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Transfer Portal Effects on High School Athletes

The recruitment process has always been very competitive. It is now even more difficult thanks to the NCAA transfer portal. When looking for schools to apply to, high school juniors and seniors are no longer just competing with their fellow classmates. Instead they are competing with a whole portal, which on average depending on the sport can vary from about 2,000 to 6,000 student-athletes. In addition, coaches save anywhere from three to ten spots for transfers. In doing so, they are taking the opportunity away from high school athletes. Now, college coaches must search the portal for the best talent available in order for their schools to be competitive. According to Didier Dihn, head coach of Eastern Nazarene women's basketball team, "The Division one and two teams are recruiting the transfer portal heavily; some teams do it exclusively. Combine that with the added year of eligibility from the blanket waiver because of COVID-19, and the demand for a high school player has never been lower. I do think there are high school athletes that have missed out on athletic-scholarship opportunities because teams are prioritizing the transfer portal." Therefore, a coach may feel like a player who has collegiate experience might be better equipped to benefit from contributing to a team right away compared to a player right out of highschool. Due to this, it is essential for high school student-athletes that are interested in playing at the collegiate level to be more proactive in their recruiting process. They could be more proactive by sending film to coaches, attending camps, and playing in highly scouted tournaments.

