

WEBVTT

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Sarah Shultz: Hello and welcome to Red Hawk Squawk exercise for life, a podcast brought to you by Seattle University's Kinesiology department.

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00:01:03.810 --> 00:01:14.640

Sarah Shultz: Kinesiology is the study of how the human body functions and our department wants to share knowledge that will allow anybody to function a little healthier, regardless of that body shape ability, age, gender, or race.

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00:01:15.150 --> 00:01:21.030

Sarah Shultz: Each of our podcasts will highlight a different aspect of our field and help translate existing research into everyday practice.

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00:01:21.510 --> 00:01:29.700

Sarah Shultz: We're joined today by Anthony Washington a local athlete and community advocate on his journey from athletes to empowerment. Thanks so much for joining us today.

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00:01:30.330 --> 00:01:33.210

Anthony Washington: Oh, thank you for having me, I'm honored to be there, very honored.

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00:01:34.200 --> 00:01:38.670

Sarah Shultz: We will give a little bit of a background history of how we connected with you.

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Sarah Shultz: Earlier in our podcast series. In fact, our very first podcast. Dr. Terry Anne Scott came on to discuss her book about Seattle sports and you wrote a chapter in that book that

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Sarah Shultz: interested me greatly on so many levels and we were discussing it and she said that she thought that you would be interested in coming on the podcast. And so she connected us and we were able to bring you on. And we're so happy to have you here.

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00:02:03.780 --> 00:02:14.250

Sarah Shultz: So in the chapter. You just talk about growing up and playing basketball and being in the local community you grew up just down the street from Seattle University. Right?

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00:02:14.670 --> 00:02:23.160

Anthony Washington: Yes, yes. I was actually on 28th and Union for the majority of my childhood. So right at the street from Garfield downstream from SU (Seattle University).

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00:02:25.080 --> 00:02:30.000

Sarah Shultz: That's fantastic. So when did you start playing basketball?

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00:02:31.320 --> 00:02:37.320

Anthony Washington: It's funny,

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00:02:37.710 --> 00:02:42.540

Anthony Washington: I was actually doing some interviews and I was interested to know like, yo, you started playing when you were 4 years old.

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00:02:42.840 --> 00:02:58.380

Anthony Washington: So I guess the first time I ever picked up a ball. You know, I was like three, four years old. I used to play on a little small hoop. My Uncle Thomas used to block my shoot. He wouldn't let me dunk the basketball. But I was in fourth grade playing for CAY the football team.

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00:02:59.490 --> 00:03:05.850

Anthony Washington: They do about weight. I was a larger fourth grader so I ended up having to play with middle school kids.

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00:03:06.600 --> 00:03:16.860

Anthony Washington: There was a man named Kevin Davis, he unfortunately passed away a few years back. He was a high profile attorney African American man. I remember him calling my house and

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Anthony Washington: Asking if I wanted to join his AAU basketball team. And I didn't know what AAU was, but I was like, yeah. Because I was just really excited at the fact that you know, an adult call for me. And so, yeah, I started playing. When I was in fourth grade.

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00:03:35.400 --> 00:03:37.620

Sarah Shultz: And so you played on that AAU team and

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00:03:39.420 --> 00:03:52.350

Sarah Shultz: You had some different experiences in that that you talked about in the book. Can you share a little bit about what it was like to to play on that specific AAU team and I know that some of the AAU tournament, you talked about how

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00:03:53.370 --> 00:04:04.740

Sarah Shultz: you'd go down and you'd play and you play some of the bigger cities and they always talked about how you didn't basically have enough of a chip on your shoulder to play, Am I remembering that correctly.

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00:04:05.160 --> 00:04:06.600

Anthony Washington: So I always have to point out

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00:04:07.980 --> 00:04:15.600

Anthony Washington: like I said, you know, I got the call. I think they noticed I was a bigger kid.

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00:04:16.440 --> 00:04:20.160

Anthony Washington: obviously I had a little bit of athletic skill, because I'm playing football.

