

## 2019 La Roca Boys College Night Summary

December 27, 2019

### Coaches Panel:

Michael Chesler, Utah Valley University

Nuno Gourgel – Snow College

Tyler Amerman – Air Force Academy

Elton Jazexhiu – Salt Lake Community College

Joseph Hickman – Westminster College

Ignacio Hernandez – California Polytechnic University

Jared Woodhouse – Utah State University Eastern

La Roca 2019 Boys College Night on December 27 was an informative evening where players and parents gained useful information about NCAA requirements and the college recruiting process directly from our panel of coaches.

Initially, a brief overview of the NCAA.org website was presented. NCAA handouts were available for those in attendance, and can be found through the following link:

[NCAA Educational Resources](#)

The college coaches were then introduced. They were asked a variety of questions to help clarify some of the recruiting terms and rules as they apply to Division I and II schools, and how those rules differ for Junior Colleges.

Then the audience members were invited to ask questions.

Questions included:

*Can a student complete a pre-med program while playing soccer?* Answer: yes, but the student has to be very disciplined, and depending on when the classes and labs are taught, there might be some scheduling challenges.

*Do you recruit a player for a specific position?* Answer: not necessarily; we place the player in a position where they will be most successful.

*How does the Air Force Academy recruit players?* Answer: we use the same basic recruiting strategies, though in addition to looking for great players/students, we are also looking for young men who will be

a good fit for a military academy setting. Once we identify a potential player, the player must get the nominations required. The Air Force Academy can only recruit domestic players.

*How important are camps?* Answer: Camps, showcases, and ID camps is how we get players. If I meet a player I like, I ask him to send me some film. At a camp, we can see the players' personalities and the player can check out the school and our coaching staff. Remember, it's not only about us picking you; you need to pick us. You need to check out the school, the program, the price, the location, the coaches, the whole package to make sure it's a good fit for you.

*Can we email you?* Answer: Yes, that is very helpful. Take the initiative. Send us your game schedule when you're going to a tournament, and if we're planning to be there, we'll come watch your game. Send us video and keep following up with us. Be persistent and reach out to us. You need to work for your dream. You need to be able to communicate with college coaches and others in positions of authority.

Do your homework! Watch college games to get a feel for how different it is. It's very physical, very intense. You have to prepare yourself for that. If you're prepared, you'll be more successful. Try to go watch a college training session.

*Is high school soccer important?* Answer: Enjoy it. It's not great soccer, but it's the most fun you'll have!

*How many players leave a junior college and go play at a DI or DII school?* Answer: Not many. The thing about junior colleges is that it's giving yourself a second chance. Maybe you didn't get great grades in high school and did not qualify for a Division I or Division II school. Junior College gives you a chance to be successful in school. Then, if your team does really well and goes to a national tournament, that will open a lot of opportunities for you because there are DI and DII coaches watching those games. But you have to be realistic; you have to be good enough and have good grades to make that transition to a higher division school. Junior College will open doors for you, though.

Don't get too caught up in the division of a school. Make sure it's a good fit for you.

Don't hold out too long. If you get an offer from a Junior College and don't accept it, because you're waiting for an offer from a DI or DII school, you might be out of luck if that higher division school doesn't give you an offer. By that time, the Junior College might not be able to offer you any money.

Remember that a very, very small percentage of players actually go pro. Go pro in something other than soccer (engineering, for example).

*At what point is it too late to start the process of trying to get recruited?* Answer: Don't delay! The sooner you start, the better. Your junior year is the optimum time so we can see you play.

*Do freshmen get play time?* Answer from a junior college coach: I'm recruiting you to play, not to sit on the bench. If you're a player who's going to make a difference, then you'll play. We can't afford to not play you. If you're good, you'll play. Answer from a DI coach: Your lack of experience will be hard until you get conditioned. You'll be a 17- or 18-year-old playing against 21- and 22-year-olds. That's a big difference. Be patient with yourself.

*How many credit hours are required of the student athletes?* Answer: that may vary by division level and school, but you have to be a full-time student to play and have a 2.0 GPA. If your GPA falls below the

threshold, you can be placed on academic probation, or worse, lose your scholarship. Our head coach has to pull a credit report every term to check on the academic standing of the players. We provide a lot of help because we don't want you to fail, but you must be serious about school. You must attend study hall.

When you have great grades, you have more opportunities. Coaches can combine athletic scholarships with academic scholarships, which helps them stretch their budget. Most schools don't give full-ride athletic scholarships; they stack athletic aid with academic aid.

Take school as seriously as possible. Do what you can to stand out on the field, then get the best grades you can.