

May 5, 2010

COLLEGE BOUND

Some important questions to ask yourself

By Pat Grecco
BigAppleSoccer.com Writer

When visiting a college and sitting down with the coach, he may ask one or more of the following questions so it would be in your best interest to know a little about his or her school and the soccer program.

If the coach asks you, "Am I your top choice?" it may be because he is considering making you a pick and wants to be sure you are really serious about his or her school.

Always be truthful and honest with the coach, college soccer coaches all know each other.

Here are some questions to ask yourself:

- * What got you interested this particular college or university?
- * What is your academic status, ACT/SAT's?
- * Have you filed with the NCAA Eligibility Center?
- * Where can I see you compete, do have an athletic-academic profile?
- * What other schools are looking at you?
- * Is my school among your top choices?
- * Do you think you have the physical, technical, tactical and academic qualities to play at my school?

You and your parents also should ask questions of the coach and it is not inappropriate to ask, "coach have you seen me play and do you think I could make a contribution to your team; what amount of playing time do you anticipate for me?"

Parents, the most important question you will ask beside what the cost is, will be "tell me about your academic support program, tutoring, do you have mandatory study hours? Of course the question of money is also very relevant in our current economic crisis. Ask the coach about your package, how much will you get for academic, how much for athletic grant and how much for financial aid, if you qualify.

Always have a Plan B and even a Plan C, just to be sure you can cover the cost.

Some student-Athlete and Parent Questions:

- * What is the status of the returning team, in other words are you looking for a player at my position?
- * What are my chances of making the team and getting significant playing time as a freshman and sophomore?
- * What If I am injured? Will I lose my scholarship?
- * What is the availability of a scholarship?
- * Can you tell me about the academic support program?
- * What is the graduation rate in your program?
- * Will I be able to get academic scholarship/grant money?

Every week Pat Grecco will write about another subject about high school student athletes finding the right college. She is the College Bound Athlete Advisor at www.collegeboundathlete.com. She can be reached at soccervol@aol.com.