

Providing a world class soccer program that
develops world class soccer players



COLLEGE NEWS



SEASON 25/26 | ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 2026 |
@COLLEGE_WITHMRSSALAZAR



MESSAGE FROM YOUR COLLEGE GUIDANCE DIRECTOR

Dear Sporting California Families,



As we move into February, college soccer recruiting is fully in motion. This is a critical time of year for our athletes—seniors are finalizing commitments, juniors are entering one of the most important recruiting windows of their journey, and underclassmen are beginning to build the foundation that will shape their future opportunities. The College Pathways Program exists to provide clarity, guidance, and honest insight into the recruiting process so families feel informed and confident every step of the way. Our goal is to help each athlete find the right college fit—academically, athletically, and personally—and to remind our players that preparation, consistency, and communication are key to success at the next level. Don't forget to join us in our next college event!

COLLEGE NEWS

COLLEGE PATHWAYS PROGRAM



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

College Pathways Program – Your Roadmap to the Future

Our College Pathways Program continues to be a cornerstone of Sporting California USA. This invaluable initiative supports players in grades 8–12 as they prepare for the transition to college—academically, athletically, and personally.

All Sporting California USA registered athletes grades 8-12 are eligible. Athletes must enroll themselves by submitting their information on the google form. Once registered, athletes will have direct access to:

- Free online college workshops
- Free College guidance resources such as weekly tips, newsletters, and other valuable info.
- Entry to College coach panel nights
- NCAA resources and tools
- Scholarship eligibility
- and so much more!

HOW TO REGISTER



scan and fill out the
google form to register
to receive more college
info



WHAT COLLEGE COACHES ARE LOOKING AT



February is a pivotal month in the college soccer recruiting cycle. Seniors are finalizing decisions, juniors are entering their most important evaluation window, and underclassmen are laying the groundwork for future opportunities. While highlight videos and stats matter, college coaches are focused on much more than goals and assists at this stage of the year.

Consistency Over Highlights

College coaches are watching how often you perform well—not just your best moments. They want to see:

- Reliable effort from kickoff to final whistle
- Decision-making under pressure
- How you respond after mistakes
- Your work rate when the ball isn't at your feet

A solid, consistent performance every game often outweighs one standout highlight.

Academics Matter More Than You Think

In February, coaches are reviewing transcripts just as closely as game film. Strong grades give coaches flexibility when recruiting and increase your chances of admission and scholarship support. A high GPA can be the difference between:

- A roster spot vs. no offer
- Partial aid vs. full support
- Admission vs. denial

Athletes should be prepared to share current GPA, course rigor, and graduation year when communicating with coaches.

Communication Is Key

This is the time when athletes—not parents—should be leading communication with college coaches. Coaches value players who:

- Respond professionally and promptly
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Show genuine interest in the program

A simple, well-written email with updated film, schedule, and academic info goes a long way.

The Right Fit Over the Biggest Name

Not every successful college soccer player starts at a Division I powerhouse. Coaches and athletes alike are prioritizing:

- Playing time, Academic support, Team culture, Coaching style and Long-term development.

Finding the right environment leads to better success on and off the field.

February Action Checklist

- ✓ Update highlight video
- ✓ Review transcript and GPA
- ✓ Send follow-up emails to college coaches
- ✓ Talk with your club coach about realistic options
- ✓ Attend ID camps with purpose—not pressure

College Director Insight

Recruiting is not a race, and it's not the same for everyone. Stay patient, stay prepared, and stay focused on what you can control—your effort, your attitude, and your academics. Sporting California's College Pathways Program is here to guide and support you through this journey!



PRESENTS

COLLEGE WORKSHOP

Online SERIES

Join our **4-part of online workshop series** designed to help athletes, parents, and coaches gain valuable insights into college recruiting, athletic development, and career pathways. Each 60-minute session features a guest speaker — including college coaches, former student-athletes, recruiters, sports experts, and Sporting California staff — sharing real experiences and actionable advice. Enjoy interactive discussions, Q&A segments, and live examples on each **Monday from 6-7 PM via Zoom**.

27
OCT

WORKSHOP 1: CREATING AN IMPACTFUL HIGHLIGHT VIDEO

24
NOV

WORKSHOP 2: CRAFTING EFFECTIVE EMAILS TO COLLEGE COACHES

26
JAN

WORKSHOP 3: BUILDING A PLAYER PROFILE

23
FEB

WORKSHOP 4: MENTAL PREPARATION & MINDSET FOR COLLEGE ATHLETES

NEXT

HOW TO REGISTER

ALL athletes must register for the program by filling out the google form. Once filled out, you will receive all college info. Scan the QR code for the link.



