

Score at the Shore

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The Dynamics of Recruiting for Men's Division 1 College Soccer Programs

or

Which Showcase events should my team enter?

You are reading a paper developed by Bill Cameron, a Tournament Directors for Score at the Shore. Score at the Shore is a college soccer showcase. You might assume that this paper contains biased data and conclusions designed to get you to attend our event, readers beware. That said, my background is in econometrics and statistical analysis. My intention is to generate an objective, fact based paper to help coaches, parents, and players understand the dynamics of college recruiting and make the best tournament decision for their team, resulting in greater recruiting opportunities for players.

In 2004, the NCAA listed 198 colleges and universities with Division 1 Men's soccer programs. The information used in this analysis came from 197 Division 1 Men's soccer programs and their 4,900 roster slots (2004), one program did not have roster information available. Any errors or omissions are mine. (3/18/05)

USYSA breaks the United States into four geographical regions. Region 1 runs from Virginia to Maine, Region 2 is primarily the area known as the Mid-West, Region 3 contains all the states south of Virginia and Kentucky to the Texas / New Mexico border and Region 4 contains most of the Rocky Mountain and West Coast states. Table 1 ranks the regions by Division 1 roster slots. In men's soccer, 45% of all Division 1 men's roster slots are in Region 1 schools and 70% of all slots are in Region 1 and Region 3. These slots are concentrated in the states bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

It is also worth noting that most roster slots at men's Division 1 programs are at private schools (62%) and not state schools. This is a very different pattern from the women's side where there is an almost equal distribution in roster slots between private and state institutions, with state school slots slightly ahead of private school slots. The largest drop is in Region 3 state school programs. Region 3 has 1,323 state school roster slots for women and just 361 for men.

Table 1: Men’s Division 1 Roster Slots by Region

	Private Schools	State Schools	Total Roster Slots
Region 1	1,673	560	2,233 (45%)
Region 3	662	361	1,023 (21%)
Region 2	477	540	1,017 (21%)
Region 4	265	388	653 (13%)
Totals	3,077 (62%)	1,849 (38%)	4,926

Note: All tables are ranked by the column heading that is **bolded**.

State Funded Schools:

Though state school programs are just 38% of all Division 1 men’s roster slots, they are the majority of slots in Region 2 and Region 4. There are clear differences in recruiting patterns from state to state and region to region, but none are more dramatic than state run versus private colleges and universities. State universities tend to recruit in-state players. The reasons are most likely due to 1) Economics; in-state tuition is lower therefore, the cost of a scholarship is lower. 2) Politics; state residents support their state schools through state taxes and demand access for in-state students.

Over 50% of state school roster slots go to in-state players versus just 35% at private schools. Region 4 state schools are almost 70% more likely to have in-state players as Region 1 state schools, and 35% more likely than Region 3 state schools. Region 1 has the lowest average for in-state players, just 43% of slots go to in-state players. In Region 1, almost 325 state school roster slots went to out of state players, almost as many as all state school roster slots in Region 4 combined, and 37% of the national total. Region 1 is the only region where out of state players significantly exceed in-state players.

Table 2: State Funded Institutions Ranked by Roster Slots

	Roster Slots	In- State	Out of State	Percentage in-state
Region 1	560	238	322	42.5%
Region 2	540	285	255	52.8%
Region 4	388	278	110	71.6%
Region 3	361	180	181	49.9%
Totals	1,849	981	868	53.1%

Let’s take this one step lower and look at the data state by state. Table 3 contains a list of states with at least 75 state school roster slots. The number in parenthesis is the state’s USYSA region.

California public school rosters are dominated by in-state players. Over 80% of all roster slots at California state schools are given to California residents, 15% higher than in New York and 65% higher than the national average (53.1%).

In 2004, just 2% of roster slots at California state schools went to players from Regions 1, 2, and 3 combined. There were just 5 players from the 37 states not in Region 4 on California state school rosters, two players from Region 1, one from Region 2, and one from Region 3.

