



## ADVICE FOR ANY WOULD-BE COLLEGE ROWERS

By Topher Bordeau


As if they don't already have enough going on with the spring racing season, the final two months of junior year, and looming SATs on their plates, high school juniors who want to row in college may also find themselves beginning to engage in the collegiate recruiting process. Gail Fradlin Silberstein and Maura Glandorf, veterans of the recruiting process from the parent's perspective, started the Rower's Edge, a recruiting consulting service, to help would-be recruits navigate the process.

 **What are rowers' most common concerns about the recruiting process, and how do you respond to them?**

The most common concerns are how to start the recruiting process, how to keep it moving forward, and how to set realistic expectations in order to achieve a successful outcome. Many rowers and coxswains and their parents do not know how to communicate with coaches. Rowers often send out emails and get easily discouraged if they do not receive responses. We explain that lack of response does not necessarily mean lack of interest. Parents often do not know what is expected of them. We provide answers to questions from the parents as well as the rowers. We help each of them understand that the rower needs to own the process, which includes researching colleges and communicating with coaches. This allows the rower to ultimately find the right college rowing program for them.

 **How many students do you help in a given year?**

We have been working with parents and rowers for many years on an informal basis and formed Rower's Edge in March 2008 at the encouragement of parents in the rowing community. We have more than tripled our client base in two years mostly through referrals and word of mouth. Our success is based on the personalized attention we provide each client and their successful outcomes. We also take pride in educating our clients about the differences in rowing for Division I, II, and III teams so they are well informed as to the level of commitment for each division.

 **What would be the one thing you wish a high school junior had done before coming to see you?**

There is not much a sophomore or junior needs to have done before they meet with us other than knowing that they want to row in college. We help rowers honestly assess what it is they are looking for in a college rowing program. Many rowers and parents are overwhelmed with the college selection process and rowing adds another level of complexity. We help them focus on what is important to determine which programs may be best suited for them. 