

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



COLLEGE NEWS

SEASON 25/26 | ISSUE 8

MAY 2026 | @COLLEGE_WITHMRSSALAZAR



MESSAGE FROM YOUR COLLEGE GUIDANCE DIRECTOR

As we close out the month of May, we also mark the end of another meaningful season—one that brought growth, resilience, and moments our athletes will carry with them far beyond the field. Seasons don't just measure wins and losses; they reflect commitment, teamwork, and the daily choices each of you made to improve.

This time of year is especially significant as we celebrate our seniors. Graduation is more than a milestone—it's a transition into the next chapter of your journey. Whether you are continuing your academic and athletic career in college, pursuing a new passion, or stepping into a different pathway, know that you leave behind a legacy. You've helped shape the culture of this program, and your impact will continue to be felt by those who follow.

To our underclassmen, this is also a moment of reflection and opportunity. As you've seen, time moves quickly. The standard set by this year's senior class is one to build upon. As a program, we are continuing to grow our college pathways efforts—strengthening relationships with college programs, expanding support and ensuring each of you has access to the guidance and resources needed to pursue your goals beyond our club. Thank you to all of our athletes and families for your dedication and trust this season. We're excited for what lies ahead and look forward to continuing to support each of you on your journey.

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College Guidance Director
Nicole Salazar

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 that is sent out via email.
- Entry to College coach panel nights
- Scholarship eligibility
- and so much more!

The college program is not a 1 to 1 mentorship. Please submit an interest form where your coaches will evaluate and assess each player and help you with recruitment process. More info will be sent to you from coaches and directors.

HOW TO REGISTER

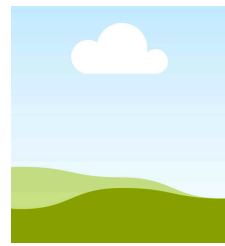
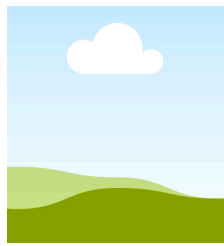
2026-2027 College Program

IF YOU ARE A NEW OR RETURNING PLAYER, YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THE COLLEGE PROGRAM EVERY YEAR. THIS REGISTRATION IS FOR THE NEW SEASON.





MAY COLLEGE TIPS



May College Recruitment Guide: Finishing Strong & Preparing for Your Next Opportunity

As we enter the final stretch of the school year and close out our competitive season, May is one of the most important months in the college recruitment journey. Whether you're a graduating senior preparing for your next chapter or an underclassman building toward future opportunities, what you do now sets the tone for what comes next.

For Our Seniors: Transitioning to Your Next Level

First and foremost—congratulations. You've put in years of work to reach this moment, and now you are stepping into a new chapter as a college student-athlete or pursuing your next path.

Key reminders before you graduate:

- Stay academically focused: Final transcripts matter. Colleges will review your grades—finish strong.
- Communicate with your college coach: Stay in contact, ask questions, and make sure you understand summer expectations.
- Prepare for the transition: This includes fitness, time management, and mental readiness.
- Take ownership of your journey: No one will manage your schedule or hold you accountable like before—start building those habits now.

Remember: Getting to college is an accomplishment—staying and succeeding there is the next goal.

For Juniors: Your Recruitment Window Is NOW

If you are a rising senior, May through the summer is a critical recruiting period.

What you should be doing right now:

- Finalizing your college list: Be realistic and intentional—include a mix of reach, match, and safety schools.
- Emailing college coaches: Send personalized emails with your highlight film, academic info, and upcoming schedule.
- Updating your highlight video: Keep it short (3–5 minutes), high quality, and position-specific.
- Registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center: This is required for Division I and II athletes.
- Attending ID camps and showcases: Be strategic—attend camps where coaches from your target schools will be present.

Tip: Coaches are actively building their 2027 class—visibility and communication matter more than ever.

For Sophomores & Freshmen: Build Your Foundation

It may feel early, but college recruitment starts with preparation.

Focus on:

- Academic excellence: Your GPA is one of your strongest assets—build it now.
- Skill development: Prioritize technical growth, consistency, and understanding of the game.
- Creating your first highlight video: Start collecting clips now so you're ready later.
- Learning the process: Understand divisions, levels, and what might be the right fit for you.

Tip: The earlier you prepare, the more options you will have later.

Recruitment Essentials for Everyone

No matter your grade level, these are non-negotiables:

- Be proactive: Coaches won't find everyone—you must advocate for yourself.
- Communicate professionally: Use clear, respectful emails and follow up appropriately.
- Know your numbers: GPA, test scores (if applicable), and academic interests matter.
- Be realistic about fit: The "right school" is where you can succeed academically, athletically, and personally.
- Stay consistent: Effort in the classroom, at training, and in games all matter.

Building Relationships Beyond the Field

Recruitment is more than performance—it's about connection. Continue building relationships not only with college coaches, but also within your own community. Engage with your high school counselors, college and career centers, and mentors who can support your journey. These relationships can open doors, provide guidance, and help you stay on track.