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00:04:20.880 --> 00:04:28.620

Anthony Washington: But it was more like man, This is a really tall kid. And I remember the first day of practice, I realized, Okay, this isn't my grandma's house with the basketball.

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00:04:28.890 --> 00:04:35.280

Anthony Washington: And this isn't just like the normal basketball that you play at lunchtime right. Which I thought was one of the best players in my school.

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00:04:35.970 --> 00:04:44.430

Anthony Washington: But I get into this gym and these guys, we're all the same age, but they're looking like you know college basketball players at the time. And so

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00:04:44.790 --> 00:04:55.830

Anthony Washington: I always throw it out there, at that time I wasn't as serious as I should have been about basketball. If I was trying to be on an AAU team and maybe we'll have time to explain what that is a little later.

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00:04:56.850 --> 00:05:04.380

Anthony Washington: But it was a traveling team. And so these guys are really skilled, have one player that was already ranked. We would go to different cities.

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00:05:05.850 --> 00:05:17.730

Anthony Washington: Las Vegas, I think was the first city that we went to, actually fifth grade was Las Vegas. And yeah, one of the kids from another team think it was from California.

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00:05:18.270 --> 00:05:26.880

Anthony Washington: LA team, you know, they were poking fun at us and they asked, like you know where's Seattle is that in Alaska?

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00:05:27.510 --> 00:05:38.910

Anthony Washington: And, you know, it was just like wow you know we were younger, so I know the reaction was, like, what is he serious like, we're trying to figure out, like, okay, he's joking messing with us.

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00:05:39.300 --> 00:05:51.150

Anthony Washington: And so in our heads. It was like we're going to show them when we get to play them. And so one of the things that I've learned as I got older, playing just to kind of

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00:05:51.600 --> 00:05:58.140

Anthony Washington: Talk about what you said with a chip on the shoulder is that there are kids from certain cities largest cities.

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00:05:58.950 --> 00:06:11.070

Anthony Washington: Larger African American populations, the social economic issues that present themselves in more extreme ways, I'll say that, than we see in Seattle.

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00:06:11.490 --> 00:06:23.490

Anthony Washington: And there is a bit of a chip on the shoulder right as a result. So you'll see a guy from Detroit or Flint, Michigan, and you'll kind of wonder like, why is he so hard, right.

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00:06:24.330 --> 00:06:29.670

Anthony Washington: And we had that here in Seattle, as well. But when we went outside of the city.

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00:06:30.090 --> 00:06:39.960

Anthony Washington: There was a sense that we had to prove that we were black, that we belonged, that we struggled, that we had these struggles, that some of these other kids are having. So yeah, definitely noticed

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00:06:41.100 --> 00:06:44.160

Anthony Washington: we had to earn our respect. I'll say that.

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Sarah Shultz: So, and I think we can probably talk a little bit more about the AAU because it's very, very different than high school ball.

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00:06:53.820 --> 00:06:54.540

Anthony Washington: Yes, yes.

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00:06:54.600 --> 00:06:59.520

Sarah Shultz: Right. So it's a completely different league. And in some ways around the United States.

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00:06:59.790 --> 00:07:09.750

Sarah Shultz: It's become more of the place where you get recruited then at your high school, I'm a UNC Chapel Hill alum.

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00:07:09.810 --> 00:07:10.650

Anthony Washington: Okay, so you know.

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00:07:12.420 --> 00:07:13.770

Sarah Shultz: You may have heard of them.

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00:07:16.050 --> 00:07:24.240

Sarah Shultz: But we always knew our coaches were going to AAU tournaments and as an athletic trainer. I worked a couple AAU tournaments and you saw the coaches come in.

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00:07:24.810 --> 00:07:36.840

Sarah Shultz: And that seemed to be really where the recruitment was happening. So what's really that difference between playing AAU ball and playing high school ball even at a like an amazing

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00:07:37.890 --> 00:07:46.140

Sarah Shultz: High school like Garfield that's got that, that history and that legacy. What're, those differences between those two different style teams?

