

RAGE COLLEGE HANDBOOK 2018

SUMMARY: The RAGE Board of Directors, coaches and staff would like to thank you for participating in our program over the years. We hope you have found the experience to be rewarding and that you will continue to play with RAGE through high school. At U14 and certainly at U15, you will be thinking about what lies beyond high school and whether your college years will include playing soccer. With that in mind, we would like to offer you some guidance based on the many years of coaching experience by our staff and the experiences gained by some of the parents who have gone through this exciting process. We hope you will have many questions of us which are unique to your situation as we see this “handbook” very much as a work in progress, just as we do our entire soccer program.

To our players, choosing a college and its soccer program may be the biggest decision of your life so far. Understand that academic success should be the most important factor in your decision. Further, it is critical that you know yourself and your goals. Ask yourself why you want to play college soccer and what you would do if you are not a starter or even are cut from the team. Would this then be the right school for four years?

Players and parents, prepare a list of schools (10, 20, maybe even more) which you think might be attractive, but be realistic. If you like, include several stretch schools. This list will change many times over the next few years. Start with a comprehensive web site such as CollegeBoard.com, to help narrow your interests. Have your daughter take her personality inventory which asks specific questions about her geographic choices, student interests and life choices. This will save you HOURS of pouring over individual college websites. It is okay to have stretch schools, but also have representation of schools where you know you can be successful with your studies. Remember academics, soccer and financial considerations are all important. Next, research your list of schools by visiting their web sites. Do they offer you the right emotional vibes: possible major, geographic location, size? Ask your parents, relatives, friends of the family about their college selections. Ask your coach and Philippe for their impressions of the list.

Beginning in your high school freshman year, visit campuses to see what you like and don't like about them. Keep a notebook of impressions. As a sophomore, make appointments through your club coach to meet college coaches for brief interviews. In addition, engage your parents/family to help you with this: visit together, talk with soccer coaches, department heads, take tours and meet admissions counselors. If there is a RAGE or Pleasanton athlete attending the school, arrange to meet with her or him. Be prepared by visiting the team/school web site. Have a few insightful questions. Consider attending a summer camp or two at targeted colleges. Juniors need to be proactive and view this process as equivalent to finding a job. Be thorough in your preparation, keep good notes, and remain realistic about schools. Maintain a good GPA and make sure your SATs keep you in the running, or consider retaking them. Consider taking the ACT when needed to show them a different side- different test! During the entire process, ask your RAGE coach to work with you on key schools. Be persistent and realistic.

Your first exposure to college coaches probably will be at tournaments. Play your best, especially when your team is having a hard time.

Know the NCAA rules regarding college visits and contacts with coaches. Visit www.ncaa.com. Also, check out NAIA schools at www.naia.org, which has somewhat different rules from those of the NCAA.

Parents, file the FAFSA for financial assistance as early in your daughter's senior high school year as possible. Many schools use this FAFSA as the first step in "their" hierarchy of financial need...be it need based, awards/merit money, and grants/loans. Be sure to FILL THIS OUT!

COLLEGE SELECTION PROCESS SUGGESTIONS

RAGE is among the top clubs in the nation, partly because of the great success our players have in making college teams and because of the nationally recognized academic environment of Pleasanton. The process of college selection is complicated. This not so brief document definitely will not answer all your questions, but hopefully it will get you started in the right direction. There are probably 100 RAGE girls in some phase of this process now. It is up to you (parents and players) to access the many sources of information and to initiate communication with RAGE staff as you develop your strategy.

YOU MUST DO

Academics come first. A high GPA and tests scores will open many doors whereas a mediocre academic record will close many doors. Critically important is a realization that you are going to college to get the best education you can. If you are in the wrong academic environment, you most certainly will be frustrated and may not succeed in your most important goals.

The player must be fully engaged in the process, which means the majority of contact should be between the player and the coaches, NOT between coaches and dads (or moms). Coaches want to know their prospects as people AND may lose interest in a player who seems to show no interest in them. This is time consuming, so get started NOW.

