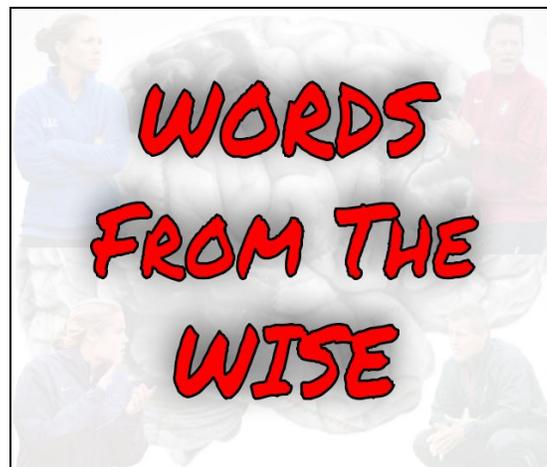


WORDS FROM THE WISE

In this series we will bring you monthly on the FFC website and in the club's "The Pitch" Newsletter, FFC Media Director Tom Leiss will talk to various Men's & Women's college coaches about what they look for in recruits. This information will be brought to you anonymously in each post to allow the coaches to be able to speak freely without it violating any NCAA rules so that we can all help players and their families get through the recruiting process as easily as possible. If you are a college coach and would be interested in contributing, please email tleiss@fredericksburgfc.org and we'll send you a brief questionnaire to answer and contribute.

(Saturday, March 9, 2019)—In this first installment of the of the series, we'll start with an obvious beginning . . . I ask coaches, "**What is the first thing you look for in a recruit?**" A natural starting point for the series I thought and one that hopefully will be an instant help for players and their families.

For this month, I've heard back from five coaches. The distinguishing mark I will put with each comment is whether the coach is a men's or women's coach. Here's what they had to say.



COACH 1 (Men's) — *"We look for a player that has very good technical ability, understands the tactical sense of the game, and has a passion for the game."*

COACH 2 (Women's) — "TALENT is the best answer. I always look for these four factors that = TALENT. Technically sound, Tactically above average, Fit and can cover ground, IT FACTOR, every player has one. It's what makes them unique/special."

COACH 3 (Men's) — "The overall productivity level of the player. Based on position, productivity can be viewed in a multitude of ways. If it's an attacking player, can they assist or score. For defenders its maybe being organized and a ball winner. Dynamic wingers need to be able to beat players in isolation and serve or go to goal. No matter what the position, having influence on the outcome and productivity level of your team is what I look for most in a recruit."

COACH 4 (Women's) — "When out watching a game most players should have the basic technical aspects down- we look for athleticism, work rate and mobility and how the recruit uses those traits it. Also, are they getting the ball and if not why?"

COACH 5 (Women's) — "One of the first things we look for in a recruit is a joy and passion for playing soccer. We think for a player to grow in the college game, she needs to love to play and be willing to work hard in sessions with coaches present and in sessions without coaches. The intrinsic desire to want to be a better player and be willing to commit to that effort is an incredibly appealing quality in a recruit."