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00:07:46.770 --> 00:07:53.700

Anthony Washington: And for those that aren't familiar with basketball and that may be in education just to kind of give you a visual

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00:07:54.450 --> 00:08:02.100

Anthony Washington: AAU basketball is the equivalent of AP classes in a school right and so it's a totally different curriculum.

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00:08:02.430 --> 00:08:13.500

Anthony Washington: You're not just jumping into the class and thinking that you're just going to be successful, unless you have, you know, some skills you've come in your parents are, you know, reading what you were doing all these different things.

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00:08:14.730 --> 00:08:17.400

Anthony Washington: The perfect example is me.

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Anthony Washington: I was a good basketball player. I was kind of tall. I like playing basketball. It was fun.

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00:08:27.180 --> 00:08:28.860

Anthony Washington: My teammates. On the other hand,

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00:08:29.160 --> 00:08:36.720

Anthony Washington: They love playing basketball. And not only that, they were constantly trying to get better. Right. They weren't just going to the park.

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Anthony Washington: And just playing, they were going to the park playing and training right so it's a whole step. And when we think about high school now.

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00:08:49.530 --> 00:08:57.720

Anthony Washington: It's unfortunate because I feel like it takes away a little bit from the game. It's more of an individualized sport, even though it's a team sport.

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00:08:58.380 --> 00:09:05.940

Anthony Washington: But when you think about high school if you're not playing on a AAU team, like you said, it's really hard for you to get seen by some of the bigger colleges

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00:09:06.600 --> 00:09:13.590

Anthony Washington: Because they go to these tournaments. They know who they want they hear about these players that have been playing AAU basketball

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00:09:14.160 --> 00:09:22.110

Anthony Washington: Since fourth and fifth grade, right, and so they monitor these guys like they see the guy, the point guard in fourth grade is now

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00:09:22.650 --> 00:09:34.320

Anthony Washington: 6'10, ninth grade. And, so now he has more attention and maybe the kid that was a little bit taller than him years earlier. So

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00:09:35.280 --> 00:09:45.060

Anthony Washington: it's unfortunately because it's starting to be monetized at this point where you know you're starting to see, you know, companies, individuals profit.

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00:09:45.600 --> 00:09:52.110

Anthony Washington: Lot more than they should be off of the students. And so you have, young men being exploited from a different angle. Now,

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00:09:52.710 --> 00:10:02.850

Anthony Washington: Sometimes it's in their own communities, which is really unfortunate.

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00:10:03.330 --> 00:10:11.880

Anthony Washington: It's high profile in the sense that there's probably only two schools and Seattle, Garfield

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00:10:12.330 --> 00:10:20.070

Anthony Washington: we look at Garfield like you look at North Carolina. I'm in Seattle, and then Rainier beach is probably the other school.

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00:10:20.700 --> 00:10:26.310

Anthony Washington: East High Catholic is now a school that gets a lot of attention, obviously the best player in the state right now

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00:10:26.970 --> 00:10:34.470

Anthony Washington: Is at O'Dea. Right. Um, so maybe those guys, if they went to those four schools that I mentioned.

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00:10:34.920 --> 00:10:43.770

Anthony Washington: And they want to stay, they might get recruited because of the talent, but by playing AAU ball and being on the special circuits that they now have

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00:10:44.310 --> 00:10:56.400

Anthony Washington: They're lacking. Right. That's why you're seeing guys in Seattle. Go to Kentucky and Duke and it's unprecedented for THIS many players to go to these larger schools.

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00:10:57.690 --> 00:11:06.780

Anthony Washington: It's blown up. It is nowhere near what it was when I first started playing AAU ball, it's crazy it's really crazy actually as a former athlete.

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00:11:08.730 --> 00:11:13.080

Sarah Shultz: Yeah, I was gonna say that I felt like it had started to become a business.

