before. The longer you wait, the better idea you will have of what college coaches are actually recruiting you.

Once the calendar has been all mapped out, now is the time to contact the college coaches about attending one or two days at each of the camps you feel you need to hit. There are a few reasons why you only need to attend one or two days. For families with limited finances, this will help you save money. The coaches will give you a steep prorated discount when attending one day versus three or four. Attending just one or two days at a college camp will also give you much more flexibility during the camp season. If two schools have a weeklong camp at the same time, you can get a chance to showcase your skills in front of both programs.

Some may question if one day at a camp is enough to evaluate a prospect and the answer is it is. These are the same college coaches that will may watch the first 30 seconds of your highlight video and make a final decision on you as an athlete. A full day at a camp going against other talented athletes should be more than enough time to figure out if you can play at level.

One athlete a few years back was using one days at each camp during the circuit and was told by the coaches that they wanted him to stay an extra day in order to be further evaluated. If you can't play, coaches won't tell you that. They may rope you in to get paid but they are not going to flat out lie to your face about staying an extra day. The athlete I mentioned left his second day of camp with a scholarship offer in hand.

The one thing you do have to protect against when attending these one day camps is burnout. The workouts and the travel are hard on the body, even if it is of an teenager. So make sure to not hurt your chances in the recruiting process because you want to get to five camps in a week. There is a lot that takes a toll during this time so be careful.

While the schedule of the camp will dictate where you go, one thing to consider is to schedule your first day of camp at a dream school that may not have called you or shown any recruiting interest. Considering it has been months since your junior year of football ended, getting back into a football mentality can be done by going to this stretch school. Chances are that even if it doesn't work out, it can be a great thing to shake off that rust. Doing it there is a much better move than doing it at a school that has been calling an showing a great deal of attention.

One main advantage to also realize about these camps is that even if you don't get recruited by the host school, there will be other college coaches from all over your area working the camp and doing their own recruiting while helping out. These coaches could be from all levels and that includes those who are coaches at Division I-AA, II, III, NAIA, and Junior College levels.

It may be best to reevaluate your recruiting interest at about the same time you schedule out your camps. This allows your family a good chance to sit down and talk about what has been going on with the recruiting process. What are your thoughts overall? Are you disappointed with the attention that you are receiving? Are you happy? Talk about this as a family and then continue to work on what you can do to achieve your goals.

If you are happy, then all of your focus should be on the upcoming camps. Continue putting the time in to train for their specific events and do everything that you can to get back into football shape. You want to knock that rust off as early as possible so that the schools recruiting you go beyond phone calls and into scholarship offers.

For those unhappy, what I really would recommend is go back to square one. Take a long, hard look at your recruiting profile, highlight video, and website. Do they stack up to others that you may have seen on the Internet? Are you putting your best foot forward? This is always a tough assessment but you need to be honest with yourself as much as possible.

If you followed our advice in February after Signing Day and really found 25 to 50 schools and none/few are still recruiting you after having initially replying to you, then you need set your sights a little bit lower and broaden your search. If you still believe that without a doubt you are a Division I-AA recruit, then start focusing on more of those programs in different areas of the country. The travel may be much further but if the level of play is the most important, then open things up and look at new schools. Also start looking more into Junior Colleges. They will be a more affordable experience early on and help you potentially move to a larger school, if it works out as you hope.

If you can be honest with yourself and realize that maybe Division I-AA football is not in the cards, then look much more into Division II and III programs. This will likely help you stay closer to home instead of traveling across the country and also can provide you with a solid education. You may not be able to brag about playing at a Division I program but that is not all that matters in life. Your goal is to find a school that is a good fit that can provide you with a great education hopefully at an affordable price.

Reevaluating your recruiting options at this point in the process will make it tough to figure out where you want to camp at during the summer. Because there is so much in question, do not go to the schools that have just sent you a camp invite. It may be best to pick a big state school and some smaller schools. Use this more as a learning experience to grow as a player instead of being completely worried about the recruiting process. The hope is that your reevaluation could help open some doors to schools that were not aware of you previously.

May Recap

- Sort through your current recruiting attention to set your camp schedule.
- Speak with college coaches about attending just one day at each camp.
- If you are unhappy with the recruiting attention that you have received, start searching for new schools and market yourself to those programs.

