

Students should choose school for academics

The following section of a story, under the headline 'Athlete's marks vital', was inadvertently left out of Thursday's Tribune

Athletes should seek as many scholarship offers as possible.

"A lot of kids take the first offer," he said. "You're really cutting down on your bargaining position. It's better if you get a lot of schools."

A large part of getting a scholarship requires selling yourself in a portfolio. A good portfolio should include details on academic performance, a background in sports, a video if you have it, phone numbers of former coaches and newspaper clippings, if available.

Larry Bone, a Newmarket resident who helps steer kids and parents through the scholarship process, offers a course, Athletes Teaching Athletes, that coaches kids how to write SATs. He said good salesmanship is important when trying to land a scholarship.

"Be very positive and

assertive about (your abilities)," he said. "There is no point telling them you are the most fabulous sprinter (if you're not)."

Mr. Bone recommends students choose a university that offers academic programs they wish to enroll in.

"If I want to become a doctor, I don't want to go to the University of Minnesota," he said.

Students should also look at how much playing time they might get at a university.

A person shouldn't focus solely on American universities, Mr. Bone said.

"I also believe you don't put all your eggs in one basket," he said. "Look at Canadian options."

In some cases, a Canadian university might be better suited to an athlete's academic interests than an American institution, he said. In other cases, universities might have a quota for the number of international students it can accept.

Mr. Bone offers a 10-hour course that teaches students how to write the SAT test, adding here in Canada, students are taught how to write multiple choice tests.

Canadian universities offer quality scholarships as well, said Marg McGregor, chief executive officer with the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS), a governing body for university athletes in the country.

"It's not a slamdunk (that) it's better to go to university down there," she said.

She suggests athletes should consider school facilities, quality of coaching and what sort of support is available if they are injured.

Current rules dictate the most a Canadian university can cover with a scholarship is a student's tuition and compulsory fees. This means a university cannot pay for an athlete's residence.

She said the graduation rates of student athletes at Canadian universities are better than in the U.S.

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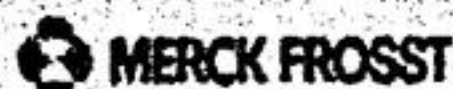
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