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## Peopletalk: Jack Sikma

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First of all one of the important things I was looking for in a college was a place where I could be satisfied in four years to get a good education that would prepare me for my life after school.

I think you can get that in many schools but the reason that I picked Wesleyan was the fact that not only could I get a good academic background but also I really felt at home at the school when I visited there .

I felt that it was very important for me not only to get a good education in four years but to be happy. at the place where I got my education.

I felt that Wesleyan would best fit my needs in that way. As far as things turned out, I graduated with a degree in accounting and , right now I'm not using it, but I feel ~~that...~~and very confident that when the time comes that I have to go out in the business world, and if I have picked to go the accounting route that I am very well prepared for it.

As far as being a scholar-athlete I think that Wesleyan was a very exciting time for me and I enjoyed basketball but also the emphasis...or the pressure is not great as it would be in a big time school athletically because the coaches and the school view the athlete as here first to get an education and therefore academics came first. But there was plenty of time left that people, if they so chose, could really athletically work hard if they wanted

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to and put some time into it. As far as I'm concerned, it worked out real well for me. I think that it was a great stepping stone in my life and I've learned many things from it and now I feel I'm better prepared for it. ...for life, you know...after school.

Many times at Wesleyan there was a conflict between by athletic schedule and my academic schedule. I found that faculty and student cooperation was really good and usually there was no problems fixing the schedule up so I could make up an exam or get notes from the class I had missed because so I could make up an exam or get notes from a class in which I had a miss because of a road trip or going to Kansas City during the national tournament or, especially in one case at the end of the semester where I had the opportunity to go abroad and play in Israel. I came back in the middle of finals week and the teachers were very cooperative with me. I was able to get the most out of my classes and notes and so forth while I was away in those classes which I missed; also was able to take the finals and have them in by time finals week was over. So as far as worrying about or missing part of your academic life because of athletics of vice versa, usually the middle road or the best road with the student's good in mind is taken and cooperation is very evident with the faculty and the student.

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As far as being a good athlete in school and preferential treatment being given to me through the faculty, I felt during school while I was there I got none. I was very happy in the way the faculty treated me just as another student because I think that was exciting for me to also be able to not live every moment as a star basketball player. I also enjoyed being just a regular student as someone else sitting in a row in accounting class and not being the guy who was in the paper the night before because he scored 20 points.

I felt that I got to know some of the faculty better because many are sports enthusiasts and I would get a chance to stop and talk to them in the hall or in their offices I met and them and had a chance to talk a little bit about how the team was doind or I was doing but as far as academically, I was treated as any other student. I was very happy that that was the way it was because I felt that it was a great opportunity for me to go through school and play basketball but also be treated as a student.



As far as being an athlete and a student I think it was very advantageous because academically, you know, one gets as much out of it as they put in the same way works with athletics.

I think that many situations in life come up while playing athletics (out on the basketball court) for me anyway. You learn how to react to pressures react under pressures ... not only for me in the case of being a student-athlete not only on the basketball court but also in the classroom I think it helped me very much...I think it was a great experience.

I think you can get the same answer not only from me but from any athlete who has gone through Wesleyan.)

You learn to get along with people which I think is a lot to do with college not only through books...but I spent a lot of time talking with people and getting to know different people and learning to relate to each other in the college experience as a whole on Wesleyan's campus was very good to me. I come out in the world feeling very confident that I can cope with almost any situation that comes before me now. I think that's as important as being prepared to handle a certain job.

(on why he chose Wesleyan)....being from a small town I was used to the smallness and closeness of a town my size . I went to Wesleyan and found

out that Wesleyan to be a very personable campus. Many one on one relations  
were formed and over four years by the time I left I knew almost everyone  
who was at school.

You met many people and...from any different types of backgrounds, not only  
small background which I came from but also from Chicago suburbs or bigger  
towns downstate. I'm sure you 'll find that on many campuses but as far  
as the closeness, the very personable aspect of it, not only with students  
but with the faculty and staff, I think were very important to me. I began  
many relationships with people there. They were not just the "Hi how are  
you" and knew their names but you go to know the person closely...and I  
think one of the best ways to describe it, "I've been away from Wesleyan  
now four or five months but I still have many friends who are in contact  
with and who I'm sure will be lifelong friends. They do not come easy and  
I think the atmosphere at Wesleyan is very good in promoting such relation-  
ships.