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00:11:14.280 --> 00:11:31.380

Sarah Shultz: From that space it's this business. And I think to some extent when you know that, that's where you're going to get recruited, you spend more of your time and effort. You may even at that point relinquish a spot on the high school team to be able to focus

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00:11:31.500 --> 00:11:34.260

Sarah Shultz: AAU a you right?

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00:11:34.710 --> 00:11:46.920

Anthony Washington: In some cases, you'll see that I just don't think is emphasized as much as I think high school coaches from, from what I can see

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00:11:47.940 --> 00:12:03.240

Anthony Washington: Seems like they had to compete right for your actual effort for your time. You're more likely to emphasize that AAU team than your high school team, with the exception of, like I said, a few schools and even then.

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00:12:04.020 --> 00:12:11.490

Anthony Washington: everybody on you know the Garfield team is on an AAU team, right. And so this is really weird and

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00:12:12.090 --> 00:12:16.410

Anthony Washington: Just thinking back when I was at Garfield, you know, at my junior and senior year, we had

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00:12:16.920 --> 00:12:25.320

Anthony Washington: We had, I think it was like 10 guys being recruited you know obviously grades and things played a part in how many of us actually went to Division one schools.

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00:12:25.710 --> 00:12:36.840

Anthony Washington: There was seven of us one football scholarship, football player was Isaiah Stanback also went to UW (University of Washington).

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00:12:37.350 --> 00:12:42.660

Anthony Washington: Um, and I wouldn't have gone to college. Actually, I wouldn't have gotten the scholarship

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00:12:43.050 --> 00:12:53.940

Anthony Washington: If not for the spring and summer playing AAU basketball between my junior and senior year. And then there's like a Will Conroy, who was an assistant coach.

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00:12:54.330 --> 00:13:01.860

Anthony Washington: At the University of Washington right now. He doesn't necessarily get that look if he doesn't play AAU basketball. Right. So at one point in time.

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00:13:02.310 --> 00:13:14.400

Anthony Washington: Especially in Seattle. It might be the only way that you get exposed right what I'm seeing now, though, is because of these high profile players that are now coming out of Seattle.

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00:13:14.790 --> 00:13:21.840

Anthony Washington: You know, they put us on the map. There are players that might be noticed on a Garfield team, you know, you might not be the best

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00:13:22.290 --> 00:13:30.240

Anthony Washington: Player, but he's on the state championship team and now they're getting national attention. That's, the difference between now and then is

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00:13:30.810 --> 00:13:40.980

Anthony Washington: At one point AAU was like I guess that's only going to get national attention now because of the attention that Seattle received as a result of great players that have come over the last 15

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00:13:41.610 --> 00:13:49.770

Anthony Washington: You know, you could say 20 years. I wanna throw the Jamal Crawford's and Doug Reid's in there and you're seeing that there are a few high schools that

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00:13:50.190 --> 00:14:00.540

Anthony Washington: Hey, we're recruiting Garfield we're recruiting Rainier beach. But I will say that those kids still play, you know, AAU basketball. So you've got it.

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00:14:01.560 --> 00:14:04.140

Sarah Shultz: You mentioned and I love, I love the analogy to

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00:14:04.830 --> 00:14:13.260

Sarah Shultz: AP studies. I think that that just makes so much sense. As soon as you started to say it, I was like, yes, that, that to me is exactly how you described that difference.

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00:14:16.710 --> 00:14:20.310

Sarah Shultz: You mentioned the boys getting exploited.

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00:14:23.910 --> 00:14:28.470

Sarah Shultz: because there's a there's often a lot of

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00:14:29.790 --> 00:14:33.120

Sarah Shultz: discussion around or assumption that

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00:14:34.440 --> 00:14:40.140

Sarah Shultz: The way out of a community, the way to get to university is through sport.

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00:14:43.710 --> 00:15:00.570

Sarah Shultz: There's that other side where

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00:15:01.200 --> 00:15:02.670

Anthony Washington: Yup.

