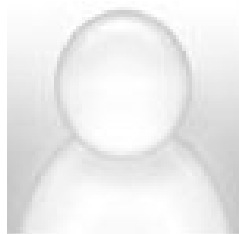




How To Do Just About Everything

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How to Become a Football Scout

by **Jack Gorman**

Introduction

So you want to be a professional football scout. You have several options: have a father who was--or is--a professional football coach or player; you're a former coach changing to the scouting side of things; or get into an internship program. If you were born into the profession, you have it made; but for the rest of us, read on to find out how to become a football scout.

Instructions

Difficulty: Challenging

Steps

1 Step One

Try out the job, if you can. While you may not be able to walk into your local NFL franchise and get them to let you check out next year's top draft choice, there's a lot of other ways to skin this cat. If you have a job with flexible hours, look for an internship with an Arena Football League team, arena2 franchise, Intense Football League, United Indoor Football or any number of different minor leagues that are scattered throughout the country. Even if they don't post internships, call or stop by their front office; these leagues have tight budgets and can always use help. But don't expect to be paid, not even after a few months.

2 Step Two

Get a coaching job. Getting a coaching job is much easier than it sounds, and it's great experience. There's a lot of high school football programs around the country, and many have freshman teams. It's hard for schools to fill these positions with reliable people who are willing to make the commitment for the season, so simple dedication is usually the only job requirement. Read up on coaching techniques and drills, and spend a lot of time picking the brains of the coaches ahead of you. And of course, when you're actually standing on the field with a pack of 14-year-olds waiting for instructions, you won't have a clue what to do. Do the best you can; it'll be a great on-the-job learning experience.

3 Step Three

Start networking. Even though you don't have a lot of years on your resume yet, start sending out your resume to every NFL, AFL and CFL team you possibly can. While you will probably get a lot of rejections, at least your name will be out there. At this point, you need to start attending events where you can meet the decision makers; the most notable way is a trip to the NFL Combine. While Indianapolis in February may not be the world's top vacation stop, everyone who is anyone in the NFL converges in downtown Indy for a few days. You won't need a pass to get into the official activities, and you don't need one. These people have to eat, and they have to drink. Study up on people's names and faces, and just go hang out in the bars and restaurants for a few days. You'd be amazed who you can talk to just by walking up and introducing yourself.

4 Step Four

Now, unless you're exceedingly lucky, none of this is going to get you a job right away. In fact, even when the NFL starts to listen, you're almost certainly going to have to do a year-long internship in which you will make somewhere between little and nothing. If you can afford to, and you can get one, take a full-time internship with one of the minor-league franchises discussed in Step 1. Assuming you like to eat and enjoy a roof over your head, find a job with flexible hours that will allow you to continue to coach in the fall and the hold an internship in the spring. As you gain experience, take advantage of any opportunity to move up: get promoted from freshman to JV to varsity, or from intern to unpaid scout.

5 Step Five

Keep building your network. Find any way to get your foot in the door of an NFL team. Teams hire literally dozens of unpaid people to help out on game days, doing anything from passing out stats in the press box to pulling camera wire on the sidelines. While these jobs have nothing to do with scouting remember one thing: each of these positions comes with an all-access pass to the stadium, and an introduction to an NFL staffer. You never know who could become your advocate.

6 Step Six

Keep going. Trips to the combine, working as a coach and unpaid scout will get you there eventually (though be prepared for it to take several years). Remember; this is a job that thousands if not millions want, and there's somewhere between 5 and 10 on each NFL team...and there's only 32 teams.

7 Step Seven

If you get an opportunity to get a position with an NFL team in any department--ticket sales, marketing or public relations--do so. While it's not what you're

looking for in the long-term, it lets you into the building, and everyone you need to know is in the building.

Tips & Warnings

Once you have a bit of experience, list your resume on teamworkonline.com. You can also check for jobs on footballscoop.com, jobsinsports.com and workinsports.com (see Resources below).

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Be prepared for this to take years or even a decade.

This job is not for the faint of heart. The way you know you're doing a good job is when someone doesn't come by your desk every 5 minutes and curse you out.

Don't take this job thinking you'll be home at 5:15 every day. When it's on, it's on: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, everything is an emergency.

Resources

- * TeamWork Online
- * Footballscoop.com
- * Jobsinsports.com
- * Workinsports.com

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