

TOPIC OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER 2007

LOCATING INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGE ATHLETIC TEAMS

The following is a selected list of resources athletes and their parents might use to locate information about specific sports teams at various colleges. National organizations, like the National Collegiate Athletic Association, publish research reports, statistics about participation, and annual handbooks to official records in various sports. Their websites usually include season schedules for member teams, normally provide detailed summaries of championship/post-season play, and often link to official websites for each of their member institutions. You need to know the names of specific colleges in order to take advantage of the wealth of information available on the internet.

Making a list of colleges that teach what you want to study starts with standard directories to colleges, found in libraries, guidances offices, and bookstores. Although they rarely identify sports teams, these books (or computer disks) provide addresses and phone numbers. They help you evaluate your opportunity to become a successful student at various types of colleges.

For accurate listings of all sports sponsored by every college and junior college in the United States and Canada, consult The Blue Book of College Athletics, published every fall. Each entry includes athletic department address, website address, status facts (enrollment, associations, conference memberships), and names and phone numbers for coaches of each sport offered. (Club level sports are not included.) Separate sections for conferences and associations identify their websites, members, and recent champions. Indexing is by state - one for all 4-year colleges in each state and another for community/junior colleges.

If you are interested in football only, the best resource is the annual Football Green Book. In addition to contact and conference information, the entry for each college or junior college names all coaches (by position), as well as head trainer, equipment manager, and sports information director. Football stadium name also shows seating capacity and surface type. One index lists all entries alphabetically, and one lists football-playing colleges and junior colleges in each state. Published in late July, it includes complete season schedules for every team.

You should seek objective data that can be compared across all of the colleges that interest you. Start your research by preparing a lengthy list of criteria on which you will base your selection. Factors should include class size, access to faculty, breadth of curriculum, value of diploma, location, weather, cost, housing, food service, and entrance requirements, in addition to team reputation, style of play, and projected compatibility with existing coaches/players. Grade each college in each category.

- **PUBLICATIONS OTHER THAN STANDARD COLLEGE DIRECTORIES**

The Blue Book of College Athletics for Senior, Junior, & Community Colleges.
Athletic Publishing Company, P. O. Box 931, Montgomery, AL 36101-0931
(Annual Directory) www.athleticpubco.com 1-800-446-9267

Football Green Book.
Bareham & Saunders Directories, P. O. Box 1, Springfield, MO 65801-0001
(Annual Directory) www.footballgreenbook.com 1-800-909-0010

Koehler, Michael D. Advising Student Athletes through the College Recruiting Process: A Complete Guide for Counselors, Coaches, and Parents.
Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1996. ISBN 0-13-311564-X

National Collegiate Athletic Association Publishing
P. O. Box 361147, Indianapolis, IN 46236-5323
(Annual Handbooks) www.ncaa.org 1-888-388-9748

<u>Baseball Records</u>	February
<u>Division I Football Records</u>	August
<u>Division II and III Football Records</u>	August
<u>Men's Basketball Records</u>	November
<u>Men's and Women's Soccer Records</u>	September
<u>Softball Records</u>	February
<u>Women's Basketball Records</u>	November
<u>Women's Volleyball Records</u>	September

All records books contain single-game, season, and career records, plus coaching records, conference standings, and the previous season's statistical leaders. (The final section of the football books contains an all-inclusive alphabetical listing of NCAA football-playing colleges. Each entry includes address, level of play, complete results from the previous season, and name of the coach from the previous season.)

- **MEDIA GUIDES AND COLLEGE HANDBOOKS FROM INSTITUTIONS**

Media guides for each sport are published annually by the Sports Information office at each college. At smaller colleges, sports teams from the same season may be grouped together, or the information may appear in game programs. Originally intended for pre-season distribution to newspapers and for game-day background for journalists/media covering the game, media guides have become histories of team development and encyclopedias of statistical data. (The 2006 University of Texas guide weighed 8 pounds, but most are magazine-size.) They provide biographies and photos of current coaches and players, as well as pictures inside athletic facilities. Most also present views of the campus and describe academic strengths. Some media guides are available on-line.

As a prospect, you may request a media guide by calling the recruiting coordinator at any football (or other sport) office. Football media guides are printed in July or August. Although major colleges offer them for sale to the general public, you are allowed to receive one free from each campus as part of the recruiting process. Once the supply is exhausted, no new guides are printed until the following season. The concluding paragraph in the cover letter a prospect mails with his/her resume' should always include a request for the most recent media guide.

College handbooks list the course offerings in each academic department and identify the research interests of the faculty. They provide facts about admissions, graduation requirements, tuition and other expenses, financial aid, residence life, and the academic calendar. They are available from the Admissions Office throughout the year. Some are also posted on-line.

- WEBSITES OF COLLEGES AND TEAMS

Obtain web page addresses from printed directories or college handbooks before attempting to "surf the net." Searching for athletic department websites will be much easier after you organize the list of colleges to research. Remember that many websites provide subjective views of a campus and its athletics programs. Boosters and fans often construct websites that contain only unofficial information.