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00:15:01.200 --> 00:15:02.670

Sarah Shultz:...because you know that that's the path. You've got what's essentially a captive audience, right, you've got this captive cohort that in order to move into that space. What are they going to be willing... to handle right.

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00:15:02.820 --> 00:15:08.670

Anthony Washington: to do.

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00:15:02.820 --> 00:15:08.670

Sarah Shultz: ...to handle right. What are they going to be willing to do to be part of that. to be part of that sport.

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00:15:10.200 --> 00:15:13.230

Sarah Shultz: What are you, what are you seeing in terms of that darker side to sport.

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00:15:19.980 --> 00:15:31.740

Anthony Washington: I had to chuckle a little bit. I always have to give a disclaimer. To start off. One just to what you just said...before I lose that thought...I mean you said it right there.

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00:15:32.280 --> 00:15:40.890

Anthony Washington: These coaches are looking for players that are pretty much willing to do anything right that is run through a wall. You want a player that'll run through a wall for you right.

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00:15:41.310 --> 00:15:47.880

Anthony Washington: I remember, just getting hurt at UW and

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00:15:48.480 --> 00:15:52.320

Anthony Washington: You know, clearly, I'm hearing. The surgeon says it's going to take you, like, a year and a half.

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00:15:52.650 --> 00:16:01.680

Anthony Washington: Maybe two years to fully recover. He's basically telling me you shouldn't be playing right there's no way you should redshirt and in thinking what the culture saying

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00:16:02.310 --> 00:16:10.470

Anthony Washington: He's telling me I gotta be ready in six months. I'm reading the newspaper. I don't fit in on the team anymore. So, psychologically, physically on broken

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00:16:10.830 --> 00:16:24.630

Anthony Washington: But I'm still trying to figure out how to get back on the court. so I can keep my starting position. So I can have a chance to make it. But then thinking back so just thinking back to the emphasis that we placed on basketball.

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00:16:25.890 --> 00:16:29.670

Anthony Washington: On Football, but especially basketball in this community, I have to say that

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00:16:30.450 --> 00:16:38.670

Anthony Washington: I wouldn't have gone to college, right, if not for playing basketball, at least not the route that I took, I wouldn't have been able to travel the world.

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00:16:39.120 --> 00:16:47.340

Anthony Washington: If it was not for the sport of basketball. And so I always had to throw that out there. I have a real love hate relationship with the game.

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00:16:47.940 --> 00:16:55.830

Anthony Washington: Because I've seen friends that, they used to share rooms with their brother and their cousin, right, all of a sudden, now they're millionaires.

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00:16:56.340 --> 00:17:02.250

Anthony Washington: I've seen it, but I've also seen it to where the kid doesn't you know fit in with the coach.

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00:17:03.240 --> 00:17:14.250

Anthony Washington: Coaching system, even though they were recruited by this coach our new coach comes in and this. This guy doesn't fit into the scheme of things, and you know there's things that are done that gets that guy out of there.

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00:17:14.580 --> 00:17:24.210

Anthony Washington: You know, and so at the college level. Is this a straight business you are a commodity. There's no way around it right and

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00:17:25.470 --> 00:17:30.270

Anthony Washington: You know it's upsetting because at the time, you're not thinking about any of that.

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00:17:30.720 --> 00:17:34.980

Anthony Washington: Right. You're just thinking I'm trying to get to the league. I'm trying to make money for my family. I'm trying to

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00:17:35.280 --> 00:17:46.080

Anthony Washington: I'm trying to come back to my community in a nice car so you're not thinking about the fact that okay UW \$80 million in revenue large, you know, just some crazy astronomical amount

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00:17:46.830 --> 00:17:58.350

Anthony Washington: Coaches get around 31% of that revenue right because they put it all back into the program and then looking at players we get around 11 to 14% depending on the program entry, it might be more or less.

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00:17:58.920 --> 00:18:06.330

Anthony Washington: Of that revenue right, that's just towards our books or room and board or, you know, so that's not money in my pocket.