Final Thoughts: May is a month of reflection, transition, and opportunity. As one season ends, another begins—both on and off the field. Stay focused, stay disciplined, and most importantly, stay committed to your goals.

Your journey is yours to take ownership of—and we are here to support you every step of the way.



COLLEGE ID CAMP



ID Camp USA at Mt. SAC – How to Maximize Your Opportunity

The upcoming ID Camp USA Recruiting Event at Mt. San Antonio College on June 13-14 is more than just another showcase—it's a key opportunity to take control of your recruiting journey. Success at events like this isn't just about talent; it's about preparation, mindset, and how you carry yourself before, during, and after the camp.

Why This Camp Is Important

- Direct exposure to college coaches: You are being evaluated in real time—this is your chance to make a strong first impression.
 - Recruiting momentum: Camps like this often lead to follow-up conversations, campus visits, and future opportunities.
 - Level check: You'll compete against strong players, helping you understand where you currently stand.
 - Relationship building: Recruiting is not just about performance—it's about connection, communication, and character.
- Bottom line: This is an opportunity to be seen, be evaluated, and be remembered.

What You Should Prepare For

- High-intensity sessions: Expect fast-paced drills, small-sided games, and full matches
- Constant evaluation: Coaches are watching everything—effort, attitude, communication, and decision-making
- Minimal instruction: This is about showcasing what you already know, not learning brand new skills
- Competitive environment: Every player is there to prove themselves—stand out through consistency and work rate

Pre-Camp To-Do List (1-2 Weeks Before)

- ✓ Update your highlight video (3-5 minutes, best clips first)
- ✓ Email college coaches attending the camp (intro + schedule + video)
- ✓ Research schools/programs you're interested in
- ✓ Prepare your player profile (GPA, grad year, position, contact info)
- ✓ Train at game speed—focus on sharpness, fitness, and decision-making
- ✓ Get proper rest and nutrition leading up to the event

What to Have - Before, During, and After

Before the Camp

- Clear understanding of your goals (Who do you want to impress? What level are you targeting?)
- Updated soccer resume/player profile
- College coach contact list
- Confidence and a professional mindset

During the Camp

- Full uniform kit + extra gear (cleats, shin guards, water, snacks)
- High energy and positive body language at all times
- Strong communication—talk, organize, and lead
- Coachability—listen, adjust, and respond quickly
- Willingness to compete and take risks

Remember: Coaches notice how you react to mistakes just as much as your highlights.

After the Camp

- Send follow-up emails to coaches within 24-48 hours
 - Thank them for their time
 - Express continued interest
 - Include your highlight video again
- Reflect on your performance—what went well, what to improve
- Stay consistent with communication and updates (summer schedule, new film, etc.)

Final Message

Opportunities like this don't guarantee offers—but they do create openings. What you do with that opportunity is what matters most. Show up prepared. Compete with confidence. Represent yourself and your program with pride.

This is your moment to take a step forward in your recruiting journey.



Register here: <https://thecollegeidcamp.regfox.com/the-ultimate-soccer-college-id-camp2>

DISCOUNT CODE: coachjuan2026



THANK YOU

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our guest speaker for taking the time to be part of our College Workshop Series. Your willingness to share your knowledge, experience, and insight made a meaningful impact on our athletes and families. We are especially grateful for the time and energy you dedicated to supporting our players in their college recruiting journey. Opportunities like this help educate, inspire, and better prepare our athletes for the next level. On behalf of Sporting California USA, thank you again for your support and for being such a valuable part of our community.



Kelly Stafford and Julio Neto

College and Pro highlight reel experts who make recruiting highlight videos for any athlete/sport.



staff.highlights



Rhys Williams

Pro Footballer of Stallion Laguna Football Club and founder of TTS Soccer, helping college athletes with their highlights, Resumes and Performance.



Rhyswilliams7 and tts_soccer



Sandy Colton

Experienced leader in youth sports technology who drives national adoption of Athlete One's platform, connecting clubs, players, and directors with streamlined operations and college recruiting opportunities.



athlete.one.sports



Jenna Lefay

San Bernardino Valley College head soccer coach proven track record of conference championships, national rankings, and player development.



sbvcsoccer





SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

2026

@sportingcaliforniausa
@college_withmrssalazar



ALEJANDRO QUINTERO

Alejandro Quintero is the proud recipient of the **MZK Scholarship**, an award that recognizes student-athletes who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to their future. A 4.8 GPA student at Fullerton Union High School, Alejandro has shown elite dedication in the classroom while excelling as a highly elite athlete, earning high honors. Beyond his achievements, Alejandro leads through service in his community. As he prepares to attend UC San Diego on a pre-med Biology track with aspirations of becoming an anesthesiologist, Alejandro remains committed to making a meaningful impact in healthcare and his community.

