

## 28.5 Movement Recap

The 28.5 group is a collection of Women's Basketball Coaches from various states who celebrate, honor, empower, recruit and promote women that coach basketball. They strive to grow the game of basketball by helping other women and helping their athletes. Get in touch with [Nicci Hays Fort](#) or [Cori Elms](#) or DM their [twitter account](#) to join this group of coaches!

On Sunday, January 22nd, Women's Basketball Coaches met via zoom and discussed recruitment. There was a panel of six head coaches for collegiate basketball.

[Kori Stephenson](#): Head Coach of Mesa Community College Women's Basketball Team

[Sue Syljebeck](#): Head Coach of Siena Heights University Women's Basketball Team

[Katharine Menendez](#): Head Coach of Colorado College's Women's Basketball Team

[Amy Eagan](#): Head Coach of Drury University Women's Basketball Team

[Danielle O'Banion](#): Head Coach of Loyola University Maryland Women's Basketball Team

[Jan Jensen](#): Head Coach of University of Iowa Women's Basketball Team

### **Question 1: When do you start recruiting? What does it look like?**

Kori - Mostly look at seniors, but keeps an eye on juniors  
Summer after junior year is when phone calls/texts begin

Sue - End of junior year is when recruiting becomes serious

Katherine - Junior year is when they'll start outreach. Campus visits for seniors early in the year

1/3 of the student-athletes reach out to them

Amy – She has 2 full time assistants that help scout for athletes. Officially, June 15th after a player's sophomore year is when they can start communicating with them.

Danielle - Loyola University Maryland is in the Patriot League, which is a high academic and high athletic conference. Their recruitment is very much admission based, which makes the pace of recruitment very conservative because of academic concern. The end of a player's sophomore year is when they can make scholarship offers. Spring before junior year is when they start communicating through phone calls/texting

Jan - Feels like recruitment has started earlier and earlier. Junior high is when they're looking. By their freshman year they're honed in on players.

**Question 2: When you offer a spot to a player, how long do you wait for them to decide?**

- 30 days after the offer, but if they're upfront about their situation or if they're really good they may give them more time to decide.
- No timeline, but there's only so many spots. First one that gets it, gets it. "Are you okay with \_\_\_\_\_ College/University being out of the picture?"

**Question 3: What are important steps that High School Coaches can take to get their players on college coaches' radar?**

- Start local first and market to all the schools in your local area - networking. "Get your ladies in front of the coaching staff"
- We want to see kids play in person, multiple times. Bring your players to team camps. Would rather have coaches reach out to her rather than the player sometimes.
- Self advocacy or coach outreach. "Personally I love a coach that will take a second to send an email or call. Highlight your player, what they're studying, and why they would be a good fit."
- No NCSA. You can blow a lot of money, but you can do the same thing with a personal email. Less is more. If they can afford to go to a school's camp, they should do that.

**Question 4: Would you rather see a highlight video or full game video?**

- Keep it to 2 minutes but show the range. Pazazz but no gimmicks. Less is more. Attach a good game film too
- "We do not want to see slo-mo or special effects. Also we do not need to see your free-throw attempts."
- Include 1-3 plays in the beginning where you circle the person
- The elevator pitch is the highlight video, then comes the full game.
- Highlight video saves time - if you're impressive in the highlight video, I probably won't watch the whole game for time's sake.
- If you're sending the film as the players coach, when you send a full game say this is the best full game they've played and send another saying this is the worst full game they've played. It's beneficial to see them in multiple situations. Being honest and fully transparent is great.

**Question 5: How does character come into play?**

- We go with character every time, sometimes when players come in we just know that they're not for us.
- We look for integrity, work ethic, and someone who is a good teammate. No matter how great they are, there will always be a day they will be terrible, but being a good teammate is something that's not tradeable