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Congrats! MZK SCHOLARSHIP Recipients



2025-2026



CALEB SALIB



FRESHMAN
B13 ECNL Ramirez

QUETZALLI BARKER



SOPHOMORE
G10 ECNL RL Battista

NATHAN ALVARADO



JUNIOR
B08 ECNL Estrada

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The 3rd Annual MZK Scholarship is presented by a former Sporting California athlete through the Alumni Association Program established in 2023. Through the Sporting California College Pathways Program, three outstanding student-athletes—one freshman, one sophomore, and one junior—have been selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship each year through their senior year of high school. This scholarship is designed to support each athlete's college pathway and may be applied toward Sporting California dues or, once dues are met, toward college showcases and ID camps. The MZK Scholarship reflects our commitment to recognizing academic achievement, athletic dedication, and character while helping families manage the costs associated with college soccer. Read more about each one of these athletes in our upcoming college newsletter. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients!

SENIOR NIGHT INFO



SCAN ME



SENIORS CLASS OF 2026!
DON'T MISS OUT ON APPLYING FOR
OUR SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND
ANNUAL SENIOR NIGHT! SCAN THE
QR CODE FOR MORE INFO.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

SCAN ME



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Congrats! MZK SCHOLARSHIP Recipients



GPA: 4.2

Years with Sporting: 5+ years

Coach: Sergio Ramirez

Director: Jimmy Nordberg

Awards: Jimmy Stewart Good Citizenship award, LA Galaxy Player Development program player two consecutive years

"Soccer has taught me that talent alone isn't enough—being smart, disciplined, and a good teammate matters just as much. Sporting California has helped me grow not only as a player, but as a person who values hard work, respect, and responsibility."

ABOUT THE ATHLETE

Caleb Salib is a remarkable freshman student-athlete with over five years at Sporting California and a 4.2 GPA, currently two years ahead academically as a 12-year-old high school student. A recipient of the Jimmy Stewart Good Citizenship Award and a two-time LA Galaxy Player Development participant, Caleb demonstrates excellence on and off the field. His commitment to community service, leadership, and long-term goals in soccer and education set him apart. This scholarship will help him continue training at an elite level while pursuing his academic and athletic aspirations.

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NICOLE SALAZAR

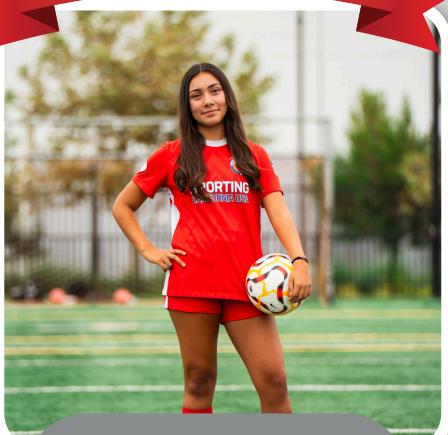
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Congrats! 2025-2026 MZK SCHOLARSHIP Recipients



QUETZALLI BARKER



SOPHOMORE
G10 ECNL RL Battista

GPA: 4.5

Years with Sporting: 3+ years

Coach: Chris Battista

Director: Frank Robledo

Awards: Academic: Principal's honor roll (since elementary), voted as Student of the Year by teachers (middle school), high school ACES (all A's), Academic Letter candidate Athletic: played on the Sporting Select team, selected for EXACT Sports All American, made high school varsity team as a freshman, promoted to Captain on high school varsity team as a sophomore (currently).

"Soccer has opened doors for me, but my education keeps them open. Sporting California has given me the opportunity to grow as a player while holding myself accountable in the classroom as I work toward playing college soccer at a highly academic university."

ABOUT THE ATHLETE

Quetzalli Barker is an exceptional sophomore student-athlete who excels both academically and athletically. With a 4.5 GPA, consistent honor roll recognition, and leadership as a high school varsity captain, she exemplifies balance and commitment. Athletically, she has competed at the ECNL-RL level, participated in Sporting Select, earned All-American recognition, and gained international experience in Europe. This scholarship supports her goal of attending a highly academic university while continuing to play competitive college soccer

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Congrats! MZK SCHOLARSHIP Recipients



2025-2026



NATHAN ALVARADO



JUNIOR
B08 ECNL Estrada

GPA: 3.3

Years with Sporting: 3+ years

Coach: Chris Estrada

Director: Jimmy Nordberg

Awards: First Place Southern league went to regionals, played nationals in Colorado and won NPL nationals. In high school as a freshman on varsity won, Sunbelt league and became champs.

