



Recruiting Realities: Northeast Specialists

Having run hundreds of kicking camps for almost 15 years and been part of the camp circuit as a player and coach for an additional ten, I have been around the block on the recruitment of specialists. I have also experienced the recruiting process as a highly recruited kicker, an academic advisor for a major college football program and a high school counselor/special teams coach.

Take a look on rivals.com or scout.com to see where the top national kicking, punting and snapping prospects have come from in the last 10 years. For the most part, they are from everywhere but the northeast. It is rare that college programs outside the northeast come here to recruit a specialist. I do not say this to crush your dreams at landing at the likes of Alabama, Oklahoma or Oregon, I speak the truth. Nothing to do with talent and everything to do with the fact that most specialists in the northeast do not have the benefit of year round training conditions and therefore are not as polished as the competition in say, North Carolina, Texas or California.

If you want to compete with many of the best kickers, punters and snappers from across the country, by all means, go to Las Vegas or Wisconsin. These camps will provide you with a quality event from which to showcase your skills to many of the top college football programs. However, know that by in large, these events cater to the top 1-2% of national recruits; those prospects most likely to land at the likes of Michigan, Florida or Southern California.

That being said, if you are from the northeast and are looking to play college football, there is no other region with so many options. There are a few hundred colleges that field football teams from Maine to Virginia to Ohio. And while they may not all be appearing weekly on ESPN or ABC, they are without a doubt some of the top academic institutions in the country and can provide a great four year experience to compete for a position and earn a meaningful degree.

If you want to compete with many of the best kickers, punters and snappers from across the northeast, attend the *Special Teams Solutions College Exposure Camp*. Since 2003, this event has provided a platform for over 300 specialists who have landed at the college level. The camp caters to prospects in the northeast that are most likely to land at a Division I, II or III school in the northeast.

Most importantly, STS has established relationships with college programs in *THIS* region who recruit specialists from *THIS* region! If you have the talent and the grades, we cannot guarantee you a scholarship or recruited walk on position (no one can) but we will provide an honest expert evaluation of where you stand and get you a close look at the appropriate Division I, II or III level!

-Lee McDonald, November 2014