Table 3: Percentage of Roster Slots going to In-State Players (State Schools)

State	Slots	In-State	Out of State	Percentage In-State
California (4)	288	236	52	81.9%
New York (1)	118	83	35	70.3%
Wisconsin (2)	76	48	28	63.2%
Ohio (2)	91	54	37	59.3%
Virginia (1)	83	48	35	57.8%
Maryland (1)	118	83	35	57.1%
Illinois (2)	105	59	46	56.2%
North Carolina (3)	190	98	92	51.6%
Indiana (2)	79	39	40	49.4%
Totals	1,148	748	400	65.2%

Private Institutions:

Tuition at private institutions is the same for in-state and out of state players. There is no economic advantage in giving scholarship money to a player based on where they reside. It is no surprise that private institutions have a much lower in-state roster ratio than state funded schools. From Tables 2 and 4, we can see the average state school roster has more than 50% in-state players while the average private school roster has just 35% in-state players.

Table 4: Roster Slots at Private Institutions by Region

	Roster Slots	In- State	Out of State	Percentage In-State
Region 1	1,673	559	1,114	33.4%
Region 3	662	193	469	29.2%
Region 2	477	193	284	40.5%
Region 4	265	128	137	48.3%
Totals	3,077	1,073	2,004	34.9%

If we rank the regions by the number of roster slots in private school programs, Region 1 dominates with 1,673 slots, over 50% of all private school roster slots, more than the other three regions combined. Region 3 comes in a distant second, while Regions 2 and 4 are a more distant 3rd and 4th respectively.

In Region 4, almost 50% of all private school roster slots go to in-state players, just below than the national average for all state schools (53%). Contrast this with Region 1, where just 33% of roster slots go to in-state players. More than 1,000 Region 1 private schools roster slots went to out of state players, **five** times the amount of out of state players on rosters on all Region 4 schools combined (state and private). Put another way, you would need to double the number of Region 4 roster slots at all Division 1 programs combined to exceed the number of Region 1 private schools roster slots (1,114) that went to out of state players. If a player is interested in going to a private school, being at events with Region 1 private school coaches is a must.

Table 5 analyzes the data by state. California, Ohio, Illinois, and Florida private school programs have the highest concentration of in-state players. New York State private schools have twice as many out of state players on rosters (241) as do all California programs, state and private, combined (122).

The three states with the largest number of private school roster slots are New York (434), Pennsylvania (346), and Virginia (209), all are in Region 1.

Table 5: Percentage of Roster Slots to In-State Players, Private Institutions by State

State	Slots	In-State	Out of State	Percentage In-State
California (4)	167	97	70	58.1%
Ohio (2)	98	55	43	56.1%
Illinois (2)	110	60	50	54.5%
Florida (3)	102	55	47	53.9%
New Jersey (1)	160	72	88	45.0%
New York (1)	434	191	241	44.2%
Pennsylvania (1)	346	135	211	39.0%
Virginia (1)	209	75	134	35.9%
Tennessee (3)	97	27	70	27.8%
Connecticut (1)	139	37	102	26.6%
South Carolina (3)	104	24	85	23.1%
North Carolina (3)	161	37	138	23.0%
Massachusetts (1)	115	21	94	18.3%
Indiana (2)	90	15	75	16.7%
Totals	2,332	901	1,431	38.6%

From the above data we can make some basic conclusions and suggestions.

Conclusions:

Region 4 Teams: These teams need to be seen by West Coast colleges. It is very important to attend West Coast showcases. Additionally, I think it is in the player's best interest to be seen by as many East Coast private school coaches as possible because of the lack of total roster slots in Region 4. 91 Region 1 private school roster slots were given to Region 4 players, an amount equal to almost 15% of all Region 4 roster slots. What makes this even more astonishing is Region 4 teams make up the smallest percentage of teams at the major East Coast showcases. Region 4 players are in an excellent recruiting position because they have a definite recruiting advantage with West Coast roster slots and, if they come east, will be given a more than fair chance by East Coast schools.