You must drive this process. Staff can help, but they will be working with up to 100 players. If you do not involve Staff in your search, that is your fault.

The college experience is likely to represent four of the most enjoyable and personally rewarding years of your life. We hope that soccer will be a major part of your college life and that you will maintain friendships made through soccer for the rest of adulthood. Yet there are realities that you need to address before making a decision about college that will help to make those four years even more rewarding. That said, the tone of some of this document may seem a bit somber, but the work you do now should provide huge satisfaction in the long run.

KNOW YOURSELF

This may sound obvious, but you need to reflect on some serious realities before you go much further, beginning as a high school freshman and continuing through the entire process. Your understanding of yourself is bound to change several times over the next few years. Plan to revisit this topic at least once a year. Write down your feelings. Why do you want to play college soccer? Is it for the scholarship money? This may be one of the worst reasons to pursue a soccer college career.

Maybe the best way to answer that question is to honestly state why you played high school soccer. Possibly it was for the pride you had in representing your school (and maybe for the letterman jacket) and for the prestige you felt you had attained and because you wanted to be a part of a team. The same might be true for college play. You might want to represent your college, you are proud to be a part of the school. You are looking forward to the college experience and want to excel in a sport you've loved, and for the next four years to play with and for people you admire and respect. Sure, it would be great to get a full ride at a big-name school, but the reality for most is much different.

However, your soccer abilities **will** give you access to a broader spectrum of colleges. At the same time though, thousands of other club soccer players will be thinking the same thing. There are 300+ D1 colleges, which means there are about 2000 spots for freshmen. Have you distinguished yourself to the extent that you can be sure of a place in D 1 or should you also consider the hundreds of D 2, D 3 and NAIA schools? One measure of distinction is your participation in ODP or the US Club Soccer ID2 efforts. If you have been selected for one of these teams, you will be on many college coach's radars. Your RAGE team's success will play a role as coaches will tend to focus on State Cup winners, Surf winners, etc. Our Premier Teams' participation in the Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) should provide good exposure even if you are not in the ODP program or if your team struggles in league.

MORE REALITY QUESTIONS

How would you deal with being a substitute in your college freshman year, maybe as a sophomore or even for four years? Would you prefer to be an impact player at another school? Can you balance the time requirements to play at a top soccer school: 6 AM weight training, twice a day practice, missing classes to travel, pressure to perform or never make mistakes from possibly more competitive and skilled peers and demanding coaches? What if you are cut from the team or injured in your freshman year (which might mean you could lose all your athletic financial assistance)? Is this the right college for you in the event you can no longer play soccer? Please take the time to think about these issues and write down your answers.

PLAYERS GETTING STARTED: FRESHMAN YEAR

1. Buy a loose-leaf binder. Decorate it in a way that will make you want to use it.
2. This is a huge undertaking. At an early age, and certainly no later than U15, players and parents must do some soul-searching and **begin** the process. There will be many changes along the way. Entering High School is a major life-changing time. For girls who play soccer you have now at least four time and energy demanding dynamics to balance: GRADES, the social aspects of high school, high school soccer and club soccer. GRADES are by far the most important consideration as they will determine access to colleges. **Nothing should stand in the way of a successful academic experience.**
3. Give some thought to your college major. This will probably change, maybe even several times before you even get into college and maybe several times after you are there, but having an idea or goal is important as not all schools will offer the curriculum you may need.
4. Review the ideas in the KNOW YOURSELF and MORE REALITY paragraphs above. Girls, you should write down your impressions in your binder.

PARENTS GETTING STARTED: FRESHMAN YEAR

Parents probably will be the initiators at this stage, but be careful to increasingly involve your daughter as ultimately she will replace you as the point of contact for coaches.

