

Mari Aoki - Recruiting trips

Info:

- Good to have a digital copy of your transcript, digital score reports downloaded from the SAT/ACT sites, and list of intended senior classes in a file on your computer
- Myth: Coaches can call you only after July 1 the summer before your senior year. Truth: coaches from D1 and D2 schools can only call you after July 1, but coaches from D3 schools can call you anytime. You can call any coach from any division anytime, even before July 1, but you have to be the one to call and best to email the coach and schedule beforehand.
- Myth: you can only take 5 official visits total. Truth: you can only take 5 official visits to D1 schools (used to be D1 and D2). Can take unlimited visits to D3 schools, but can only visit each institution once. Not sure about D2 because their rules are changing quickly.
- Myth: When you go on an official visit, everything is paid for, including your flights there and back. Truth: It depends on the school. An official visit means that the institution pays for any part of a visit for a recruit. Many D1 schools will pay for your flight, meals, and your entire time on campus. A few will even offer to pay for a parent's flight. Some low budget D1 schools may ask you to book and pay for your own flight. Not sure about D2 because I didn't talk to any D2 schools. D3 schools cannot pay for your flights, and some will make you find your own way from the airport to campus, and pay for your own meals. Some do not like to call these visits to D3 schools "official visits" because of these reasons.
- Myth: Division 3 schools are not as good as Division 2 or Division 1 schools. Truth: collegiate swim teams across all divisions are nearly the same! The only different is how much money that have. Ex: D3 cannot pay for your flights to visits while many D1 can, D3 doesn't offer athletic scholarships while most D1 can. HOWEVER this is not true all the time and shouldn't be accepted as fact. Some D1 schools will make you pay for your flight to official visits. Some D1 schools, such as Ivy League schools, cannot offer athletic scholarships. There are several D3 teams that are as fast as or even faster than some D1 schools, so how fast a team is isn't much of a dividing factor either.

Funny moments:

- Assistants coach at one of the schools I visited didn't know what Corn Nuts were, and the coachin staff were making a big deal out of it and found out that nearly a third of their team didn't know what Corn Nuts were.

Maybe will create a page on Montana Swimming athlete page for recruiting trip tips and info.