

The One Thing no One Tells You About US College Scholarships

Episode 74 Shownotes

It's pretty safe to say that the vast majority of students, athletes, families and anyone outside of the US are somewhat unfamiliar with the US system.

Obviously, everyone knows it exists that's now what we mean. But unfamiliar with how it works, how scholarship is given, who receives scholarships, how your academics tie in, everything that makes the system what it is.

Of course, there are people that have been through the system, have had children go through the system, have friends that have been through the system etc. They may understand different things but when they share information with others its always based on personal experience and what they hear from others.

This is challenging for us to combat, things that are altered through the grapevine. "well I heard this, I heard that, this person told me this"

- And look it is impossible to have everyone completely educated on the US system. We have been doing this for 13 years and we still learn new things every day.
- However, one of the biggest pieces of advice we can give anyone out there is to always get a second opinion. Literally about anything that you hear from anyone relating to the US system.
- We aren't saying the information isn't correct, but its best to confirm with professionals in the industry.

Now to explain what we are talking about here I will use a real-life example. This should help you understand what we are talking about.

My time in the US was incredible (Jacobs). My dad literally told everyone what I was doing. He was proud and that's great. But what he would tell people was incorrect. I think it was more just because he didn't know the facts rather than fabricating things to make me look good.

But whenever he spoke to people, he would tell them that I was playing Semi professionally in the US. He told people I was doing the Soccer scholarship thing in the US. Literally word for word almost.

- Now the first part is obviously wrong. College sport is all amateur. I played with and against people who are now pros and semi pros. But everything in college is amateur. So, you could say at times the level was semi pro but again, he was still wrong. Everyone he told had the belief that I was playing semi pro.
- The second part. I was in the US doing the Soccer scholarship thing in the US. I guess partly true partly wrong. First two years, zero soccer scholarship. That's how parents describe it but. So, everyone he told, thought I was in the US on a full soccer scholarship or something similar.

That's just one example.

Parents are always talking about their kids. If their child is in the US, I guess the only way we know how to describe it to people is by saying "Jonny is in the US doing the soccer scholarship thing, or the basketball scholarship thing"

Or “Jonny is in the US on a basketball scholarship” and look you are right. I guess that is the only way people know how to describe it here and in other parts of the world.

No matter what that student athlete may be doing or receiving, it is almost always referred to as ‘the scholarship thing’ or something along those lines.

Its always referred to as the, insert sport here, scholarship thing. Even though that student may be on zero athletic scholarship at all. They may be on some form of academic scholarship or some form of financial aid but it may not be a sport scholarship at all. So that all may be confusing but that’s the way it is and it’s the way people describe it.

So the truth is, that a lot of the people you speak with about the US college pathway may be, not necessarily lying, but not telling the complete truth if that makes sense.

People don’t tell you the truth plain and simple. Or not the whole truth. Bits and pieces. Whether it is deliberate or not we don’t know. But people hide the truth or fabricate the truth to look better.

Its just I guess the way the world is. Especially with parents. We always want everyone to know how awesome our kids are.

Let’s talk about other things that people say or don’t say about the US pathway.

People share their own opinions, a lot of the time coaches, on the different divisions. “if you don’t go to the NCAA Division 1 it is not worth it, don’t worry about going”

Tell that to the Olympians and future professionals competing in all the other divisions. If it is good enough for them, why wouldn’t it be good enough for you?

No one tells you that all the other divisions are just as competitive. And because your coach or someone has told you its not worth it if you don’t go D1, that is all you are looking and waiting for.

Get a second opinion. On anything. Anything anyone says to you about the US system get a second opinion. Because where is this information coming from? Who is telling you this and why? What is their agenda?

A great example of this in the world of golf/Track and field/Swimming sports with a result. And we are not bagging these coaches here because you all do a wonderful job.

But the amount of times we have had a golfer or a swimmer call the office saying I am deferring, or I am going to wait to start the process because my golf/swimming coach thinks I am not ready and that I should spend another year training.

Well of course your coach is going to say that. You are paying them. You don’t need to wait at all, you need to go now. So Who is giving you this information? Is it just based on their opinion, or something they heard from someone else? Which is a lot of the time the case.

“I heard you need to take these classes to be eligible for the US” that’s another big one. Then people call us saying they took all these classes in year 11 and 12 and barely scraped by when they didn’t need to take them at all.

But the reality is, people just don’t know the truth, or don’t know enough about it to comment on it. But we do it anyways because we don’t want to look silly or we want to act like we know.

And its not just the college system where this sort of thing happens it happens with everything. People share their opinions, that gets changed along the way until its something completely different when it gets to you. But you take it as gospel because its coming from a person you trust.

Last segment and we will wrap it up. So, we have basically made it clear that people don't tell you the truth about the US system and its best to get a second opinion. Sometimes people mean to and others don't mean to. What other things do people not tell you about?

People don't tell you the truth about costs. Well maybe that's incorrect. People tell you the truth about their costs, for the most part but not all of it.

We will explain.....

Parents will often say it costs a fortune, or it costs this and costs that. Well okay, whatever someone else's costs are though that doesn't mean yours will be the same. Its completely different for every single student athlete.

A lot of the time they take into consideration all the flights to and from their home countries as well. Not cheap and they add up if you are doing it twice a year. Sometimes people buy books on campus or buy books in general instead of renting the books. Etc. Costs is a big one.