

College Quest provides guidance

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So your son or daughter has enjoyed a terrific freshman or sophomore athletic year, and you're thinking that maybe the kid might become good enough to get a college scholarship.

So you're also thinking ... What do we do now? Jennifer Noonan says you should give her a call.

Noonan is president of College Sports Quest. College Sports Quest, until recently called College Athletic Recruiting, tries to pair high school athletes with colleges.

Noonan concedes that the elite high school athlete does not need College Sports Quest's assistance. The top college programs know all about the elite athlete, and vice versa.

It is the not-so-elite athlete she said might need College Sports Quest's help.

"Most high school student-athletes look at only the top 25 colleges in the nation," she said, "because they're familiar with those schools, which are all NCAA Division I schools. But only about 25 percent of the nation's colleges are Division I schools, so right off the bat athletes are eliminating about 75 percent of their opportunities.

"That's where we come in. Our job is to educate student-athletes and their parents about what opportunities are available to them, and to help them find a place where the student-athlete fits in athletically, academically and financially."

Noonan knows first-hand about high school athletics and college recruiting. She was a multi-sport standout at Corona del Mar in the mid-1980s then went on to play at Golden West College, Arizona and UC Santa Barbara. She played on volleyball state championship teams at Golden West and Corona del Mar and has coached soccer at Corona del Mar and at the youth level.

Many college recruiting services exist. Noonan said College Sports Quest is not one of them.

"Recruiting services are only in the exposure industry," she said. "We're not a recruiting service. We're a college planning and college preparatory program for student-athletes.

"The difference is that we're education-based. We provide families with the tools and resources they need for the student-athlete to get recruited realistically by the colleges of their choice."

The CIF-Southern Section, the governing body for high school sports in Orange County and much of Southern California, likes that approach. College Sports Quest is the official academic partner of the CIF-Southern Section.

College Sports Quest will have an office in early June at the American Sports Center, a new and huge multi-sport and multi-use training facility in Anaheim that opened last month.

In the interim, learn more about College Sports Quest, and its services and fees, by going to www.collegeathleticrecruiting.com, calling (949) 673-6322 or attending a College Sports Quest free presentation at Santa Margarita High on May 25.