June of Your Junior Year

I would guess that 90% plus of the college recruiting camps are held within the month of June. Depending on the year, some may have a camp at the very end of May and some may have a camp in July. It just depends on the program but again, a lot of the camps are in June and most are in the early portion. That is why deciding to go to only one day of camps is a must if you want to be seen by as many coaches as possible.

During this time, your entire focus should be on the camps. Hopefully school has wrapped up and you have put together another strong showing in the classroom. During this time, it is important to not stress out about recruiting. The more worries you have about recruiting and impressing coaches, the worse you are going to perform because you are over thinking everything. Perform the best you can and play your game. If you are good enough, the coaches will let you know. If not, hope that they will be honest with you and let you know. Don't get down about that either. Their honesty is helping you focus more time on schools that may eventually offer you a scholarship down the line.

Here are some key things to focus on at the camps in hopes that you do walk away with a scholarship offer. Even if you are at camps for just one day, doing these things will help you in the eyes of college coaches at all levels.

- *Be a great listener*
Coaches want athletes who have the ability to listen and then do what they are taught on the next play. You can show how great of a listener you are at these camps because there are likely going to be a number of different things that you haven't seen before. Focus and listen when the coaches are talking. Try to make eye contact as much as possible to show you are paying attention.
- *Work harder than your competition*
While you may not be the most talented kid at the camp, out-working the players around you at your position will be a great start to the camp. The host school may not feel you have what it takes to make it there but this work ethic could catch the eye of other college coaches.
- *Ask questions that are relevant to your position*
Let me note that you should not be asking dumb questions just to be heard. Ask questions about how certain things can be handled and use the first skill mentioned (listening) when you get an answer. Once the question is answered, try to use it to the best of your ability and make yourself a better player. At the end of camp, also ask your position coach what you need to do to be a better football player overall. Coaches love athletes who want to get better and they are happy to provide you with the drills needed for that.
- *Be the first person at every drill*
Instead of walking to each drill and take your time, why not run or jog? However, don't do this just to suck up to the coaches. This is a mentality I saw of an athlete a few years back during a basketball practice. He went 100% at all times and the coaches loved it. That is why he is a starting football player at a major football program after walking on.

- *Don't get in trouble*

This one should be pretty obvious but don't get in trouble during the drills or in the dorms. This will be something that really will get the coaches angry. Also be respectful of property and don't do anything like trash a room or something along those lines. Be polite and use common sense.

I have talked to hundreds and potentially thousands of athletes who attended football recruiting camps over the years. And during that time span, I don't ever recall an athlete telling me they sucked and played very poorly. What I am saying by that is few ever really believe that they didn't shine. However, here are a few ways that the college coaches show that you are among the best in your group at the camp.

- *The coaches ask you your name*

A lot of coaches may just be doing this to be friendly and are making conversation. Others want to know exactly who you are in order to start recruiting you afterwards. Take this as a good sign, especially if they are not asking others around you.

- *You are asked to help demonstrate the drills*

A college coach likely won't be pulling someone to the front and having them demonstrate what needs to be done unless they are confident that you can do it. This is just a first step that you are doing well and that they like the performance that you are putting on.

- *You are consistently talked to more often than your peers*

College coaches will be talking a lot during the drills. But if they continually are telling you good job or talking to you afterwards, it means that you showed something that they liked.

- *The coaches pull you aside or keep you after to do more work*

If you are attending a large camp and there are 30 linemen in your group, getting the best offensive and defensive linemen to face one another is difficult at times just due to the sheer numbers. Since these coaches want to see the best of the best at the camps, they will pull aside a few of the linemen and see how they do against one another. The coaches may pull you to the side or keep you after when the drill is done. This is a great time to do everything you can to dominate who you are going against. If your goal is to earn a scholarship to this school, making your opponent look as bad as possible is a great way to help your chances.

Again, take these signs as a way to gauge how you did overall at the camp. Few athletes will ever want to talk about getting dominated by the bigger players. They'd prefer to remember their 1-on-1 victories from the kid who doesn't start at the high school level. Even if it is the Division I coach showing you this interest (it could be a coach at just about any level), take it as flattery because they likely are not doing these things with those who they feel can't play at their college.

June Recap

- Be prepared to dominate at summer camps.
- Review the best ways to stand out among your peers.
- Remember that being pulled aside to work with others at a camp shows you have excelled.

