COLLEGE SOFTBALL RECRUITING INFORMATION SESSION

2024-2025

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- Decision Making
- College Softball Stats
- Financials
- Vortex/A's Website Resources
- College Coaches & Sending Emails
- College Camps
- SportsRecruits
- Panel





TRUST THE PROCESS.



Exploration

- Get to know Colleges
- Get to know yourself

Investigation

Develop a Targeted Plan

Decisions

Ask the Right Questions



IS PURSUING COLLEGE SOFTBALL THE RIGHT DECISION FOR YOU?



<u>YES</u>

- I currently train for softball outside of scheduled practice time consistently.
- I want to be a part of a team where softball is my top priority & consumes most of my day.
- I am able to catch up on my academics even after I've missed class.
- I am emotionally resilient & want to be a part of the athlete community.

NO

- I don't like being corrected by my coach.
- I find it challenging to keep up with my schoolwork and extracurricular activities.
- I want to study abroad during a spring semester
- I plan on having a full-time job during the school year.



PICKING THE RIGHT SCHOOL FOR YOU



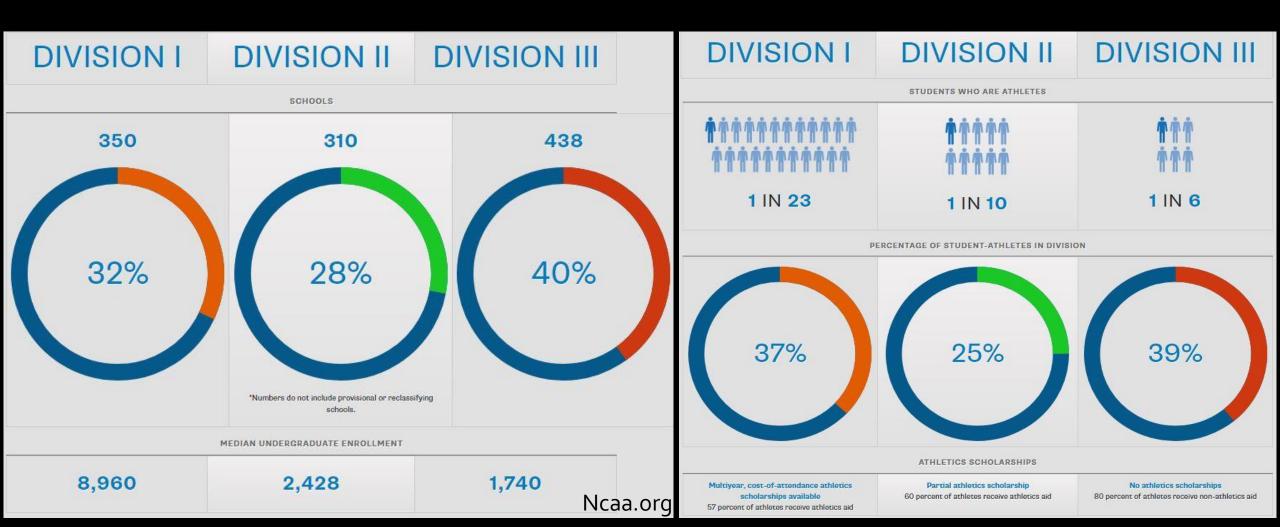
Considerations:

- Location/Weather
- Degrees offered
- Campus Life
- Cost
- Private or Public
- Class Size
- Division
- Playing Time
- Recruits/Current Players same position as you
- Coaches (but not entirely as coaches move around)

"Go where you're wanted. Go where you'll develop as a person & player. Go where IF Softball ended abruptly, you would still be happy. Go where you'll receive a great education. This is your future...not some impulsive decision... Be informed." - Dan Cevette

