

4-7-2016

Business school graduate earns NBA championship ring

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Recommended Citation

Gardner, Sarah and Albee, Dave, "Business school graduate earns NBA championship ring" (2016). *Press Releases*. 47.

<https://scholar.dominican.edu/news-releases/47>

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Business school graduate earns NBA championship ring

Drake Albee '15 came to Dominican as a soccer player with the goal of being part of a championship team.

And he was. With the NBA World Champion Golden State Warriors

Beginning his freshman year as Business Administration major in the [Barowsky School of Business](#), Drake interned with the Warriors in digital marketing and game day events for four years. In June 2015, a month after graduating from Dominican, Drake worked in Oracle Arena during the NBA Finals. His hard work, time management, and loyalty to the Warriors earned him an invitation to participate in the Warriors' world championship parade. In March of 2016, Drake received a championship ring from the organization.

"It's my wedding ring," Drake quips.

Drake's bliss at Dominican can be measured in his year-round internship opportunities – he also interned his junior and senior years for the Oakland Athletics – and the amount of networking he did. It extended to Barry University in Miami where Drake transferred for one semester in 2014 to complete his sports management minor. He was proactive during his time on campus.

Drake credits business faculty and advisors – namely Dr. Denise Lucy, Dr. Christopher Leeds, Anjali Ball, Dan Moshavi, Barney Mizel, Sharon Morrison, and Karen Dunn – for helping guide him. He appreciated that his soccer coaches – Jon Delano and Phil Bellici-Gard – in [Dominican athletics](#) gave him the flexibility to pursue sports internships, even if it meant driving to the Warriors offices in Oakland immediately following 6 a.m. practices at Dominican during his junior year.

"At Dominican there are lots of opportunities to be successful, you just have to be determined to find them. I had an unbelievable support team that enabled me to stay active and manage my time accordingly," Drake says. "I would advise students not to get caught losing out an opportunity because you weren't relentless in your approach. Find something or someone you want to compete for and don't stray from it."

For example, Drake took the initiative to secure personal one-on-one interviews with Warriors President and CEO Rick Welts; former Oakland A's vice president and San Francisco 49ers COO Andy Dolich; and former San Francisco Giants senior executive Pat Gallagher, who also served as executive vice president for marketing, partnerships and communication for the Super Bowl 50 Host Committee. Drake, whose long-term goal is to become a director for a professional sports franchise, learned from them and sought out their advice in his pursuit of a business career.

"The key to networking is having the ability to ask meaningful questions and leveraging personal relationships. Like most industries, sports is about how well you establish your network," says Drake, who is now a sales associate at [Redis Labs, Inc.](#) in Mountain View in Silicon Valley.

"Remember everyone knows everyone and someone is always watching. In the workplace today it's imperative you know people within your organization. The more references you have in your network, the more opportunities you will have upon graduation."

April 7, 2016