PLAYING COLLEGE ATHLETICS

1. **DETERMINE YOUR TALENT LEVEL** by asking someone you trust (a coach in the program, high school coach) to evaluate your talent level as of this moment. This will determine the level of school to look for. Which schools do you believe may be interested in your talents? Eventually the college coach will make that final decision.

2. **RESEARCH & DEVELOP A LIST OF SCHOOLS** that fit your interests, meet your criteria. Once you have determined what level you can play at, look for schools that check the box.

3. **RESEARCH THE TEAM**, study the team rosters, look at the number of players on the roster, how many juniors and seniors do they have, etc. Where does the coach recruit from? What is their position need, and team stats? This will demonstrate which players received the most playing time.

4. **RESEARCH THE COACHING STAFF**. Look at the bio on the head coach. Where has the coach been? Is the coach an expert in your position or the event you compete in? Do they care about your athletic program? Are they successful or are they rebuilding?
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5. ASSESS if you like their schedule, southern trips, conference, travel pattern, and team record.

6. REVIEW their facilities, indoor, outdoor, turf, on campus, off campus, minor league field.

7. GO TO GAMES IN THE SPRING!!! Evaluate the team. Can you play for this team?

8. RESEARCH THE SCHOOL. Take a campus or virtual tour, assess tuition, financial aid, scholarships, endowments, majors available, etc.

9. MAKE A LIST. Once you have established the schools that you are interested in, breakdown your list by divisions. Which schools are “reach” schools and which schools are realistic? Then start communicating with the school and coach.