DIVISION COMPARISON



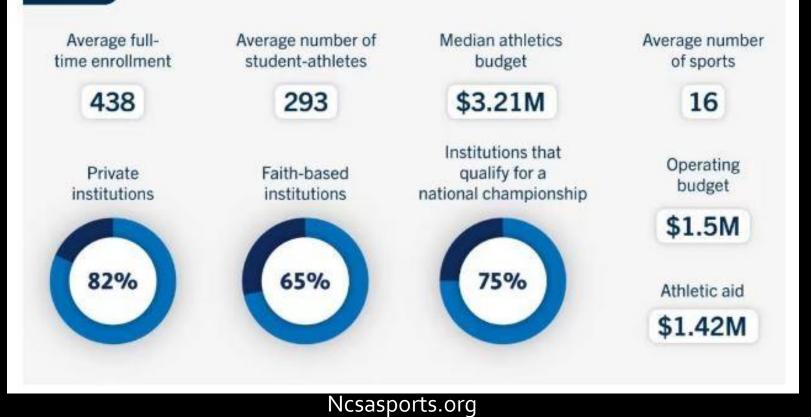


NAIA



Why an NAIA school might be your best bet

NAIA





NJCAA/CC

NCSA

Junior colleges are two-year universities that give student-athletes an opportunity to develop their athletic and academic skills in a post high school program. With more than 500 junior college softball programs, the opportunities are almost endless. And if you think these teams aren't tough—think again! Many junior college softball teams have future D1 and D2 athletes on their roster who are there to hone their skills before they commit to a four-year school. For athletes who may not have the grades, finances or build yet for a four-year school, a junior college softball program can be a great way to gain experience competing against collegiate athletes while developing those essential skills.

Are there junior college softball scholarships?

Yes, junior colleges can—and do—offer scholarships for qualified athletes! Depending on the school and how funded the program is, qualified athletes might receive a partial or full-ride scholarship to attend the school.

Are there junior college softball championships?

Yes, each of the three junior college division levels hosts its own tournament. The top teams can compete for the championship in their respective division. To learn more, visit the junior college softball website.

Two Year

• 500+

- GOOD TEAMS!
- Many Reasons to go!