1. Parents, you will be investing perhaps \$250,000 for your daughter's education. She will be investing four or five years of her valuable time in college. You know how critical getting the right education is. Having your 14 or 15-year-old focus on college may be a daunting task, so start slowly. You may need to be the one to do much of the preliminary work, not she. **It is important to remember that there is no single right college, there are many right colleges.** By age 15, your daughter should have visited several schools, perhaps after tournaments or on weekends. Tour local colleges, maybe even on the spur of the moment or when you attend college soccer games, just walk through the campus. Recognize that perhaps your daughter would rather be texting, so exercise some patience with her receptiveness. The first few visits need to be fun so your daughter may even look forward to future trips.
2. Encourage your daughter to do some soul searching. One expert suggests the following extremely broad concepts: aptitude (what does she like or in what does she excel?), achievements (art, music, theater, soccer...of course), interests (possibly things she does just for fun), personality traits (what makes her different? How would her friends define her as a person?), values, goals. Maybe your daughter has other ideas to add to this list. Work with her, ask questions; share your own college experiences.
3. The right college environment is critical in most cases (big school, little school, dorms, dining facilities, co-ed or not, proximity to a big city, religious affiliation). Soccer will consume only three or four months a year of the college experience. A girl who "knows" she wants to play soccer as she enters her college freshman year may become disenchanted by the coach, by the team, by her

position on the team (I wanted to be a defender, but the coach has me at forward. Why?), numerous complications possibly including academic difficulties, boyfriends, injuries, lack of playing time, changes in coaches, etc. The player must be comfortable with the college. Define what is important about colleges. Are there extracurricular clubs that would be intriguing? Is skiing important, the beach? Museums? Heavy metal concerts? Write it down. Parental guidance and understanding are essential.

4. If we were to poll our RAGE U14 and U15 players, we would probably find that 90% either have no idea of where they would like to play college soccer or would automatically offer a list of California schools. There might be a few who want to go to the school one of their parents attended which might be in a faraway place like Colorado. California is home to a number of the best girls' soccer clubs in the country, which means the competition for spots on California college teams is that much more intense. It is essential that parents encourage their daughters to keep an open mind about location, even as you hate to think of your daughters leaving the local nest.

SOPHOMORE YEAR FOR PLAYERS

1. Prepare an e-mail to send to college coaches; just the basic facts (ask your RAGE coach and your parents to read the e-mail before sending it). Enter or update your player profile on the RAGE web site (many freshmen will have done this already), getsoccer, NCAA, etc. Keep it current. Send coaches an e-mail about ten days before tournaments, giving them the schedule for your games. Make sure you spell the coach's and the school's name correctly and keep the e-mail brief. Remember that recruiting rules prevent direct contact from a coach at this age, so they cannot respond to your e-mails. You may receive requests to fill out a recruiting form and, undoubtedly, begin to receive soccer camp advertisements.
2. You might want to make a short DVD of your game highlights or even create your own web site as marketing tools.
3. Take as many college tours locally as you can, even if you think you will really hate the school. This will get you acquainted with what campuses look like. Be sure you clearly define what it is about a school you love or hate, as this may be important information about future visits. Each college has a unique personality. After a visit, try to define that personality. Was there anything that surprised you? After the visit, was there anything you wish you had seen? Consider an e-mail to the coach or someone in the Admissions Department if you have a specific question. Remember, as a sophomore your contact with college coaches is severely limited by NCAA rules, which you need to have read. In all communication, include your coach's contact information as the best avenue for feedback to you is through your coach.
4. Ask your parents what they thought of the tour. They might surprise you with their answers.
5. RAGE has girls at numerous colleges either still playing or not. Use them as a resource to gain a flavor of what their colleges are like and what is good and bad about their college teams and their college experiences. RAGE U17 and U18 girls are going through the college selection process. Use their experiences to advantage. Talk to them to see what worked and did not work for them.
6. Many colleges have virtual tours on the internet. Before visiting a college, take the virtual tour. See what you like and maybe don't like about the campus, academic curriculum, social life. Is the virtual tour one of substance or just sugar-coating? The tour may include information about the

community. Remember what you wanted to be as a freshman? Is that goal still in place?