July of Your Junior Year

As I mentioned earlier, July really is the when the majority of college camps are done. Your busy month of June turns into a stretch of days where you likely get an opportunity to stay close to home and workout with your teammates. If you are exhausted from the travel and work that you did in June, now is a great time to recharge your battery in order to be ready to bring it this fall as a senior.

When your camp schedule winds down, so does the camp schedule of college coaches. July may be used as a time for these coaches to finally get a much needed vacation (as always it depends on the school) while others may be working hard in preparation for the beginning of their own football practices.

In my opinion, this is by far the best time to try and get an honest evaluation from a college coach. If you followed the guidance of this e-book, the majority of the camps you attended were ones that were showing you interest and calling as well. If that is the case, then there is already a connection made that you can use to find out how you did. Realize that just because you didn't end up with a scholarship offer, it doesn't mean you did poorly. The school may just have higher rated prospects that they are hoping to land before you. That is why this call is so important.

Because the evaluation period is now on hold until September, you are going to have to be the one to call the college coach yourself. I know a lot of parents are reading this and it may be tough to do but let your son be the one to call. As a grown adult, you can ask them a million different questions about when your son is going to get his offer and talk about how great of a player he is. However, if the athlete calls, I think it means that he really does care more than most athletes who rely on their parents to do the leg work.

There are two different coaches that you could call in order to try and get an honest evaluation (sometimes this could be the same coach or two different coaches, it varies greatly). The first is the coach that you worked with at the camp. The hope is that you were able to get his name while at camp or you could also recognize him from the website. It doesn't matter how you find it, the key is having that information and being able to use the staff directory at the college to call them. Email is a much easier route but calling and keeping in touch that way could be a great way to catch up.

If you check all of the information you logged throughout the recruiting process, then you can easily find which coach called you during the spring evaluation period. Since this is a coach who you have already built a relationship with, it may be easier for you to speak with them. It really doesn't matter what coach you call as long as you have picked one to call. As with all other things recruiting related, take notes regarding the coach, the date, and the time you called. If you can't get a hold of him, you can leave a message but realize that these coaches cannot legally call you back. The ball will be completely in your corner until you touch base with them.

So what should I be saying once I talk to them? The first thing you should know by July is that you are not high enough on their board for a scholarship. So be honest in asking for an evaluation about how you did, what their thoughts were, and if they feel you can play at that level. Once they give you this

information, make sure to ask what you can do in order to improve as a football player and improve on your standing within their recruiting board. Showing the intent that you want to get better on your weaknesses is something that college coaches will love to hear every single time you say it.

Do this for all the camps you attended and once again take notes in regards to what they say, especially the areas that you can get better in. You can even ask them questions about what you can do to improve certain things. If you really are a highly regarded recruit who could be high on their board, I would expect these coaches to nitpick your overall abilities. It may be your hip flexibility or precision in route running. Little things like this could easily be the difference between getting a scholarship and being asked to walk-on.

If you hear the same thing at all the schools, really take it to heart and know that you must get better at that certain thing if you want to play at that level. The more general of an area the coaches give you to improve, the less they actually watched you/remembered you while you performed at their camp. Take whatever they told you and make it a focal point from now into your senior season. These coaches will be requesting tape early if you are on their board and they want to see you make progress on areas that you are weak in. So after talking to them, your coach, and researching what you can do to improve this weakness, work tirelessly at becoming better.

Going back to the call, if you didn't receive a call from the coach in the spring and you still want an honest evaluation, place the call to the coach that you worked with (likely your position coach). It may be a little bit harder to get a hold of them and the conversation a bit more awkward but it is still worth making. This may not be a school you can play at but receiving an idea at what level they think you can play is important. The sooner you do this, the better so that the coach will have a better chance of hopefully remembering you as well. Don't take it personally if they don't because they work with hundreds of athletes during the camp circuit.

July is also a month where not a lot of scholarships are extended by college coaches. This is sometimes a tough pill for athletes to swallow but July and August will likely be the slowest time for that. The reason is rather simple. Since Signing Day, they have focused on evaluations through video and then getting you to their camps. If you passed the eyeball test and your video was impressed, they likely would have offered you in April or May. Dominating at their camp would have helped you garner an offer in June when the majority of camps are.