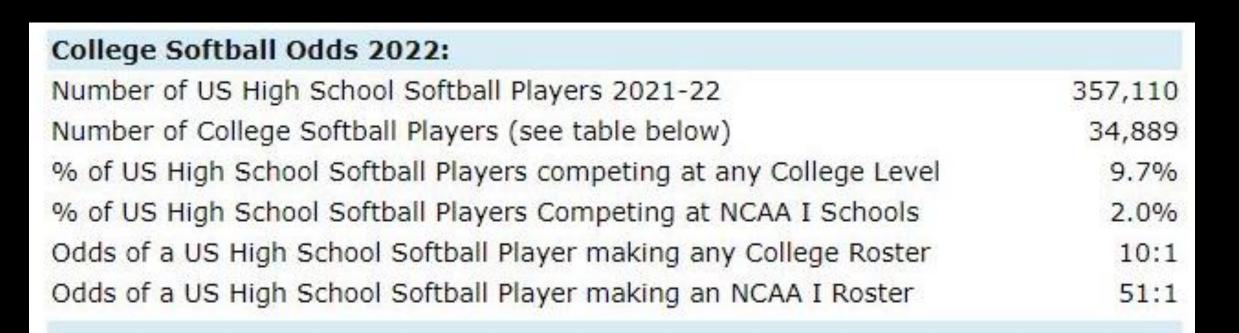
YES

YES





ODDS OF A HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL PLAYER COMPETING IN COLLEGE SOFTBALL





Scholarshipstats.com



ODDS OF A HS PLAYER MAKING A D1 ROSTER

Rank	State	Odds	Rank	State	Odds	Rank	State	Odds
1	California	28:1	18	Connecticut	61:1	35	Alaska	97:1
2	Georgia	31:1	19	Nebraska	62:1	36	Michigan	104:1
3	Florida	35:1	20	New Jersey	65:1	37	Arkansas	105:1
4	North Carolina	36:1	21	Montana	72:1	38	Kansas	111:1
5	Delaware	36:1	22	Colorado	76:1	39	Pennsylvania	112:1
6	Virginia	37:1	23	Alabama	78:1	40	Oregon	114:1
7	Arizona	37:1	24	Washington	79:1	41	New Hampshire	136:1
8	Nevada	38:1	25	Oklahoma	80:1	42	Massachusetts	149:1
9	Hawaii	41:1	26	Ohio	83:1	43	West Virginia	152:1
10	Tennessee	43:1	27	New York	84:1	44	Wisconsin	227:1
11	Louisiana	47:1	28	Kentucky	85:1	45	South Dakota	256:1
12	Indiana	50:1	29	Rhode Island	86:1	46	Minnesota	273:1
13	Texas	52:1	30	Missouri	90:1	47	Wyoming	296:1
14	Illinois	54:1	31	Iowa	91:1	48	Maine	341:1
15	South Carolina	56:1	32	Mississippi	94:1	49	North Dakota	354:1
16	Utah	57:1	33	New Mexico	95:1	50	District of Columbia	478:1
17	Maryland	59:1	34	Idaho	96:1	51	Vermont	592:1
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Scholarshipstats.com

COLLEGE SOFTBALL TEAMS



	# of	# of	Total	Average	Scholarship	Average
Division	Schools	and the second second	Players	Roster	Limit	Scholarship
NCAA I	308	307	7,024	23	12	18,267
NCAA II	277	277	6,261	23	7.2	7,840
NCAA III	410	407	<mark>8,</mark> 334	21		
NAIA	201	201	4,659	23	10	7,538
NJCAA	367	367	6,446	18	24	3,280
CCCAA	79	79	1,227	16		
NWAC	25	25	406	16	11	745
Other	34	34	532	16		378
Totals	1,701	1,697	34,889	21		

Scholarshipstats.com



STUDENT LOAN DEBT

1 in 4 Americans have student loan debt. The average student loan debt amount is \$37,172 and monthly payment \$393.







Nitrocollege.com

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



- Grants based on ACT/SAT Score
- Grants based on GPA
- Opportunities vary based on university and college program selected

<u>ATHLETIC</u>

- The average scholarship is \$6,341 / year across all NCAA divisions
- Recruited Walk On
- Books Scholarship
- Partial Scholarship
- Full Tuition Scholarship

PRIVATE/BUSINESS

- Scholarships for Women
- Scholarships for First Generation College Student
- Scholarships based on Ethnicity & Race
- Scholarship from HS, Community, Local Businesses







GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE



Apply Starting October 1 of Senior Year



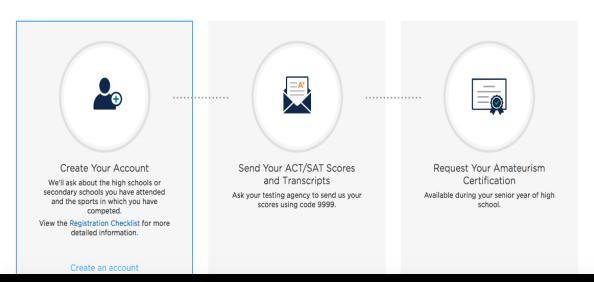
NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER



NC44 Eligibility Center

You are taking the first steps to becoming an NCAA student-athlete.

Before you can be certified to compete at a Division I or II school, we need to know more about your academic history and sports experiences. We'll also need your standardized test scores, high school transcripts and your request for final amateurism certification.

