

Opening College Doors by Pat Grecco



The Author - Pat Grecco

Pat has helped more student athletes get to college than anyone on the planet. Here she is honored for her College Advisory volunteer work, with induction into the Long Island Junior Soccer League's Hall of Fame. LIJSL, the nations largest has 70,000 players.

- A veteran soccer mom, Pat's daughter Beth, played on a full soccer scholarship at UCONN; her son, Marine Lt. Frank Jr., is a USNA soccer team graduate; and her husband Frank, Sr. is a referee.

- Pat provides consulting services to student athletes. Phone: (631) 754-0026 and soccervol@aol.com.

Most people think about sports leading to athletic scholarships and, of course, this is often the case. But a sport can also help you open the door to the college your choice, or help you get into the most selective state schools, with their attractive price tags, even when you don't live in their state. Interested?

When I first began helping the student athletes, I realized there were many options. Even those players who were not top athletes had opportunities, especially those with good grades and SAT's.

The concept I am about to reveal applies to all sports. I have worked with numerous student athletes in soccer, lacrosse, swimming, track, tennis, and crew. The concept is always the same ... you can create options. Here's how.

"Show me the money" he said. To be honest, most people want an athletic scholarship. But it isn't only about money, its about getting into the right school. Your sport in combination with good grades helps the coach "package" you for admission, a place on the team and a financial award.

Football, basketball, baseball are not the only sports that can help you. Lesser known sports include, fencing, pistol, rifle, sailing, crew, golf, tennis, volleyball, soccer, lacrosse, softball, equestrian, swimming and diving, snow skiing, track, cross country, ice hockey, wrestling, field hockey, gymnastics, squash, water polo ... and don't forget marching band and cheerleading.

Your financial award includes the total amount of money offered by the college. Grants, merit and athletic scholarships do not have to repaid ... loans do; the bottom line is what you have to pay each year.

Lauren S. was picked by Bucknell University for soccer and lacrosse. Although Bucknell does not offer athletic scholarships, because Lauren had strong grades, an SAT over 1300, and was a strong two sport athlete, she was an ideal candidate for a good financial package.

Sports create opportunities if you have a plan. Mrs. H.'s son is bound for Notre Dame, living his dream of playing soccer for the Irish. Knowing that her son was not a "blue chip" player, I asked how this came about. Since 7th grade he attended camp at ND, played on very competitive club and varsity teams and earned good grades. Brian H. began networking with the ND coach at age 12!

Chris G. a football kicker, plays lacrosse, wants to study engineering, has great academics but is not a big name athlete. Chris is getting lots of attention from the most selective school that require his high level GPA and SAT's.

If you're not academically viable, consider a prep school to beef-up your grades, or enter a junior college then transfer to the four year school when your academics in order. Many JUCOs offer athletic scholarships.

J.R. a goalkeeper with a mission, was academically challenged. He entered Becker College, a JUCO, where he played and studied until he could transfer to Wesley College in Maryland. J.F. is now graduate assistant coach earning a Masters Degree. Success comes in many forms.

Stuart M. on a scholarship at Canada's Concord College, was far from home. Now at Sanoma State in California, thanks to Concord's coach and excellent grades, the transfer from was accomplished with ease.

Lacrosse led to good schools for two sets of brothers, Wayne and Wesley S. are playing at Manhattan College; Brian and Gavin C. are at the US Merchant Marine Academy, a D-III program with full tuition payed for by Uncle Sam and one of the nations best opportunities.

Donna S. from England did not meet NCAA qualifications yet found a scholarship and great academic opportunities at Champlain College, a JUCO with several post season appearances and national championships.

When Steve R. turned down D-I schools to attend Williams College, teammates questioned his D-III decision. Steve's 1300 SAT and strong GPA, helped Williams package him quite nicely. As a freshman, Steve returned home at Christmas wearing a national championship ring ... Williams had gone all the way. Graduating in '99, an All-America, Steve is playing professionally. Look beyond D-I, D-II or D-III, to see all of a program's qualities.

Rosario L. an average student, played strong club and varsity soccer. His father told me they were looking for academic opportunities, not money. Rosario went on to play at Johns Hopkins a top school that, without soccer, would have been out of reach for him.

Brook C. rowed for her varsity high school crew team and is now on a scholarship at Fordham University. I helped her review all the schools with crew, targeting good fits based on her qualifications and requirements.

In Ice hockey, I have helped two young men find their way to college. Al B. played at Iona College and Steve V. skates for Johnson & Wales College.

Kelly Bowman really didn't need me to get noticed. She was a "big time" swimmer with Junior National times in the free style event; D-I programs were recruiting her. I recommend U. of Maryland because I felt it would be a good academic fit, had a strong academic support program and I like the campus and the ambiance very much.

Pat has helped thousands of student athletes. Her network of personal contacts among college coaches, extensive library of reference materials and a keen sense for the family's and needs and wants are keys to her success.

See her *CONSULTING* and training section at:
<http://www.Student-Athlete.Net>