

# The PEE Method:

## 3 Strategies for Standing Out in a Camp Setting

The pitch knocked the catcher onto her back. The ball found her more than she caught it. The DI coach assisting with the Pitching segment of our camp whipped his head toward me and mouthed with wide eyes, “How fast was that?”

We didn’t believe the reading, so we asked her to do it again. And, again. And, again. We had never clocked anyone in our camps at 71 before (or since). This was a high school sophomore and was attending a camp for the first time. She didn’t pitch on the major tournament circuits, so she was virtually unknown to coaches.

I’ve had the pleasure and honor to see over 10,000 athletes participate in my camps over the years. This particular pitcher stood out in a big way. There have been many others as well – some who have hit incredibly well, others who ran fast, and then there’s those who are slick with the glove and have a cannon for a throwing arm. All of those stand out, too.

**But what if you don’t have a measurable skill that stands out?  
What if you have a good skill set, but nothing that makes coaches turn their heads with wonder?**

If that’s you, then you’re like most of those 10,000+ that I’ve seen in camps. There are a little more than 1,600 colleges offering softball in the United States. Of those, 286 are NCAA DI, 264 NCAA DII, 392 NCAA DIII, 205 NAIA, and 470 NJCAA.

You don’t have to throw 70, run a 2.75, hit bombs, or be able to throw from foul pole to foul pole to play college softball. There is a place for everyone. That should be encouraging to anyone who wants to participate beyond high school.

There are, however, things that every coach from every level will look for in athletes. These are mostly intangible things, which can be controlled by the athlete. You might find them to be cliché – but that doesn’t make them any less true. I’ll try to add some detail for each point to help drive the idea home.

### **Personality**

What does it mean to be yourself? Well, we are all individually shaped differently by our DNA and our experiences. This forms characteristics for our personalities and we should shine a light on them. If you’re a funny person – be funny (at the appropriate times). If you’re a serious person – but serious (but know when to drop it). Coaches want to get to know you – learn who you are – understand if your personality fits in their program – AND you need to know if who you are fits as well. **So, be yourself. It will not do you or the coach any good to pretend to be someone else.**

### **Examples of How to Display Personality**

- Ask Questions
- Smile
- Create and Maintain Eye Contact
- Tell Coaches What You Like to Do (Other than Softball)
- Be Fearless of Judgement (They’re all looking at you, anyway, might as well be yourself)

## **Effort**

Okay, I know – you've heard it before. You'll hear it again. But do you know what it means?

Discernible effort in the eyes of an onlooker (one who may or may not offer you a spot on their team) must be different, extraordinary, unique. To stand out from the crowd, effort can also mean what you're doing outside of the lines. Sure, anyone who wants to impress will put forth effort while everyone is watching. **But what are you doing, when you don't think anyone is watching?**

### **Examples of Extraordinary Effort**

- Picking up Softballs
- Gathering Equipment
- Cleaning a Dugout
- Being a Friend
- Showing up Early
- Staying Late
- Showing Sportsmanship

These are but a few examples of how your effort can define who you are through your actions. It colors you in a different light from those who are only willing to dive for balls, hustle on the field, and play like their hair is on fire.

## **Energy**

Have you ever been around someone who just seems like their clock never stops? Maybe they don't even sleep? Or perhaps they're getting enough sleep! My kids (7,4,3) are this way. They run, run, run, and run until I'm tired. Well, that type of energy is exceptional. It's different from others, and just being around someone who has this can bring others to the same level. Having an internal motor that runs in a different gear is impressive. It stands out.

### **Examples of Exceptional Energy**

- A Body in Motion (Never standing)
- A Bounce in Your Step (As if you can't wait to get somewhere)
- Hustle in All Situations
- Engaging in Conversations
- A Desire to Do More (Make the Coach say "Enough!")
- Setting a Model for Others to Follow

My experience teaches me that only a few individuals who attend camps will possess a skill that immediately makes everyone take notice. However, if you allow your personality to shine, exhibit effort, and deliver energy, then you'll have a great chance to catch the eye of a college coach.

I hope you share this information with your teammates and friends to assist them in achieving their goals as well!

I look forward to seeing you this summer at one of our Elite Camps – we're everywhere – check us out here: [www.jerradhardin.com](http://www.jerradhardin.com)

All the Best,

Jerrad