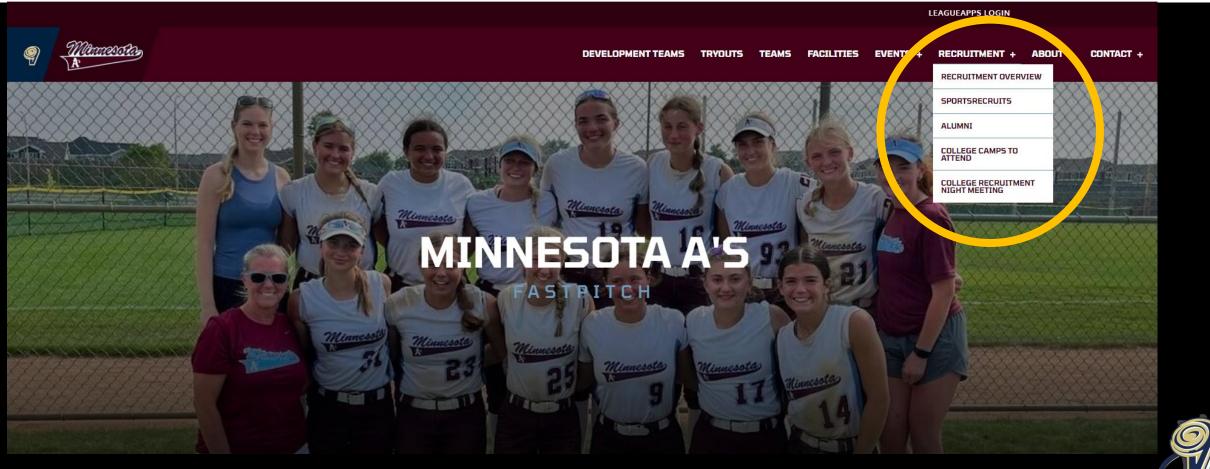


- 1. Create an account & pay the registration fee for D1 & D2 schools (\$90).
 - If you aspire to play in a D₃ program, only sign up for D₃ because there is no registration fee.
 - It's important to know that there are fee waivers available for students on free/reduced lunch with approval from your high school guidance counselor.
- 2. Send The NCAA your ACT/SAT Score each time you take the exams by writing the code 9999 on your exam.
- 3. Request your amateurism certification during your senior year of high school from your high school guidance counselor.





VORTEX & A'S WEBSITE RESOURCES





COLLEGE COACHES RECRUITING FEEDBACK







OTHER COLLEGE COACHES' ON RECRUITING

- On top of Talent, we look for:
 - Athleticism
 - Strength & Conditioning Experience
 - Academics
 - Attitude
 - Character is a good fit
 - Measurables
- Good people we want to spend time with
- Players that show they LOVE the game

- Be Yourself. Need good fit on both sides
- What are the players' parents like?
- Player and parent social media accounts
- Looking for a good person with intelligence of the game
- Fearless & 100% effort
- How do they handle themselves when things go bad? When things go well?





BEYOND PERFORMANCE/STATS



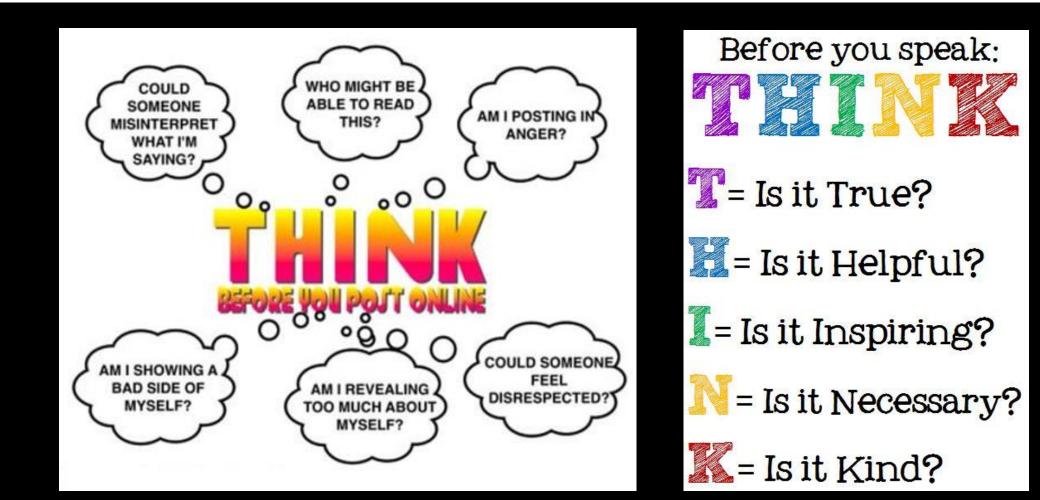
- Mad & Determined > Sad & Sulking
- Run on and off the field
- Play the Game because you LOVE IT
 - Not playing to get recruited
- How do they show up to the fields? First one there? Sitting around doing nothing? Getting work in?
- Communicate in between plays?