7. All schools will display a roster of their players. Make a copy of the roster (there may be archived rosters which will give hints at how many players survive four years). Also, pay attention to those schools which may be deep in numbers of players at your position as that will play a role in determining your attractiveness to the coach. Most will show a very brief bio of each player. Read those bios and maybe print them for players who have your position. You may find that those players have awesome high school and club credentials. This may provide you with motivation to work extra hard in the next year or two as you check out colleges. Some web sites will include game stats, which will show who are the starters. That may tell you a lot more than just the bios. Read the coaches' bios. Some may include "mission statements" on the team web site.
8. When you meet a coach for an interview, be ready to answer the question, "Why do you want to play for me?" Show your personality (**make sure dad keeps a low profile**). An interview is a two-way street. You want to find out about the soccer program and school while the coach wants to see if you would be able to make a contribution to her/his track record. If you have done your homework on the school and the program, you will be able to ask good questions. But, do you have five minutes, or fifteen, or an hour? First impression may determine how much time you have, and maybe whether you will drop right off a coach's radar screen or rise to the top. The coach will have interviewed hundreds of girls before, so first impressions will be important. If you appear unprepared, distracted and unengaged, that will be apparent to the coach. **Please challenge yourself if you are shy.** Your job is to make him/her want to watch one of your games. There are dozens of questions which you and your parents might like to ask, but here are a few which you might consider. Be sensitive to the amount of time the coach might have, by the depth of answers she/he might give to the initial questions. This is a great opportunity to impress the coach with your seriousness.
 - a. I play center back for club, but I see a lot of the girls you have recruited in the past two years were mids for their clubs but now play other positions (or similar, but only if true). Do you ever switch around players in positions? How successful has that been?
 - b. Please tell me a bit about your coaching style such as formations, whether you switch formations often during the game, move players around a lot during games?
 - c. Do you have a lot of invited walk-ons? How successful have they been in making the roster?
 - d. What is the graduation rate, transfer rate for freshman in the soccer program? How many freshmen remain on the team for four years? Why do they drop? What are you doing to increase that rate?
 - e. Your parents may wish to know how closely the coaches are involved with the players in the off-season. Team meetings, monitoring of grades, etc. Are there disciplinary problems on the team? How are those handled?
 - f. Financial aid is a huge topic, best left for later conversations, unless the coach wants to discuss it up front.
 - g. What is the college policy toward sport/other scholarship awards for injured players?

SOPHOMORE YEAR FOR PARENTS

1. Prepare with your daughter a list of 10-20 colleges that fit the profile of a school that is attractive.

Use CollegeBoard.com or Princeton Review's web site and other similar search tools. You don't have to start with 30 or even 20 schools, just keep an open mind as you do research. It might be a good

idea to have a loose-leaf page for every school your daughter and you identify, make sure she writes down likes and dislikes, impressions, notes from virtual or in-person tours, etc. It is essential that you be realistic in many of your choices, but there is nothing wrong with including stretch schools, academically, financially and soccer-wise. At some point, copy the list of schools for your daughter's coach and for Philippe. It would be helpful if she made a statement as to why she picked these schools. The more clearly your RAGE coaches understand what it is she (and you) seek in a college, the better they will be able to help you. Submitting a list of 20 schools with no explanation as to how they came to be on her list does not reveal her personality, academic goals, financial constraints, etc. Indicate "safe" and "stretch" schools, but be sure she says why she considers them to be such. Expect

her coaches to encourage her in some cases and discourage her in others (try not to take it personally), as well as suggest some schools she (and you) have never considered or perhaps have ruled out. Creating this list is a very important homework assignment for you and your child.