Region 3 Teams: You need to be seen by as many Region 3 schools and private institutions as possible. The largest Region 3 event is the Raleigh Shootout. You should also consider events like Disney or other Region 3 showcases. It is also important for players to be seen by as many private schools as possible.

Should Region 3 teams attend showcases in Region 4? Remember only one Region 3 player was on a California state school roster in 2004, and only 17 Region 3 players (2.6%) were on the roster of any Region 4 Division 1 men's soccer programs. Compare this to Region 1 where almost 8% of the roster slots (170) went to Region 3 players. The odds of a Region 3 player winding up on a Region 1 roster are 1,000% (10 times) higher than on a Region 4 roster.

Region 2 Teams: You need to be seen by as many Region 2 schools as possible. Only one third of Region 2 schools travel to the major showcases, probably because they see Region 2 players during events like state cup or local tournaments. Where should your teams go? If you look at California state rosters, only one Region 2 player was listed. There were only 14 Region 2 players (2.1%) on any Region 4, Division 1 roster. Contrast this with Region 3 where 69 players and 7% of all roster slots went to Region 2 players and Region 1, where 127 or 6% of Division 1 roster slots went to Region 2 players. The odds of a Region 2 player getting a Region 4 roster slot are less than 3%. It seems you should be at events with Region 3 and Region 1 coaches. Raleigh, Disney, and Score at the Shore fit the bill.

Region 1 Teams: Just as with every other region, Region 1 players are most likely to be found on Region 1, Division 1 rosters. Region 4 and Region 2 schools give out very few roster slots to Region 1 players. Just three Region 1 players found their way on to California State school rosters. Only 18 players (2.8%) from Region 1 were on any Region 4, Division 1 school roster. Only 34 players from Region 1, 3.3% of roster all slots, were on Region 2 school rosters. It seems obvious that Region 1 teams should attend Score at the Shore and Disney, the two biggest Region 1 and Region 3 showcases. Consider team finances when looking at non Region 1 events, maximize your East Coast exposure and know that the Region 4 and Region 2 schools willing to recruit Region 1 players attend Score at the Shore, Raleigh, and Disney.

Showcases:

Just as there are significant differences in roster slots from region to region and from public to private schools, there are significant differences between the nation's major showcases. There are differences in size, distribution of attending school by region, and also in attendance by state and private institutions.

Table 6 ranks the nation's largest showcases by the number of men's programs attending. The data comes directly from the tournament web sites. The three largest men's showcases in the nation are Raleigh Shootout (129), Disney (124), and Score at the Shore (118).

Score at the Shore is by far the top Region 1 event and Raleigh is the top Region 3 event. The largest Region 4 showcase is Surf Cup (107). Please note, the number of coaches at an event may exceed the number of programs. For example, Score at the Shore gave out 140 profile books in 2004 with only 118 programs attending because many universities bring two coaches.

Table 6: The Nations Largest Boy's Showcases Ranked by Number of Programs

Showcase	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Total Programs
Raleigh Shootout	40	20	67	2	129
Disney	45	32	38	9	124
Score at the Shore	87	12	16	3	118
Surf Cup	29	11	13	54	107

** Surf states these schools have recruited, "at past San Diego Surf Cup tournaments through 2003." The numbers may have been compiled over several years. Most tournaments list the number of coaches at each event by year. If Score at the Shore were to list all men's colleges recruiting just in 2003 and 2004 the list would increase from 118 to 130. If we threw in 2002, the list would approach 140 schools and if we included our Jacksonville event the number would move even higher.