- How do you take warm ups in between innings?
- Running into outs or getting in a rundown to survive?
- Passion for the game
- How do you compete?
- Engage Teammates & Coaches



INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA









WANT TO PLAY COLLEGE SOFTBALL?

- 1. Do your prep work
 - List of schools
 - SportsRecruits Profile Filled out completely & updated
 - Compile video and stats
- 2. Talk to your Coach(es)
- 3. Contact Mike Carter & Becky Smith to set up a meeting
 - <u>minnesotavortex@gmail.com</u>
 - playerdevelopment@minnesotavortex.org

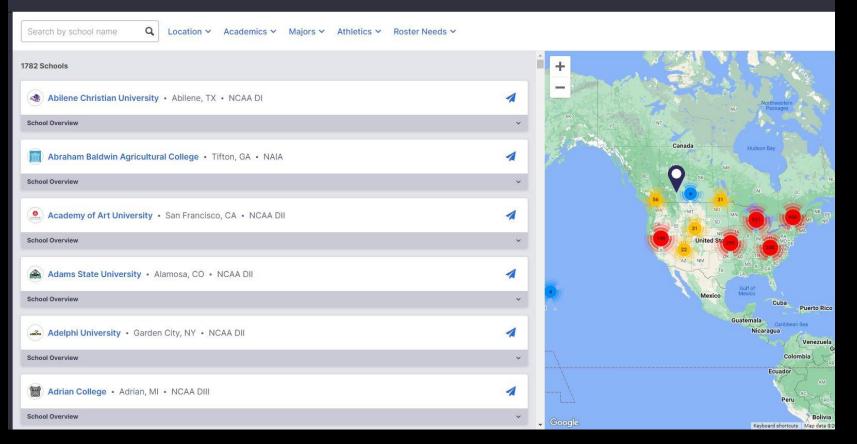
Coaches & Parents can guide players but players must put in the work.



MAKING A LIST

- Find schools that fit your criteria
- List of Schools
 - 5+ reach schools
 - 5+ realistic schools
 - 5+ safety schools
- Always adjust list







m

Schools

3 MAIN WAYS TO GET RECRUITED



Could be 1 way or a combination
Club Tournaments & Coach Recommendations
College Camps and/or Showcases
High School Sections and/or State Tournament

Rarely recruit on video alone





College Recruiting Plan by Year



8th Grade & Younger	Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
 Start College List Plan to contact College Coaches Freshman year Start going to College Camps Start working on speed, strength and overall athleticism. Good Grades 	 List: 20 to 30 schools Contact College Coaches Recruiting Questionnaires Videos & Stats College Camps/Showcases Work on Strength & Speed Good Grades 	 Register on NCAA & NAIA Eligibility Centers Keep updating College List Keep contacting College Coaches Recruiting Questionnaires Videos & Stats College Camps/Showcases ACT/SAT prep Work on Strength & Speed Good Grades 	 List: 10 to 15 schools. Keep contacting College Coaches, ask where you stand Recruiting Questionnaires Videos & Stats ACT/SAT Unofficial Visits College Camps/Showcases Work on Strength & Speed Good Grades 	 List to 3 to 5 schools, Stay in contact with coaches weekly, ask about offer timeline Camps/Showcases/Questio nnaires/Video/Stats (only if roster spot avail) Official Visits ACT/SAT FAFSA Apply for College
		• Good Grades		Work on Strength & SpeedMake YOUR decision

Good Grades



College Recruiting Plan by Season



Fall

- Introduction Email with Fall Schedule
- Before each Tourney, send specific tournament schedule
 - Field, time, opponent
- After each Fall Tourney, send an update
 - Videos, stats, results if good
- At end of Fall, send summary email with compiled good video & stats
- Keep an eye out for
 - Camps/Showcases

Winter

- Introduction Email with Dome
 Schedule
- After each Dome week, send an update
 - Videos, stats, results if good
- At end of Winter, send summary email with compiled good video & stats
- Keep an eye out for Camps/Showcases