"My role has always been to help my team succeed—whether that's creating chances, working hard down the wing, or stepping up when it matters. Sporting California has helped me embrace that responsibility."

ABOUT THE ATHLETE

Nathan Alvarado is a dedicated junior student-athlete with over three years at Sporting California ECNL. He has consistently competed at a high level, earning league championships, regional success, and an NPL National Championship, while also starting on his high school varsity team since freshman year.

Known for his development as a winger and his strong work ethic, Nathan has made significant sacrifices, including long-distance travel, to pursue his goal of playing college soccer. This scholarship will help support his continued growth and ease the financial commitment his family has made toward his athletic development.

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APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR SENIORS

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

SENIORS, DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE!

MZK Scholarship

Our annual MZK Scholarship—established by Sporting alumni—offers financial support to help athletes in their college journey. We have awarded a freshman, sophomore and junior Sporting Athlete \$1000 plus a pair of cleats to help them each year until they graduate from high school. See above scholarship recipients and read their stories. Applications now open for SENIORS to apply for our Senior MZK scholarship.

Make sure to register!  ENROLL for the College Pathways Program [HERE](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY April 17TH before midnight!

(Senior applications ARE NOW OPEN and will be awarded at Senior Night)



Betty Williams Memorial Scholarship

Created to honor the legendary co-founder of Sporting California USA, this award celebrates a senior who embodies leadership, passion, and perseverance. Every year, Sporting California will award one senior at our Senior Night Event in May. Apply today!

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN! APPLY TODAY!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY April 17TH before midnight.

Make sure to register!  ENROLL for the College Pathways Program





COLLEGE EVENTS

DONT MISS OUT



College Coaches Panel Nights -August /September/Feb
Our College Coaches Panel Night is designed to give our Sporting California USA athletes valuable insight into the college soccer pathway. This special event brings together college coaches from a variety of programs and divisions to share their experiences, expectations, and advice with student-athletes and their families. Athletes will have the opportunity to learn about the recruiting process, what coaches look for on and off the field, and how to best prepare for the next level. Register Today!

Check out our recent event photos from this month!
CoED Panel - Coming March 2026

Online College Workshops -Monthly Mondays

Join us for a 4-series of 1 hour informative online workshops designed specifically for athletes and their parents. These workshops aim to provide valuable insights into essential topics related to playing college soccer and navigating the college experience. Each workshop will feature guest speakers, interactive discussions, and Q&A sessions to ensure participants leave with practical knowledge and resources. Final details and more information will be sent to all who register online via the google form.

Online Workshops dates: Monthly Monday's Online
FIRST WORKSHOP - 10/27, 6PM VIA ZOOM
upcoming: 1/26/26 A

NEX UP: 2/23/26 6-7pm

To receive more details, athletes must register!



SENIOR NIGHT - MAY 8th 2026

Let's send off our senior players with pride and celebration! Open to all Sporting California USA seniors, whether or not you've committed to a college yet.

The evening includes:

- * Awards and recognitions
- * Photo opportunities
- * Special scholarship announcements (Don't forget to apply!)

Calling all Seniors, class of 2026. Please fill this form out so we can reach out for more information.

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM [HERE](#)





COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

~~22 MZK Scholarship Applications OPEN~~
~~27 Girls College Coaches Panel 6-8pm~~

September

~~9 Boys College Coaches Panel 6-8pm~~
~~20 La Verne University Girls Night 6pm~~
~~22 CBU vs Irvine College Game Night 7pm~~

October

~~3 MZK Scholarship Application OPEN~~
~~27 Online Workshop #1 6-7pm~~

November

~~22 FALL FEST 6-9pm El Cerritos Park~~
~~24 Online Workshop #2 6-7pm~~

December

~~HOLIDAYS~~

January

~~26 Online Workshop #3 6-7pm~~
~~MZK Scholarships Announcement~~

February

~~23 Online Workshop #4 6-7pm~~
~~Senior Scholarships -SENIOR APPLICATION OPEN~~

March

TBD - COED College Coaches Panel 6-8pm

April

17 Senior Scholarship Application Deadline

May

8 Senior Night Class of 2026 6-8pm

Event dates can change or be rescheduled. To get updated event dates and details, athletes must register for the program

**Program
Enrollment**



**Seniors
Class of 26**



**Senior
Scholarship
Application**

