

Know What to Ask - and Not Ask - College Coaches

Written by the Baseball Factory Staff

What to ask and what not to ask . . . many players and parents submersed in the college recruiting process often struggle with that question when meeting with college coaches.

In communication with college coaches it is imperative that high school student-athletes understand what questions are appropriate to ask. While a prospective college athlete's goal should be to obtain as much information about a program as possible, it is important to stay within certain boundaries.

Effective communication between a college coach and a prospective athlete is a vital part of the college recruiting process. While a player seeks information from the coach, the coach is simultaneously gauging the player's level of interest, maturity and poise to ensure that he will fit his team's dynamic.

Below is a list of questions that will allow you to obtain valuable information about the school's baseball program, the school's academic reputation and the school in general. Often times it helps to have a list of these questions in front of you when you are meeting with coaches.

Baseball: Pose questions that will give you a general idea about the program, schedule, facilities, coaching style and style of play. Be careful not to assume that you will be on the roster. Emphasize that you are willing to earn playing time. Remember that very few freshmen find a place in the starting line up their first year.

- 1) How many games do you play each season?
- 2) When does the season begin?
- 3) What does the fall season consist of?
- 4) What is the off-season regimen?
- 5) Do you have a strength and conditioning coach?
- 6) Do you have indoor facilities?
- 7) Are the facilities available to players outside of practice?
- 8) In what conference does the school play?
- 9) Who are some of your out-of-conference opponents?
- 10) How many players in the last five years have gone on to play pro ball?
- 11) Will I have the opportunity to earn playing time as a freshman?
- 12) Do you "red shirt" players?
- 13) What position do you see me playing for your program?
- 14) How many players are you recruiting at my position?
- 15) How many returning players do you have at my position?
- 16) Do you have a junior varsity program?
- 17) How many players are on your roster?
- 18) Do you have a general style of play or do you mold your team to the talent you have?

Academic: Remember that the number one reason that you are going to college is to receive an education. It is important that you will be able to succeed in the classroom as well as on the diamond - your eligibility is depending on it.

- 1) Do you offer _____ program? (ask about the programs of study the interest you - i.e. engineering, business, communications etc.)
- 2) What is your graduation rate among student-athletes?
- 3) Do you offer an academic advisor for athletes?
- 4) Are there tutors available? If yes, are they free?
- 5) Do you have an organized study hall for players? Is it mandatory or optional, in-season? Out-of-season?
- 6) Does a walk-on receive the same services as a scholarship athlete?
- 7) Do you have priority registration for athletes?
- 8) What has been your teams' GPA in the past?
- 9) How much class time is missed due to travel?

General College: Try to get a picture of the school without baseball. Ask yourself if you would be happy if you were injured and consequently unable to play baseball.

- 1) What is campus life like?
- 2) Do most players live on or off campus?
- 3) Is it required for freshman to live on campus?
- 4) Will I be roomed with another baseball player?
- 5) What meal plan is best for me as a baseball player?
- 6) Do you give meal money or have team meals on the road?
- 7) Do you provide a pre-game or post-game meal for home games?
- 8) How much does an off campus apartment cost?
- 9) How far from campus is most off campus housing?
- 10) If I come as a walk-on, will I have a chance to earn a scholarship based on performance?

Make sure to mold these questions to fit your personal needs. Do as much research as you can before you meet with a coach. You may be able to find answers to many of these questions through your research.

Good luck when meeting with coaches. When in doubt, make sure to contact a baseball Factory Player Development Coordinator for advice. Email us at newsletter@baseballfactory.com or call 800.641.4487 to speak with a representative.