

**THE COMMITMENT**

**CHRONICALS**

*What our 2025 - 2026 commits  
wish you knew*

## Insights from the Committed: Real Talk from 2025–2026 Commits

There's no better advice than hearing it straight from the source – and we're lucky to have just that. We've compiled stories, tips, and honest reflections from athletes in our organization who have successfully navigated the recruiting journey and are now committed to playing at the next level. From what they wish they had done differently, to what helped them stand out, to the real, practical advice they have for younger players – this collection is full of gold.

Whether you're just getting started, entering the thick of it, or simply dreaming of playing in college someday, these insights offer real perspective from players who have been where you are – and made it through.

Let their experience be your advantage.

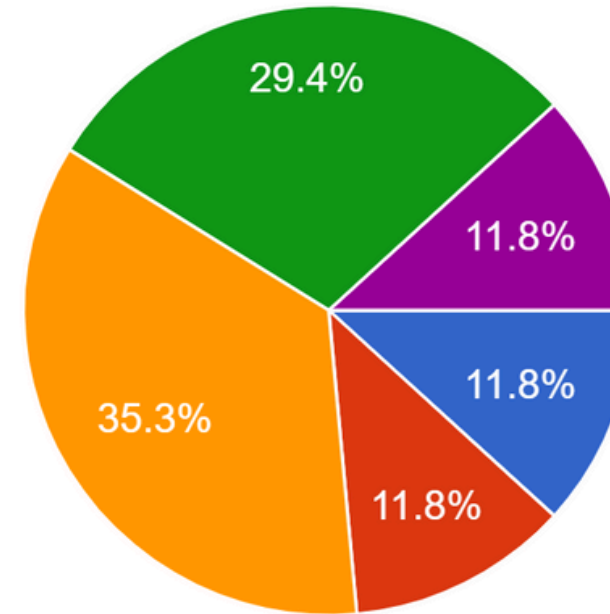


Only 10% of commits were contacted on or near September 1st

100% of players committed on near Sept 1<sup>st</sup> were committed to D1 Power 4

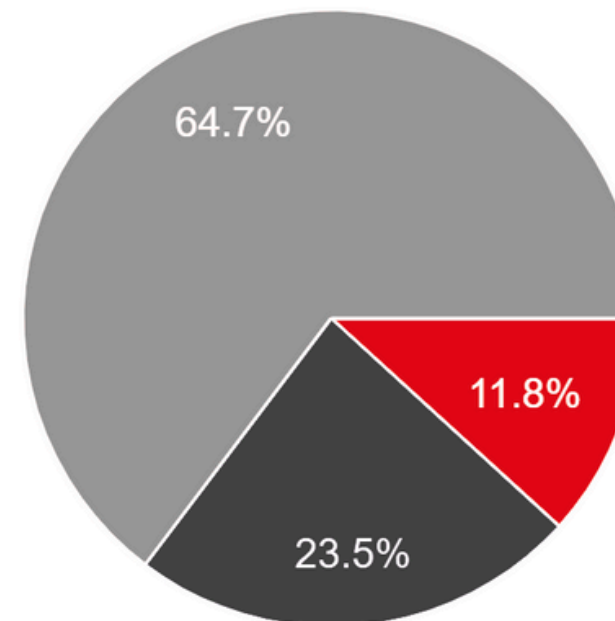
The position you play and the Division you will play in, is more of a predictor of commitment timing than any other factor

What Division is the College you committed to?