For July, there really is not all that much a coach hasn't seen regarding an athlete. If the coach called and visited your high school, he would have seen you up close, received information from your coach about you, evaluated your video, and gotten your grades. He likely also had a chance to see you at their camp if you followed the advice given early so he would have had an opportunity to work with you.

The majority of the focus for college coaches during this time is to get ready for the upcoming football season. They are working on setting their lineups, gauging the improvements athletes made, and pushing them to continue getting better in all forms of summer workouts. Recruiting is still a focus but

offers are not being handed out left and right as in other months. However, there are two main reasons why scholarships will get extended during this month.

The first reason is if another prospect that they have on their board who has an offer picks another school. These coaches are fully aware of how many players at each position they hope to sign by the time February comes around.

Here is an example of a hypothetical situation at Clemson. The Tigers know that they want to sign two offensive tackles in this class. They currently have four offers out to tackles and are showing all the interest that they can to those top recruits. If these don't pan out, the coaches also have three B recruits on the board and five C recruits as well. One of their recruited tackles spurns Clemson and accepts a scholarship offer at South Carolina.

With two spots to fill and only three offers out, the coaches meet and decide how many of their B recruits they want to offer. In some cases, they may extend multiple offers out in hopes that they can get a commitment right away. With some time left before Signing Day, the coaches evaluate their notes on the three B prospects, go through more of their film, and end up picking the one that they feel is the best among the bunch. Now they are back to having four offers out in order to fill two spots. If another prospect commits shortly after this, then they may end up offering the two remaining B recruits at tackle.

A similar story happened a few years back where I saw a Big Ten school snag a commitment from an in-state offensive tackle during the spring. It was assumed this four star recruit would be signing there but instead spurned the coaches during the summer and committed to a rival school. The pending move by these coaches was to offer a B recruit. This B recruit had grown up following this school so he quickly committed. Situations like these do happen all the time but they seem to be few and far between in the month of July.

The second situation where an offer may be extended in July is when college coaches start receiving word that another school has offered you. I have mentioned the phrase "scholarships breed scholarships" often on the site and it continues to ring true. College coaches will evaluate a prospect much longer and take a harder look at what they can do if the recruit has a scholarship offer. This is especially true if it is from a conference rival.

College football coaches may be confident men but they will be wondering if they missed anything if an opponent in the same division has offered you a scholarship. With the worry that you may play for a rival school, the coaches may meet and realize that you are in fact good enough for an offer from their program. I have seen countless athletes finally get their first offer on the table and the recruiting process completely blew up. That first offer really is the hardest one to get overall.

When you do receive it, make sure that word gets out through the media and the coaches. Contact the local newspaper, the Rivals/247Sports/Scout sites (both college and high school) in order to give them a heads up regarding the new scholarship offer. Post your recruiting on your social media profile. You can

also give the coaches an email update about your recruiting and mention that this certain school has offered. Your high school coach can also inform the colleges recruiting you that you have received your first offer.

The key here is to let them know that there is an offer on the table. I have seen countless coaches suddenly step up an offer based solely on who else has extended a scholarship. It is sad to say at times that they don't trust their own evaluations. That offer could have them reevaluate your tape and then step up with a scholarship of their own. It really all boils down to how high you are on their board.

July Recap

- Contact the coaches about an evaluation to figure out how you did at the camp.
- Learn what specific areas they feel you can improve from the eyes of a college coach.
- Remember that while offers are extended in July, it is rare for college coaches to do this with the camp circuit behind them in most cases.

August of your Junior Year

Time has flown but your senior season is nearly here. Depending on the state you live in, some will start official practice very early in the month to gear up for a great season on the gridiron. Recruiting will still be weighing heavily on athletes. While that is an important thing to always be thinking about, don't let that get into the way of having a great season overall.

The majority of your focus should be on your own football season. College coaches will be doing the same as they have multiple practices every day getting their own team ready for a big upcoming season. There certainly are going to be coaches at every school that still send out letters and tickets for upcoming games but the focus is on their own season.

It is also far enough along in the recruiting process that even if one of their top recruiting targets does commit to another program, the coaches may just hold off on offering and wait to see your senior video. The key is for you to make progress from the summer camps to the fall games and it is something that hopefully your tape is able to show. The more progress you made for what they specifically said you need to work on, the better your overall chances are in the journey for a scholarship offer.