Table 7: Percentage of Private and State Schools Recruiting at Major Showcases

Showcase	Private	State
Raleigh Shootout	81%	19%
Score at the Shore	77%	23%
Disney	70%	30%
Surf Cup**	62%	38%

As previously demonstrated, recruiting patterns at state and private schools are quite different. Private schools are much more likely to give roster slots to out of state players. As Table 7 shows, there is a difference in the type of school recruiting at the major tournaments. Schools recruiting at Score at the Shore and Disney tend to be private schools by a better than 3 to 1 ratio. State schools represent almost 40% of the attendees at Surf. If you are looking to get your child in front of private schools Score at the Shore and Disney are the best choices.

If you analyze Score at the Shore and the Disney Showcase college coach attendee list, you will see that most of the Region 1 schools attending Surf events recruit at Score at the Shore and Disney and most of the Region 3 coaches that attend Surf recruit at Disney, or Score at the Shore.

Less than fifteen Region 4 colleges recruited at major East Coast showcases in 2004. Many attended because they were coaching teams at the events. 29 East Coast schools recruited at West Coast events in 2004. Ask yourself why Region 1 and 3 schools recruit at both East Coast and West Coast events, but Region 4 programs recruit almost exclusively at West Coast events? The most likely reason is; West Coast showcases are used almost exclusively to recruit West Coast players, for all regions. We can conclude Region 1 and Region 3 schools recruit players from all regions most equitably. Region 2 schools recruit mainly from Region 2 and Region 4 schools recruit almost exclusively from Region 4.

Table 8: Tournament Structure Ranked by Potential Recruiting Minutes

Tournament	Minimum # Games (Game Length)	Minimum Minutes	Avg. number of Games (Avg. minutes per team)	Potential Recruiting Minutes
Score at the Shore	4 (70)	280	4.875 (341)	40,238
Disney Showcase	3 (80-90)	255	3.375 (287)	35,588
Surf Cup **	3 (80-90)	255	3.375 (287)	30,709
Raleigh Shootout	3 (70)	210	3.25 (228)	29,348

Table 8 ranks the tournaments by potential recruiting minutes per game. Potential recruiting minutes, equals the average number of minutes per team expected in a tournament times the number of programs. For example, if a team plays for 100 minutes and 2 coaches are at the showcase, the team has a potential of 200 recruiting minutes. If there were no coaches in attendance the recruiting potential would be zero. We all know that coaches watch many games and don't all follow one team, but this methodology will give a sense of recruiting opportunity per team.

Score at the Shore has the most potential recruiting minutes of any major showcase. The number 40,238 is calculated by multiplying the average playing time per team (341 minutes) by the number of coaches in attendance (118). Score at the Shore provides 13% more potential recruiting time than Disney, 31% more time than Surf Cup, and 80% more than Raleigh.

Score at the Shore

This is our advertisement! In just 5 years, Score at the Shore has become the nation's number 3 men's recruiting event, based on the number of college programs and coaches attending.

Score at the Shore is held in late July when most teams are match fit, and Score at the Shore is a four game minimum event. Half of all teams play 5 games. The average number of games per team at Score at the Shore is 4.875. Compare this with any other major tournament and you'll see Score at the Shore gives you more time in front of coaches. (See Table 8)

Score at the Shore has a structure that is different from every other major showcase. We do not break our event in “A, B or C” groups prior to the event. Every team accepted has an opportunity to win our event. To insure you are in the champions group you must win your group. This guarantees teams that might be seeded into a B or C bracket at other events at least one game against teams that would be in an A bracket. Why is that important?

Coaches tend to spend more time watching “A” group teams. During a game against a highly ranked team, a player on a lower ranked team may catch a coach’s eye, remember coaches recruit players and not teams. Last year we had as many coaches watching our “Blue” or C playoff games because they were able to identify players during the group phase. We feel our structure helps more players increase visibility than any other event.

After the group phase, all team are divided into playoff. Your playoff placement depends on how you finished in group. This means just as many 3rd and 4th place teams play a fifth game as do 1st and 2nd place teams. Our structure gives more playing time to more teams and players than any other showcase event.

I hope this paper has been of help. If you have questions or constructive comments, please feel free to email me.

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Regards,

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