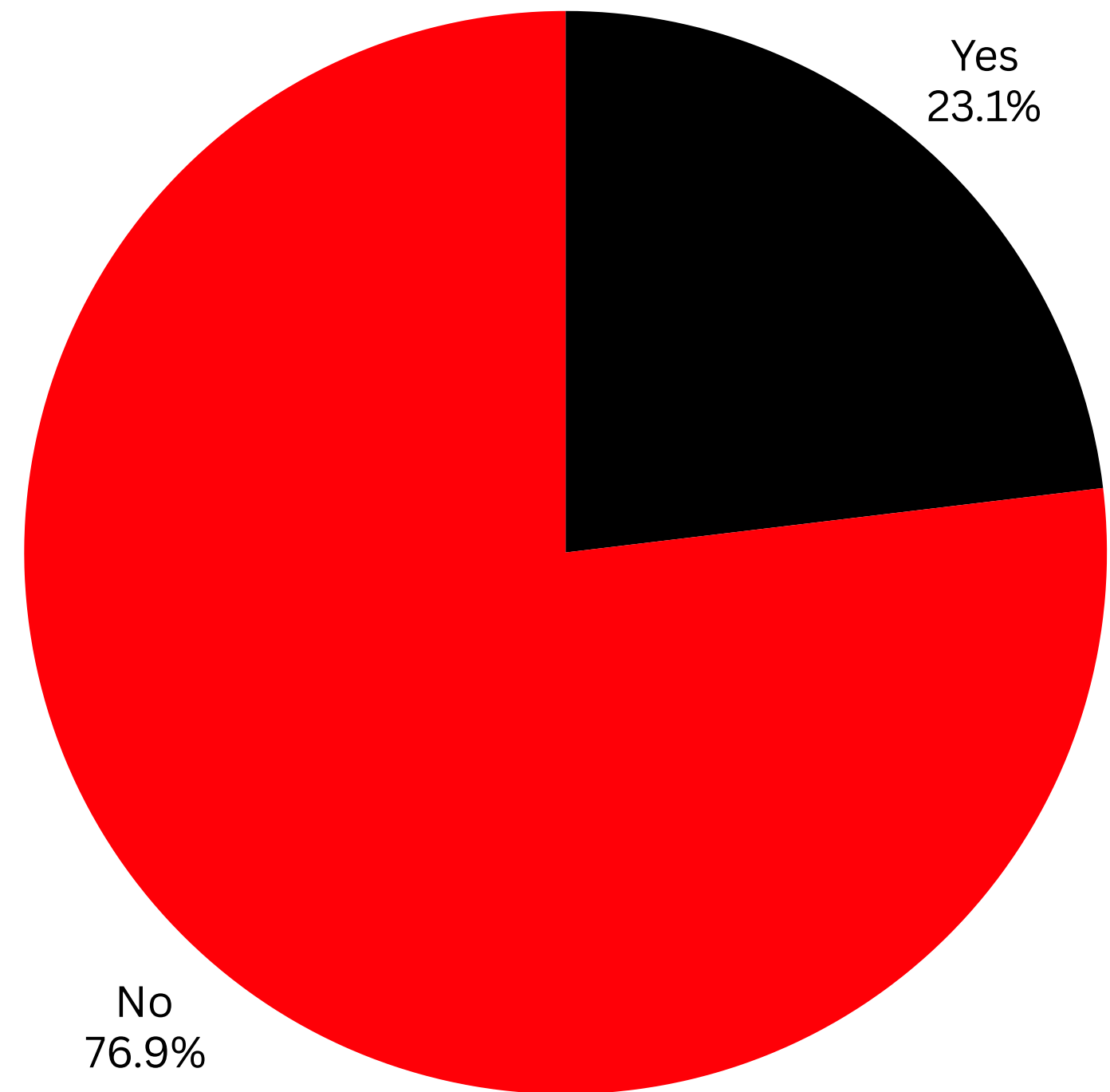
- D1 Power 4 (SEC, ACC, Big10, Big12)
- D1 Mid Major
- D2
- D3
- NAIA
- NJCAA (JUCO)

How soon after September 1st your junior year did you verbally commit?



- On or near September 1st
- Fall/Winter Junior Year
- Spring/Summer Senior Year

**WAS THE COLLEGE YOU  
COMMITTED TO THE SAME  
COLLEGE YOU WANTED TO  
COMMIT TO IN YOUR  
FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORE YEAR**