Spring

- Introduction Email with
 Sections/State Schedule
- At end of High School season, send summary email with compiled good video & stats
- Introduction Email with Summer Schedule
- Before each Tourney, send specific tournament schedule

Summer

- Field, time, opponent
- After each Summer Tourney, send
 an update
 - $\circ~$ Videos, stats, results if good
- At end of Summer, send summary email with compiled good video & stats
- Keep an eye out for Camps/Showcases

COLLEGE CAMPS



- A's > Recruitment > College Camps to Attend
- Fall, Winter & Summer
- When attending Camps:
 - Wear Vortex/A's Uniform
 - Hustle everywhere
 - Ask questions
 - Answer the coaches' and players' questions
 - What can you do to get noticed?
 - Dive, Hit the ball hard, show off your speed, arm, glove, effort, IQ, love of the game, etc.
 - Show off your strengths
 - Get to know other campers & cheer them on
 - Eye Contact
 - At the end of the camp, introduce yourself to coaches, thank them for the camp, ask for feedback, ask questions, etc.



Email before and after

EMAILING COLLEGE COACHES

- Subject Line: Your Name, Grad Year, Positions, Team
- Greet Coach by name
 - If emailing multiple coaches from same school, send each one an email
- Introduce yourself
 - HS, Grad Year, Club Program, Club Team, Coaches, Positions
- Explain what you like about the school and program Research this!
- Talk about yourself
 - Highlight reel/videos, GOOD stats, academic accomplishments
- Additional Items
 - Camps
 - Your Schedule
- Ask a Question to try to get an answer
 - Your Class Positions, Camp, Tournament, etc.
- Closing
 - Thank You, Name, Grad Year, Position, Team(s)
 - Coaches Names & Contact Info





COACH RESPONSES

- No response
 - Doesn't mean they didn't read it
 - Doesn't mean you're not on their list
 - They can't respond with anything personal until Junior Year
- Responses
 - Vague with camp information
 - Vague thank you
 - Personal message to you

- Stay at the top of their inbox
- Send Follow Ups
- Update as much as you can
- Be persistent
- Put the work in
- Athlete emails a college coach 5+ times over a 2+ year span. No response until Junior Year saying they're interested.
- "We are going to know your name if you've been emailing since 9th grade."



QUESTIONS TO ASK COACHES

- What does a typical day look like in each season (Fall, Winter, Spring)?
- What are the difference between in-season and out of season training?
- What are some of your coaching philosophies?
- What does your current team structure look like?
- What does your current roster and recruits look like in my position(s)?
- How many roster spots do you like have?
- How many spots are you looking to add in my graduation class?
- What are the next steps in the recruitment process for us?
- What is the team like?
- What are the coaches' different strengths?
- What's the campus life like?
- What are typical class sizes?
- What are some of the players' majors?
- Do players have jobs while playing?
- "Red Flag if only parents are asking the Questions."





QUESTIONS TO ASK COACHES

- How many years have you coached at this school? What are your future plans or goals?
- How many players do you have on your team? How many seniors do you have?
- Do you keep walk-ons?
- How many players are on scholarship? Partial or full?
- What is your team GPA? What percentage of your athletes graduate in 4 or 5 years? What are your academic requirements? What type of academic supervision and assistance do you have?
- What type of study tables do you have and who has to go?
- Does your school have academic priority scheduling? What is the school policy on missed classes for athletes?
- How many players can you travel with?
- Who are the players currently on the team that play the position(s) you play?
- What year and how many years have they started?
- What are your recruiting needs and prioritics? What positions are you recruiting?
- If you are a sophomore or junior, what summer tournaments do you go to? What information would they like for you to provide for them? Is there anything that they want or need you to do?
- Do you want a video?
- "Red Flag if only parents are asking the Questions."







QUESTIONS TO ASK COACHES

- Is it possible to play another sport? What are your team rules or policies?
- What was your team record the last couple of years? Ask about conference play? Where do you go to play your games? Do you take a spring trip? What are the time commitments through the various times of the year?