2. You need to know that many colleges have soccer clubs, intramural or even inter-college clubs. It may be that the right academic school is the wrong varsity soccer school. Almost every parent would like her/his daughter to attend the University of XYZ and play for that great soccer team. If XYZ is the right college academically, but your daughter is not going to make the roster, perhaps she will be just as happy to play on an intramural team.
3. When you visit colleges, have your daughter ask her RAGE coach to arrange a meeting. A sophomore cannot be contacted by a college coach, so an intermediary is essential. Showing up at the office of a college coach unannounced is risky and could be seen as a sign of lack of seriousness. An appointment shows respect for the coach's schedule.
4. Do not make any verbal promises to college coaches too early. Do not allow yourself to be pressured by coaches.
5. Start thinking about your financial constraints. Actually you should have started ten years ago (529).
 - If you believe you will seek financial assistance, parents must begin this year to plan. To the extent possible and advisable you should be legally accelerating large income gains prior to the year you make application for FAFSA (the year your daughter will enter college). The FAFSA formulas use income tax returns as a basis for financial aid. Again, to the extent advisable, defer large cost items to the junior year, which is the base year for FAFSA aid. Some colleges will use Roth conversions as a source of income, others may not. You might benefit by transferring UTMA's to a 529 in the parents' names, as some colleges treat child assets as having a higher "value" than parents' assets.
 - Begin an analysis of student loan options. Interest rates and other terms will vary considerably.
 - When you visit colleges, you may include meetings with financial aid officers, perhaps at the same time your daughter is visiting the soccer coach or touring with an admissions representative.
 - The size of a college's endowment fund may provide guidance to the extent of the grant program. The college's web site may also offer insights.

JUNIOR YEAR FOR PLAYERS: YOU ARE NOW ON STAGE

1. RAGE is one of 80 clubs which make up the Elite Clubs National League. Beginning at U15, each Premier team will participate in four national events which will be visited by hundreds of college coaches. These tournaments will be your stage for observation, so it is very important to play your best for the time you are on the field. But, what happens on the field is often dictated by what happens well in advance. **Write down two or three highly specific, simple goals you have for each game.** Review your goals realistically afterward, when you have time and quiet to think. When on the field, be aggressive, take some chances, but also have fun. If you make mistakes, remember that what you do after a mistake can tell a coach a great deal about your character and determination. If your team is winning and looking well, keep up the good work, but if your team is struggling against a tough opponent, your job is to double your effort and make a difference. That does not mean that you have to make all the right moves with the ball, but it does mean you have to work extra hard. If you make a good pass, it is also important then to make a supporting run. If your defenders are having trouble with clearing the ball, provide options. If you are on the bench, be vocal with tons of encouragement. Lots of coaches are looking for players who make a difference even if the score is lopsided against our team.
2. If you have not had any indications of interest around State Cup of your junior year, it may be necessary to rethink your target schools. Look through your list for those colleges which need to fill spots where you can play, but within the parameter of being the right academic school. If your favorite colleges do not need a ____ (your position) when you would be a freshman or sophomore, you should find some schools which will be graduating their starters. But do not give up on your favorite schools. Coaches will have developed their wish lists of candidates, but that certainly does not mean they will get their top choices. You may still be very much in the running. You might have your RAGE coach find out where you stand on the various wish lists, but in many cases your RAGE coach may say that is not the right strategy either. Patience and flexibility are probably even more important now.
3. Give considerable thought to summer camps at target schools, as these camps will offer several days of playing in front of the right coaches. Realize that these camps are to generate income for the coaches and their soccer programs as well as to give visibility to prospects. It is also important to know if the right coaches will actually participate in a substantive way. Communicate with the coach beforehand so the coach is aware of your seriousness. Again, be realistic about your expectations. Use Philippe's and your coach's input from conversations they might have had at your favorite schools. Don't forget that you have academic plans, so you need to pick the camps at schools where there is a strong academic program in your prospective major. **It is important to remember that there is no single right college, there are many right colleges.** Also, you may **actually** visit and participate/train at NAIA college team training sessions. The recruiting practices for NAIA schools are completely different from those of the NCAA.
4. By now, you will have had considerable experience interviewing college coaches. You should have a pretty good idea of how to sell yourself. After your meeting or attendance at a camp, be sure to follow-up with an e-mail or letter of thanks. Your RAGE coach might be able to provide you feedback about the college visit and how to proceed.

5. For the past several years, you have had evaluations from your RAGE coaches. Are you maintaining and enhancing your strengths? What have you been doing to improve your areas of weakness? Remember the old adage that, "It is what you do when nobody is watching that is important". Improve your speed and explosiveness, anaerobic capacity, work on agility, perhaps you should take highly targeted private training.
6. It might be a good idea to retake the SAT/ACT. A high SAT/ACT and GPA might be enough to tip the scales between you and a somewhat better soccer player with indifferent grades, who may not last more than the first season. A superior academic record may be enough to afford you "invited walk-on" status, which means little if any sports-related financial assistance, but at least an opportunity to try out for the team.
7. You must register after your junior year in high school with the NCAA and/or NAIA to confirm your eligibility. Go to http://eligibilitycenter.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html. If you are considering an NAIA school, you need also to register on the NAIA web site.

JUNIOR YEAR FOR PARENTS.

1. Please support your daughter. She should become fully engaged and committed to securing her college future. Refocusing though may be in order from time to time. This also happens to be a period of INTENSE pressure for your child as she sets her sights on college: School and grades take on increased importance: soccer coaches ask, parents ask, tests are being taken/re-taken, friends are talking about their processes and overall, they are immersed in it! Provide a comfortable open haven at home. Know when to NOT ask and when to talk about it...Remind YOURSELF that your child's best interests are where she will be happiest. Keep yourself grounded. Do what is right for your child, not what the other kid down the street is doing.
2. There is a lot for you to do this year. Your child's prospective school may come with a frightening price tag. If she is an average student with pretty good, but not great, soccer skills within the universe of competitive soccer players, you may be facing a \$50,000 per year bill for tuition, fees, rooms and board at a private liberal arts school. Even if your daughter and you are anticipating her attending a Cal State school, the bill may be \$15,000 a year. If you and she have not had long discussions about financing her education, you better get that done. If the best fit is a very expensive private school, your daughter can help by researching and applying for scholarship opportunities, many of which are based on non-academic criteria which may fit her current interests/volunteer activities and future goals.
3. It is time to review (if you have not done this before) what is affordable, what sources of financial assistance might be available, especially in the form of school or government loans. Discuss this important aspect of college with your daughter, as she is becoming an adult and the decisions you are making will have a profound effect on all of your lives for years to come.
4. By now, your daughter has developed a list of candidate colleges. Together, research the costs of those colleges, look at scholarships that students might expect, visit sources like US News and World Report or Princeton Review web sites which mention average funding, such as grants and loans. Some colleges will walk you through estimates of financial aid you might receive based on income and assets. It is definitely worth the time to see what the possibilities might be, given

your circumstances.

5. Another harsh reality of Californians is the huge demand placed on the UC and CSU systems, which have reduced the number of classes while having to admit students with better and better academic records. It is often very difficult to graduate from a UC, for example, in less than five years. Grant assistance has been reduced, making family contribution rise accordingly. If cost is of overwhelming importance, figure the differences between public and private school, with the fifth year being an income year for those who attended a private four-year college. Of course, a bachelor's degree from Berkeley may easily have been a better wage-earning choice in only a few more years after graduation.
6. Even if your child is good at evaluating colleges, it will help you if you keep your own records of impressions about colleges. Next year, you will have many IDs, passwords, etc in order to access application status. Good recordkeeping will save you hours in the long run.

SENIOR YEAR FOR PLAYERS

1. If you have not had the indications you wanted by the fall semester of your senior year, there is still time, but you will need to be very proactive. The best thing to do NOW is make an appointment with your RAGE coach and Philippe to discuss options. You should have a very clear idea of your academic goals and where you might achieve that success.
2. Your coach realizes this is a stressful time for you and will encourage you to **trust the process**.

SENIOR YEAR FOR PARENTS

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. File the form as soon as possible after January 1st of the year your daughter will enter college. You may qualify for a CalGrant if your family has very limited financial resources.

SENIOR YEAR FAMILY TACTICAL DECISIONS

It is often common for players to not have a soccer commitment early in one's senior year. Hopefully by now, you have visited many colleges, talked to lots of coaches, identified your likes and dislikes about schools, maybe chosen a major, found a few (or more) schools that will meet your academic, soccer and other needs, but you do not have an offer you like. The problem is that it is time to make applications to colleges. Some deadlines are looming. Applications are accepted at the nine UC and the twenty three CSU schools from November 1 until November 30. Application deadlines for other schools may coincide

with these schools, but many will be several months later, maybe even four or five months later. Each application to a UC was \$70 (\$50 for each CSU) for 2018, but add test scores and the total cost is nearing \$75-100 per school. Santa Clara and St. Mary's each charge \$60 for application, for example. On the other hand, a lot of schools will waive the application fee, especially for those with high test scores or GPAs. Many schools will require a time-consuming essay, so the family should give some thought to

this aspect of the process. Do keep in mind that many schools use a common application, which will save time.

Another serious consideration will be a safety net of sorts. Your daughter (and you) may be among the many who are excited about an academic and soccer home for the next four years, but there is a lingering apprehension that something may go wrong. In that event, it may be a good decision to buy some added time by applying to several back-up schools. This may sound disingenuous, but college is a huge investment and the security of a Plan B may provide some lessening of the stress level of the senior year.

The dilemma that many of our families will face is whether to apply to a school you have been courting, but which seems to have filled its roster with committed players and, of course, the answer is, “It depends”. In interviews with target schools you might have asked (and you still may ask), how many committed players change their minds after National Signing Day? There are several factors which can result in last-minute openings at your target schools:

- A player committed to a college in the fall simply changes her mind (may lose eligibility)
- Family financial considerations
- Other family issues, such as a move
- The committed player suffers an injury and cannot play in the fall (becomes a red-shirt)
- Especially at top-tier academic schools, grades and test scores preclude admission

The target school soccer program may experience some hiccups:

- The coach may move (the school is almost certain to honor its commitments previously made)
- Players may transfer schools unexpectedly due to reduced financial assistance
- Satisfaction with one’s position on the future team may cause players to rethink another year
- Academic or other pressures may overwhelm the time allocated for sports by an existing player
- Injuries during the spring season drop a player from the active fall roster

If you are at the right place at the right time, you may be just what the coach has ordered.

In fact, even if you have not applied to a school, it may be possible to gain admission quite a bit later if spots on the roster open. In many cases, including the UCs, you do not have to reserve a place in the freshman class (i.e., pay a bunch of non –refundable \$\$) until about May 1st. Therefore, it may be worth your time to keep your dream schools informed of your continued interest in them. Keep your RAGE coach up to date.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

High schools may be a great source of information: guidance counselors, libraries, perhaps even college fairs. Be sure you have taken or will take the right courses. The UCs require a different high school curriculum than the State Colleges. Private schools are another thing entirely.

http://www.pleasantonrage.org/pgsa_college_info.htm

Bound-for-College Guidebook by Frank Burtnett, Pleasanton Public Library, Dewey code 378.161

The Student Athlete’s Guide to Getting Recruited by Stewart Brown, RAGE Library

U. S. News and World Report Ultimate College Guide (updated annually), RAGE Library

NCAA: www.ncaa.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.collegeview.com

www.princetonreview.com (a private company that offers SAT prep courses)

www.collegedata.com

NCAA (Divisions 1, 2, 3) Eligibility Resource Center -- includes helpful guide with eligibility requirements and recruiting timelines and rules -- <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/ncaa?ContentID=263>

NAIA Prospective Student Athlete -- includes guide -- <http://naia.cstv.com/member-services/attend.htm>

Be Recruited website (one of many on line resources to make a profile) -- <http://www.berecruited.com/>

Contact RAGE alumnae. Tamie and Philippe can help with this.

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