**Be Adaptable**

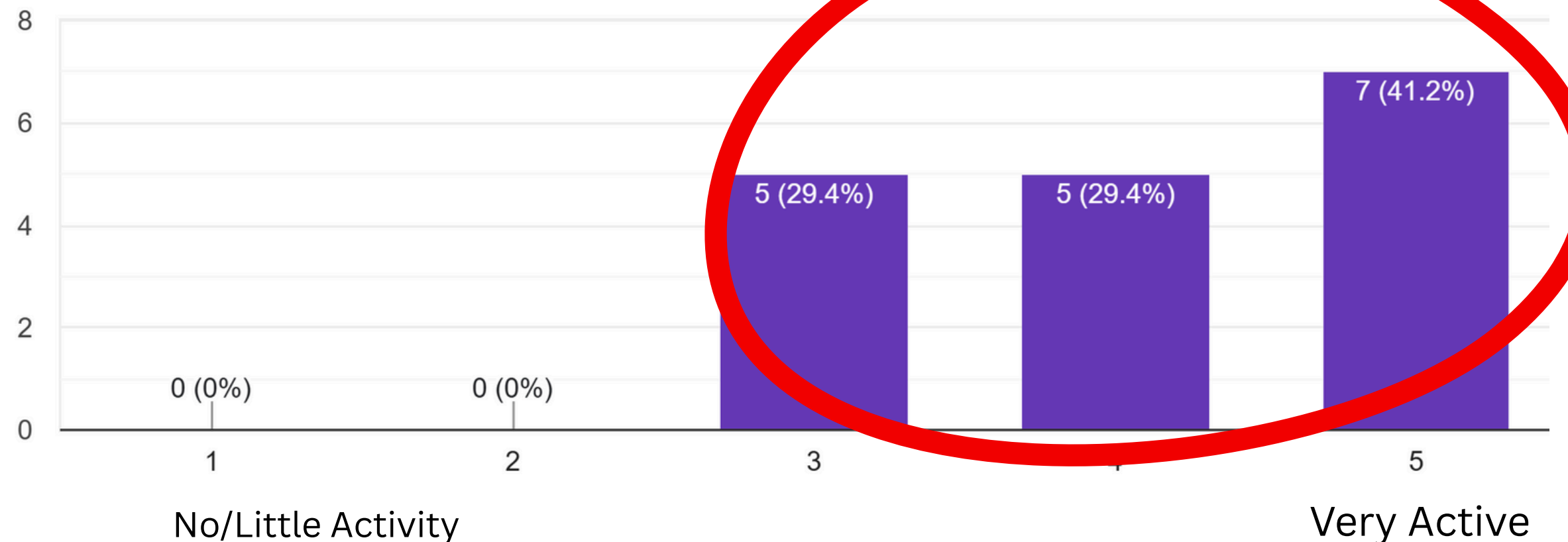
With more than 1,800 collegiate softball programs ranging from Division 1 to JUCO, flexibility is key. Recruiting isn't solely focused on talent; it's also about possessing the right skills that meet the specific needs of a team at the right time.

# Social Media Engagement

If you're not using social media, you're missing opportunities. The more you share (professionally), the more chances coaches have to see your game, your heart, and your fit for their program.

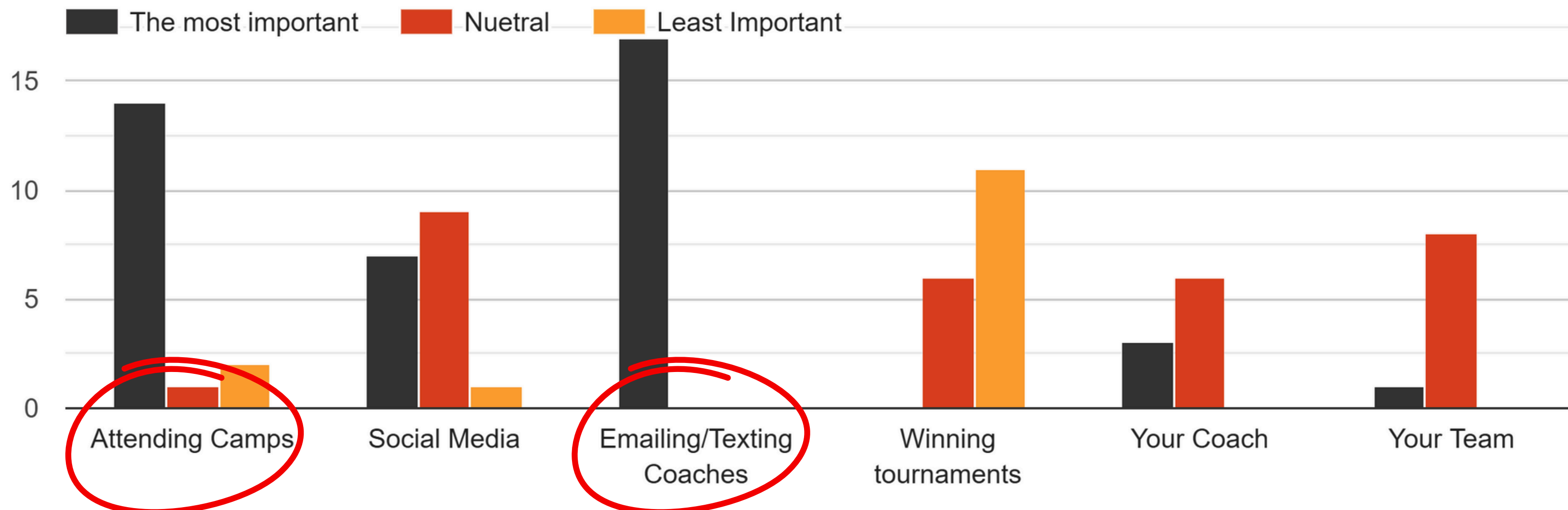
Engaging in Social Media early on provides you with a head start in crafting a robust and positive online presence that showcases your identity as both an athlete and a teammate. Additionally, it helps you cultivate good habits that will make social media an integral part of your softball journey.

How active were you on social media during your recruiting period?



