

Realistic Expectations for Your Child

Question:

My 9-year-old son is great basketball player. He was the MVP for three years in a row and will win the scoring title this season as well. He's taller and a better athlete than all of the other kids. I'm worried that his coach is holding him back by making him practice with less-skilled players. He already goes to two basketball camps a year, but since I'm sure he'll be a collegiate player someday and hopefully a pro, should I get him additional professional training?

Response:

The more pressing issue here is the pressure you might be placing on your child to be a collegiate or professional player. The odds that your child will attain a college scholarship or become a professional player are slim. Take care not to place unrealistic expectations upon your child. Try to maximize his youth sport experience and later during his junior or senior year of high school he could start to pursue a collegiate basketball career if he still enjoys playing. It might be helpful to review these statistics and facts provided by the NCAA:

- Only 29% of high school athletes will still play their sport when they are high school seniors.
- Currently, 59% of high school football and basketball players believe they will get a college scholarship...only 1% will actually receive a Division 1 scholarship.
- 1 out of every 100 high school athletes will receive a scholarship to a Division I school.
- 98 out of 100 high school athletes will never play in college.
- There are about 500,000 high school basketball players. About 50 of them (1 in 10,000) will play in the NBA. Nearly 20,000 young men will play college basketball this year; and only about 40 of these collegiate players will play in the NBA.
- Less than 3% of college seniors will play one year of professional sports.
- 11,999 out of 12,000 high school athletes will never become professional athletes.
- If we take into account that 4 out of 5 youth sport athletes will never play in high school, then approximately 1 in 60,000 youth athletes will become a professional athlete.

If you would like to submit a question to Ask the Experts, please click on the following link:

<http://www.aiaacademy.org/askexperts.php>.