Awarded: \$1000 and cleats



MYA PARTIDA

Mya Partida is an exceptional student-athlete and the proud recipient of the **Betty Williams Foundation Scholarship**. She is graduating with a 4.0+ GPA and is a finalist for Valedictorian at Bishop Amat Memorial High School, demonstrating her commitment to academic excellence. Mya will attend the University of Southern California to study Health and Human Sciences as she pursues a future career in medicine, with the goal of serving underserved communities. On the field, she has been a Varsity Soccer Captain and earned top honors including All-CIF Division I, Team MVP, and All-Area First Team recognition. Through her leadership, service to others, and dedication to both academics and athletics, Mya truly embodies the legacy and values of the Betty Williams Foundation.

Awarded: \$2000



SENIOR NIGHT AWARDS

2026



COACH OF THE YEAR
CHRIS ESTRADA



ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
ALEJANDRO QUINTERO



HEART OF THE TEAM
OLIVIA MARTIN



COACHES DREAM
ELYSSE SALCEDO



MOST LIKELY TO GO PRO
RAFAEL RAMIREZ



MOST LIKELY TO GET A RED CARD
GABRIEL ALONSO LUNA



SENIOR NIGHT 2026



MTSAC
May 8th



Senior Night 2026 was a powerful celebration of dedication, growth, and the lasting impact of our graduating class. Surrounded by teammates, coaches, and families, we honored a group of athletes who have given so much to our program—both on and off the field. From their early days in the club to their final season, each senior has played a role in shaping the culture, raising the standard, and leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire.

The evening was filled with pride, reflection, and excitement for what lies ahead. As we recognized their achievements and announced their next steps—whether continuing their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level or pursuing new paths—it was clear that this class is prepared for success beyond our program.

These photos capture more than just a moment in time—they represent years of hard work, commitment, and unforgettable memories. We are proud of our seniors and grateful for everything they have contributed. Once a part of this program, always a part of this family.

CHECK OUT MORE PHOTOS HERE: [CLICK HERE!](#)

Congrats!



2025-2026 MZK SCHOLARSHIP Recipients

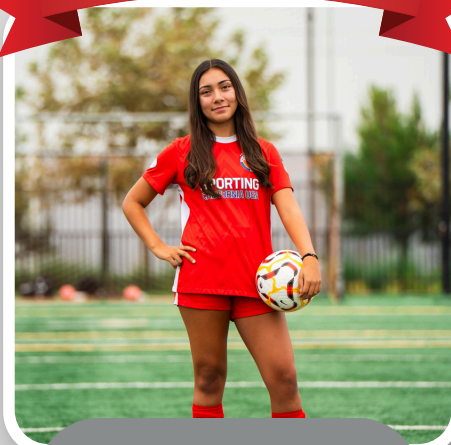
CALEB SALIB

QUETZALLI BARKER

NATHAN ALVARADO



FRESHMAN
B13 ECNL Ramirez



SOPHOMORE
G10 ECNL RL Battista



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!

SCAN ME



COLLEGE DIRECTOR
NICOLE SALAZAR

@COLLEGE_WITHMRSSALAZAR

WWW.SPORTINGCA.US

Congrats!



2025-2026

MZK SCHOLARSHIP

Recipients

ALL SCHOLARS RECEIVED THEIR CLEATS!

CALEB SALIB



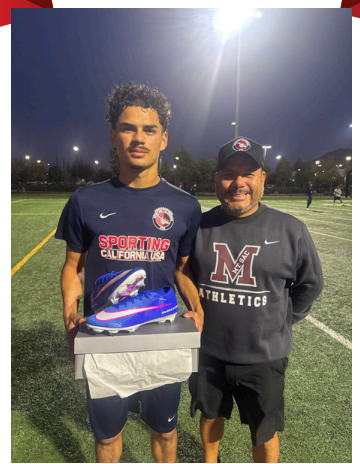
FRESHMAN
B13 ECNL Ramirez

QUETZALLI BARKER



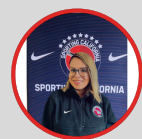
SOPHOMORE
G10 ECNL RL Battista

NATHAN ALVARADO



JUNIOR
B08 ECNL Estrada

SCAN ME



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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

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEASON 2026/27
TBD



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!

Make sure to register!  **ENROLL** for the College Pathways Program





COLLEGE EVENTS

DONT MISS OUT

College Coaches Panel Nights -August 2026/September 2026/April 2027

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!

CoED Panel - April 2027

Online College Workshops -Monthly Sundays

Season 2026/2027 to resume in October 2027

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.

To receive more details, athletes must register! scan the QR code to register



SENIOR NIGHT - MAY 2027

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 2027. Stay tuned for more info



www.sportingca.us

SCAN ME



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

TBD

July

TBD

August

College Coaches Panel

September

College Coaches Panel

MZK Scholarship -Freshman Application

October

Online Workshop #1

November

FALL FEST

Online Workshop #2

December

HOLIDAYS - CLUB WIDE BREAK

MZK Scholarship -Announcement

January

Online Workshop #3

February

Senior Scholarships -SENIOR APPLICATION OPEN

March

Online Workshop #4

April

COED College Coaches Panel

Senior Scholarship Application Deadline

May

Senior Night Class of 2027

MZK Scholarship -Announcement

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



**Program
Enrollment
Season 2026/27**