- Do you have a fall season?

- What times are your practices, conditioning, weight training, and individual workouts? Where do you practice and play your games? What are the facilities that you use? Do you have an athletic trainer at your practices, home games, and away games? Who treats injuries? Where do the athletes live and who do they live with? Do they have to live on campus?
- Can freshmen have cars? How do players get to practice? When you travel, how do you travel? Bus, vans, fly?
- What equipment is provided by the school and what equipment do you have to provide for yourself? Are there any additional costs that you will have playing at your school?
- What fundraising projects do you have your team do?
- What community service projects does your team do? How successful is the school's athletic program? Are the women treated equally as the men's programs?
- If you receive a scholarship offer you want to ask these questions: What will the scholarship cover?

 - How or why would a scholarship be reduced or taken away?
- If you are injured what happens to your scholarship? Do you have summer school scholarship aid?
- Do you have scholarship aid for 5th year seniors?
- Will the increase in tuition, room, and board be covered by your scholarship?
- "Red Flag if only parents are asking the Questions."

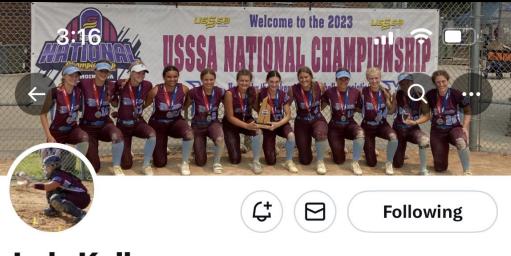


RECRUITMENT SOCIAL MEDIA

- Twitter
- Instagram
- For Softball Only
- Tag Coaches ONLY that you've been in contact with

Lacey Byboth 2026 @LaceyBy... · 11/27/23 Here are some of my fall highlights and stats. Super excited to get into winter! @TopPreps @LegacyLegendsS1 @SBRRetweets @CoachBrousek @AliNowak4 @CoastRecruits @DirectRecruits @SMUMNFastpitch





Jade Kolbe

@Jade_Kolbe Follows you

2025 | Catcher, 3rd, SS, UTL | Minnesota A's 16u National #3 | Orono Varsity Softball | NCAA ID# 2308996846 | Email: jkolbe13@icloud.com |

 $\textcircled{O} \ \mbox{Minneapolis, MN} \quad \textcircled{O} \ \mbox{sportsrecruits.com/athlete/jade_k...}$

🖾 Joined August 2023



SportsRecruits

MN Vortex & A's

EMPOWERING OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS

SportsRecruits

FEATURES





ACCESS TO EVERY COLLEGE COACH From DI to DIII, PAC-12 to NESCAC, every coach is on SportsRecruits.



NOTIFICATIONS Receive emails and text messages when

college coaches interact with your profile.

UNLIMITED VIDEO FROM ANY SOURCE

Show college coaches your game. Upload or embed from Hudl, Vimeo, Youtube and more.



IN-DEPTH ANALYTICS

Leverage our data to see the big picture and know where you stand.



BUILT IN MESSAGING SYSTEM

Contact any college in the country in just a few clicks.



SCHOOL SEARCH

Search by athletic, academic and geographic criteria to find your dream school.



STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILE All of your athletic, academic and contact information in one place.



TARGET LIST OF SCHOOLS

Build maintain and track progress with

colleges on your list.



ACTIVITY FEED A real time feed of college coaches interactions with your profile, video and messages.

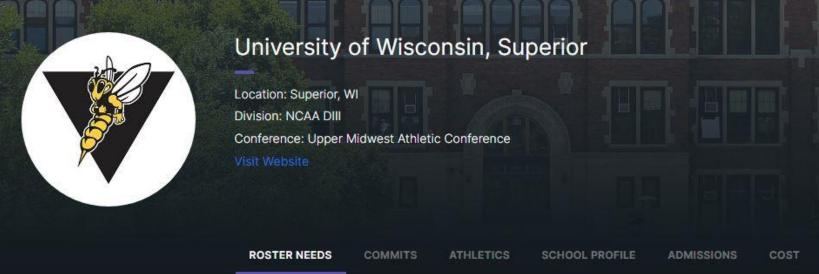
PROFILE



- Profile Picture & Video
- Grad Year
- Positions
- High School
- GPA
- Labeled Videos
- Contact Information
- Personal Statement
 - About yourself
 - Strengths as a player
 - What you're looking for in a college