After what hopefully was an excellent summer of improvement as an athlete and in the weight room, August will likely be the start of your senior year of high school as well. If you have already taken care of business in the classroom and have shown the abilities to potentially be a scholarship athlete, this should be a fun time. Enjoy your final go around in high school because it will be over before you know it.

The month of August will also provide you with the time to figure out what your plans are for getting video to coaches. You need to figure out what exactly the college coaches are going to want to evaluate from the season. Do they want the first three full game tapes or a compilation of your best plays from that time span? The hope is that they have already seen your junior year highlight video so it is important to know what exactly the college coaches want you to send them after your first three or four games of the year.

Your family also should be helping you work out a solution for your eventual highlight tape. Again, the end goal is to have a scholarship offer after those first four games but you have to be ready to put together a highlight video. Who made the video for your junior season? Was it a coach, yourself, or a professional? Can you do n Hudl? Depending on who did it, talk to that person about putting together two videos for the season. One can be a midseason update and the second can be a full season update with the best highlights included in all of them. Cost may be a concern for using professionals and time may be something to consider if you have a coach or a friend doing it. But putting these together will allow you to showcase your video footage the best that you can to college coaches.

The college football season is also just around the corner and getting onto campuses is a great way to see what these programs have to offer. If you did not get an opportunity to take these game day visits as a junior, the coaches will give you three free tickets (per NCAA rules) to get into the game. These are called unofficial visits. There is normally a tour around the campus, a talk from the coaches, an

opportunity to see the players warm up on the field, and you will end up sitting in a recruiting section during the game. It is just another chance to learn more about this school. The majority of the coaches will be focused on the game but they still do realize the importance of these unofficial recruiting visits.

Coaches should have sent out the information regarding tickets to their recruits by mid-August so it should give you a good feel for what options you have. Check the schedule and see what games work best for you and your family. If you are unhappy with the lack of schools sending tickets, then contact them and speak to them about it. You may be paying for the travel to get to the game but the cost of tickets does add up pretty quick for three adults. Also make sure that you can work it out if you have a Saturday football practice. Some coaches will let athletes out and others won't. It just depends on the high school.

Be very careful when making unofficial visits to schools that have not yet offered that are over a few hours away from home. I have heard athletes tell me stories about how a school 15 hours away from them invited them to a game so they took an unofficial visit there. The cost of travel, a rental car, and a hotel had to be in the thousands for a school that has not given you anything outside of three free tickets to the games. If this school doesn't offer you, are your parents going to be happy that they made the trip? If the answer is no, then don't go. Just be honest with them about the cost of travel but let them know how great you think their school is overall.

August Recap

- Continue preparing yourself for the best possible season year on the gridiron.
- Finalize who you will be using to put together your highlight video.
- Schedule out some unofficial visits early in the fall.

Conclusion

The recruiting process is a difficult journey for families. There will always be questions about what you need to do to impress college coaches at all levels, from Division I to Division III. That is why Recruiting-101 was created. We are here to do our best to help those with questions and figure out how they can help themselves in front of college coaches.

For parents unfamiliar with the recruiting process, things can get stressful in a hurry. But in order to better prepare yourself as much as possible, I recommend getting a better feel for the process and reading up all that you can. If you use this information that was provided in this e-book, you will help to put yourself in line to be evaluated by a wide range of college coaches during your senior year. These methods have worked in the past and they will continue to work in the future.

Make sure to stay on top of everything that needs to be done on a monthly basis. There may be only a few key pieces that were discussed each month but the majority of them need to be completed in order to help get a feel for where the recruiting process stands for you individually. While you can start later than February and some athletes certainly will, it is best to start from square one and go from there.

Once again, thank you for purchasing this e-book and taking the time to read it. If you have any questions, please feel free to visit www.Recruiting-101.com or email us at admin@Recruiting-101.com.

Here are a few other resources that we currently have available as well:

Recruiting E-Books

[Guide to the Athletic Recruiting Process for Parents](#)

[How Juniors Can Get a Head Start on the Football Recruiting Process](#)

[How Seniors Can Finish the Football Recruiting Process Strong](#)

[Position by Position Football Recruiting Advice](#)

[Producing a Scholarship Worthy Highlight Video](#)

Specific Recruiting Packages

[Junior All State Package](#)

[Junior All Conference Package](#)

[Senior All State Package](#)

[Senior All Conference Package](#)