- ORGANIZATIONS (Samples)

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) 700 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222	www.ncaa.org 317-917-6222
National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) 1200 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64106	www.naia.org 816-595-8000
National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) 302 West Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29801	www.thenccaa.org 864-250-1199
National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) P. O. Box 7305, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7305	www.njcaa.org 719-590-9788
National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS) 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1599	www.nagws.org 703-476-3450
National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) P. O. Box 690, Indianapolis, IN 46206-0690	www.nfhs.org 317-972-6900
Women's Sports Foundation Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, NY 11554	516-542-4700 1-800-227-3988

- **COACHING ASSOCIATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTS (Samples)**

Doctors, lawyers, teachers, and members of other professions join organizations that conduct annual conferences and distribute publications about new concepts and new products. College level coaches belong to organizations for a specific sport. (Annually, members of the American Football Coaches Association receive a 250-page directory to their profession. Every American team past high school level has an entry, as do conferences and bowls.) If your high school coach belongs to a sport-specific association, ask to use the annual directory to locate college contact information. If you live near a college that plays your sport, ask a coach or a secretary if you may photocopy directory pages.

American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) www.abca.org
108 South University Avenue, Suite 3, Mt.Pleasant, MI 48858-2327 989-775-3300

American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) www.afca.com
100 Legends Lane, Waco, TX 76706 254-754-9900

American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) www.avca.org
2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite A325, Lexington, KY 40504 859-226-4315

College Gymnastics Association www.collegegymnastics.org
52 Evelyn Road, Needham, MA 02494 781-444-3893

College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) www.cscaa.org
10320 Verbena Lane, Scottsdale, AZ 85255 480-699-4852

Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) www.collegiategolf.com
1225 West Main, Suite 110, Norman, OK 73069 405-329-4222

Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) www.ITAtennis.com
174 Tamarack Circle, Skillman, NJ 08558 609-497-6920

National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) www.nscaa.com
6700 Squibb Road, Suite 215, Mission, KS 66202 913-362-1747

Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) www.wbca.org
4646-B Lawrenceville Highway, Lilburn, GA 30047 770-279-8027

- **NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES OF INDIVIDUAL SPORTS (Samples)**

Many are in Colorado Springs, CO, near U.S. Olympic Headquarters, or in Indianapolis, IN, near the NCAA Headquarters.

USA Basketball www.usabasketball.com
5465 Mark Dabbling Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80918-3842 719-590-4800

USA Track & Field
One RCA Dome, Suite 140, Indianapolis, IN 46225-1023 317-261-0500

- **CONFERENCE OFFICES (Samples from the Southeast)**

The websites for conferences provide comparative data about teams within the conference, as well as schedules and standings.

Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC)	NCAA I-FBS (I-A)	www.theacc.com
4512 Weybridge Lane, Greensboro, NC	27407	336-854-8787
Colonial Athletic Association (CAA)	NCAA I-FCS (I-AA)	www.caasports.com
8625 Patterson Avenue, Richmond, VA	23229-6349	804-754-1616
Conference USA	NCAA I-FBS (I-A)	www.conferenceusa.com
5201 North O'Connor, Suite 300, Irving, TX	75039	214-744-1300
Gulf South Conference (GSC)	NCAA II	www.gulfsouthconference.org
2101 Providence Park, Suite 200, Birmingham, AL	35242	205-991-9880
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference	NCAA I-FCS (I-AA)	www.meacsports.com
222 Central Park Avenue, Suite 1150, Virginia Beach, VA	23462	757-416-7100
Mid-South Conference	NAIA	www.mid-southconference.org
401 West Main Street, Suite 2200, Louisville, KY	40202	502-587-7767
Ohio Valley Conference (OVC)	NCAA I-FCS (I-AA)	www.ovcsports.com
215 Centerview Drive, Suite 115, Brentwood, TN	37027	615-371-1698
South Atlantic Conference (SAC)	NCAA II	www.thesac.com
226 North Park Drive, Suite 130, Rock Hill, SC	29730	803-981-5240
Southeastern Conference (SEC)	NCAA I-FBS (I-A)	www.secsports.com
2201 Richard Arrington Boulevard, North, Birmingham, AL	35203	205-458-3000
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	NCAA II	www.thesiac.com
3469 Lawrenceville Highway, Suite 207, Tucker, GA	30084-5866	770-908-0482
Sun Belt Conference	NCAA I-FBS (I-A)	www.sunbeltsports.org
601 Poydras Street, Suite 2355, New Orleans, LA	70130	504-299-9066
USA South Athletic Conference	NCAA III	www.usasouth.net
5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC	28311	910-630-7326

- **COACHES, ALUMNI, CURRENT AND FORMER PLAYERS OF A COLLEGE**

People can provide details about living within a team. They are often your best resource. Prepare questions before you make visits or phone calls. By NCAA rules, alumni may not entice you to attend a college or provide you with gifts. They may answer questions about their college experience. Try to spend time with current players to learn what will truly be expected of you.

- **PRE-SEASON MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES**