

What Not to say to College Coaches

Episode 65 Script

Jacob: College coaches Matt, you were one, you spoke with hundreds of different types of athletes and families from all around the world. Different characters, different personalities, different cultures obviously.

Was there ever a time where you spoke with an athlete and their family, and took away an opportunity, or didn't go further with an athlete based on the conversation you had with them?

Matt: It certainly happened, a few times.

- You can tell a lot about a person's character just from a phone call or a skype meeting or whatever it is, and the questions that they ask. Both parents and athletes
- Just a few examples of what I personally didn't like when speaking with or receiving emails from prospective athletes, And look, this is the case for most coaches.
- I didn't like it when and if an athlete or family member asked about the style of football I coach, and the style of football they play or are used to.
- I don't care about that, style doesn't matter. You don't see pro players signing with teams just because of the style they play. They go because its an awesome opportunity to further their careers and to get paid.
- I hated if parents got too involved and asked too many questions. I don't want to deal with parents. 'my son/daughter isn't playing' 'they need to be playing' all that. I don't deal with parents. You are adults, you come speak to me.
- So those are two instances where I took away opportunities because I just didn't want to deal with those types of characters.

Lets go over a few questions that you should never ask.

- First up, It's not like you ask one nervous question and they take away opportunities. Its not like that and look, its something that rarely happens.
- We educate our athletes and families on this and send through suggested questions you should ask and the things you should steer clear of. So, it never happens with our athletes
- But bad questions, questions to stay clear of.
- How much scholarship will I receive? Really anything relating to you receiving a scholarship. Let them bring it up.
- How much playing time will I get? Will I be a starter?
- Questions about a coaches coaching philosophy? Like I don't want an athlete or a parent grilling me about my coaching principles and philosophy. It doesn't sit well.
- Where do you see yourself coaching or are you still going to be there in the next few years. Yes, you can ask them about there desires and goals for the program, but personal goals and desires. Stay away from that.

Actions that you take that may hurt

Actions certainly do speak louder than words.

- Not following up on emails Or taking your time to reach out after receiving the offer, maybe more so with our athletes. They sometimes sit on an offer and don't reach out for a while.

That needs to be something that is done asap. Show that you are keen and committed and excited.

- Missing scheduled phone calls
- Not providing the school with the information they need.
- If you aren't committed enough to even secure the opportunity you have been given, the coach is thinking well what are they going to be like when they are here?

What about parents? Because, its not just the athletes that need to be careful sometimes its also the parents.

We mentioned this in episode 63 on how your family and parents can help you, parents can definitely listen in on the conversation and even join in and ask questions.

- Coaches understand parents need to be involved. It's a massive opportunity.
- But, don't take over the conversation.
- Don't lay out demands
- Don't talk about scholarships "well if you can't get it down to this cost or if they cant get a scholarship he/she cant go'
- Again, ask questions but don't take over the conversation, just listen in if you have to so you hear what the coach ahs to say.