- Additional Athletic Info
 - Statistics
 - Metrics
 - Athletic Awards
- Additional Academic Info
 - Academic Awards
 - Intended Major/Field
 - ACT/SAT Scores
 - Extracurricular Activities





ACADEMIC SELECTIVITY		
Selective	This program is looking for athlete academic and athletic criteria.	es to fill open spots on their rosters. These needs below may contain additional
2,370	2024 OF	2024 P
CONTROL/AFFILIATION Public	2024 UTL	

Committed Athletes



Needs ~

1

MAJORS



SPORTSRECRUITS HIGHLIGHT REEL TOOL

- Built In Highlight Reel Editor
- 1 free Professional Highlight Reel Credit per year
- Steps to Build a Professional Highlight Reel with SportsRecruits
- <u>Examples</u>



DIY SKILLS VIDEO

- Less than 3 minutes
- Prioritize first videos to be your strength
- Draw Attention
- Game Speed always
- Post Online & Send link to coaches

- Hitting (Side & Behind Views)
 - 3 reps each
 - Tees & Front Toss
- Infield (Front & Behind Views)
 - Grounders to Center, Forehand
 & Backhand
 - Diving always good
 - Throws to another player
 - Include Throws
- Outfield (Front & Behind Views)
 - Pop Ups & Grounders
 - Center & Forehands & Backhands
 - Include Throws



- 3 reps each type & view
 - Movement pitches
 - Spots
- Catching (Front & Behind Views)
 - Framing
 - Blocking
 - Throwdowns to each base





DIY HIGHLIGHT VIDEO



- Get Game Highlights
- Make Highlights for each season
 - Fall
 - Winter
 - High School
 - Summer
- Make Highlights for each weekend
 - Ex.- Best plays from Lexi Tourney

- Hitting (Hits, hard hits)
- Steals
- Defensive Plays
- Pitching (Movement, spots, changeups, defensive plays)
- Catching (Frames, Blocks, Throwdowns, Bunts, Foul Balls



MN Vortex & A'S 2023 Stats

1,071

Messages Sent From Our Athletes/Staff to College Coaches



Messages Sent from College Coaches to Our Athletes/Staff





College Coach Profile & Video Views



COLLEGE COACH VIDEO VIEWS

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW MINNESOTA VORTEX & MINNESOTA A'S



1,834 PROFILE + VIDEO VIEWS

WERE GENERATED BY COLLEGES EVALUATING ATHLETES

414 FAVORITE SCHOOLS

WERE ADDED TO ATHLETES' TARGET LISTS

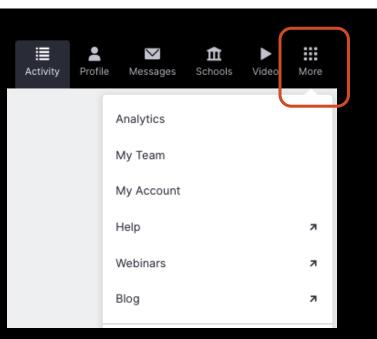
1,071 MESSAGES SENT

BY ATHLETES AND STAFF TO COLLEGE COACHES



THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

- Via email: <u>help@sportsrecruits.com</u>
- The MORE Section!
- Follow us on Instagram/Twitter for real time updates @sports_recruits
- <u>Recorded SportsRecruits 101 Webinar</u>
 - (enter your email and you are good to stream)
- SportsRecruits Knowledge Base





FAQS



- Is it worth it to go to this camp/showcase?
 - If you're able to put in front of colleges on your list, you should consider attending
- Should we get a NCSA profile?
 - Don't need one















UW River Falls Winona State

Bemidji State Bemidji State

Stout Alum



THANKYOU!