# Most Successful Tactics in Recruiting Journey

All recruits unanimously agreed that the key aspect of their experience was emailing and communicating directly with Coaches. While winning major tournaments can elevate your team's visibility, it typically has minimal influence on the recruiting process. Although your Coach and team can contribute to your journey, most recruits felt that these factors were not significantly impactful on their recruitment.



The majority of 'least/neutral' responses for 'Attending Camps &' came from players attending D2, D3 & NAIA. Attending Camps was selected as 'Most Important' from players attending D1 school.

# Advice to athletes starting the recruiting process From those who just navigated through it with success

## Be Relentless

**EMAIL AND USE SOCIAL MEDIA MORE  
THEN YOU THINK YOU NEED TO**

**DON'T STRESS!! IT WILL  
HAPPEN IF YOU WORK HARD**

You can't just be big, fast and strong to play in the SEC/ACC - you have to be Bigger, Faster and Stronger

Any division is a blessing and don't  
let anyone tell you different!

Visit schools that are a right fit for you  
academically, socially, size wise, and location wise

Don't get discouraged if you aren't getting looks from  
coaches or your process looks a little different from your  
teammate. You will end up at the right school for you.

make sure you stand out by being  
loud and a good teammate!

If you start to see your love for  
the game dwindle, really sit  
down and try to figure out  
why. Then change what is  
keeping you from loving it.

**CAMPS,  
CAMPS,  
CAMPS!**

**NEVER FORGET YOUR WHY  
BEHIND WHAT YOU DO!!**

Be a good  
**TEAMMATE**

**ASK COACHES A LOT OF  
QUESTIONS  
SHOW YOUR INTEREST IN  
NOT ONLY THE SOFTBALL  
PROGRAM BUT THE  
WHOLE SCHOOL**

**KEEP YOUR  
GRADES UP**

**SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> IS  
NOT THE END OF  
THE WORLD**

Camp Etiquette - Hustle your  
hardest, ASK QUESTIONS and  
show YOUR INTEREST  
YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'S WATCHING

COACHES ARE ALWAYS WATCHING,  
THEY SEE EVERYTHING

At tournaments and camps do  
things to make yourself stand out,  
be different. Coaches are always  
watching, they see everything.

# Looking back, is there anything you would have done differently during your recruiting journey?

Assessed my skills to the appropriate college division earlier, rather than attending camps where my chances of being recruited were low.

**START GOING TO CAMPS EARLIER AND EMAILING COACHES WAY MORE**

I wish I emailed more.

**I would have tried to boost my GPA because that made some schools lose interest**

Email the coaches more frequently so coaches knew who I was

**MORE SOCIAL MEDIA, NOT JUST FOR MYSELF BUT FOR MY TEAM AS WELL.**

Ask more questions at camps

REMEMBER: DOORS OPEN WHEN THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO OPEN. IT'S ALL ABOUT TIMING.

*Committed to the process sooner*

I would have gone to more camps because they are the best way for a coach to see you.

**Trust the process, be open with anything thrown at you**

**I would change how much I stressed about not getting recruited as soon as September 1 of my Junior year hit.**

# What are the most common areas that commits look back and wish they had done things differently?

## Softball Recruiting Journey: Reflection & Advice from College Commits What Would You Do Differently?

### Insights from Players Who've Been Through the Process

#### 1. Communication is Key

- Be proactive! Email and text coaches more often.
- Keep communication consistent to stay on their radar.
- Don't wait to be contacted—reach out first.

"I wish I emailed more. I emailed a good amount but could have emailed way more!"

#### 2. Use Social Media Wisely

- **Post highlights and updates regularly.**
- **Promote your team too, not just yourself.**
- **Coaches watch your platforms to see both your talent and your personality.**

"More social media—not just for myself but for my team too."

#### 3. Trust the Timing & Stay Mentally Strong

- Everyone's journey is different.
- Don't panic if you're not committed right away.
- Keep a positive mindset and stay patient.

"Doors open when they are supposed to open. It's all about timing."

"I would change how much I stressed about not getting recruited as soon as September 1 of my Junior year hit."

#### 4. Attend More Camps

- Camps are often the best way for coaches to evaluate you.
- Go early and often—especially to schools you're interested in.
- "Camps are the best way for a coach to see you."

#### 6. Academics Matter!

- A stronger GPA can open more doors.
- Academic performance can be the tie-breaker.

"I would have tried to boost my GPA because that made some schools lose interest."

## Top Tips for Future Recruits

Start early

Stay consistent

Use social media as a tool

Don't stress over timelines

Focus on academics

Go to camps

Trust the process

Remember: Your path is your own. Learn from others, but stay true to yourself!

TRUST  
\* the \*  
PROCESS