

A gym coach must select 11 seniors to play on football team. If he can make his selection in 12,376 ways, how many seniors are eligible to play?

Solution:

So we have

$$C_x^{11} = \frac{x!}{11! * (x - 11)!} = 12376$$

$$\frac{x!}{(x - 11)!} = 12376 * 11!$$

$$\frac{x * (x - 1) * (x - 2) * (x - 3) * (x - 4) * (x - 5) * (x - 6) * (x - 7) * (x - 8) * (x - 9) * (x - 10) * (x - 11)!}{(x - 11)!}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x * (x - 1) * (x - 2) * (x - 3) * (x - 4) * (x - 5) * (x - 6) * (x - 7) * (x - 8) * (x - 9) * (x - 10) \\ = 12376 * 11! \end{aligned}$$

$$x = 17$$

Answer: 17 seniors.