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00:18:06.690 --> 00:18:12.870

Anthony Washington: Oh, and then based on the city that we live in. We get this cost of living check to where, you know, we might be able to pay our rent.

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00:18:13.170 --> 00:18:21.900

Anthony Washington: But more than likely we're going to have to have roommates, in order to to just maintain. Right. So you're seeing a coach, make a million dollars, while you're making maybe 1,500\$.

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00:18:22.230 --> 00:18:29.490

Anthony Washington: Thinking might be 1,800\$ now depending on the school teacher. Um, and it's just like you don't question that at all right so

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00:18:30.000 --> 00:18:36.690

Anthony Washington: You're not even questioning the fact that you're being used at the college level. Right. So when you get to the high school level.

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00:18:37.320 --> 00:18:46.440

Anthony Washington: You're really not going to question it because you just want an opportunity just to get to that point right just to have people in your neighborhood, you know, say your name.

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00:18:46.950 --> 00:18:59.220

Anthony Washington: Actually Darryl Hennings, he's a Seattle legend,

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00:18:59.970 --> 00:19:10.410

Anthony Washington: he's like the head of rotary is a great dude he's gotten a lot of people, a lot of boys, black boys into these higher institutions and learning.

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00:19:11.250 --> 00:19:19.380

Anthony Washington: A lot of kids have graduated, I remember one thing that he said to me to trigger me and I ended up having one of the best tournaments. I've ever played in my life.

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00:19:19.830 --> 00:19:35.040

Anthony Washington: He came over to me while I was stretching. It was is my first AAU tournament since like seventh grade, I stopped playing in seventh grade, I'm a junior in the springtime. No, attention from colleges. He just told me, he said, when you go back to Seattle.

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00:19:36.420 --> 00:19:44.310

Anthony Washington: You can have everybody knowing your name. And I just thought about that, like, man, I'm not the gang member,

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00:19:44.700 --> 00:19:53.220

Anthony Washington: I wasn't the best player in high school. You know, so I wasn't like this star or anything like that. I didn't have money. So just one of those things where it was like just that thought like

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00:19:53.550 --> 00:19:59.700

Anthony Washington: Everybody's gonna know my name and then when I went and I played like that and then I go back and all of a sudden I'm Anthony, I'm A-wash.

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00:20:00.300 --> 00:20:12.060

Anthony Washington: You know, I'm Ant-wash. And I'm like oh, I got a nickname now you know. So you see it right. So for every D Hennings you do have... he's a great dude, so I'm gonna put him over here...

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00:20:12.660 --> 00:20:18.750

Anthony Washington: You do have these men, right, that, utilize that that take that

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00:20:19.080 --> 00:20:27.780

Anthony Washington: You know, just the thought of going to college. The thought of making it to the NBA, the thought of being a great basketball player that everybody knows they utilize that and they prey.

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00:20:28.290 --> 00:20:37.260

Anthony Washington: Right. They prey on families, their prey on single mothers, just selling them a dream.

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00:20:38.430 --> 00:20:41.340

Anthony Washington: You know they prey on these young men and

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00:20:41.430 --> 00:20:45.360

Anthony Washington: When you start to look at the success rates, you start to see what they're teaching these young men.

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00:20:45.690 --> 00:20:52.680

Anthony Washington: Right, the adults. I'm speaking of and, you know, am I going to call anybody out.

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00:20:53.070 --> 00:21:00.990

Anthony Washington: But it's upsetting. It's really upsetting. You're not doing it for the right reasons, because I know that when I was coming up the Frank Aherns

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00:21:01.680 --> 00:21:11.730

Anthony Washington: The Lou Hops to Darryl Hennings to Andrew Bernard, they were doing it because they really cared about us and they really wanted to see us get to a certain..to Dan Fink

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00:21:12.180 --> 00:21:21.630

Anthony Washington: Michael Preston. I can name a number of people Kevin Davis, you know, there's a number of people that are really doing it for the right reasons. Um,

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00:21:22.170 --> 00:21:29.820

Anthony Washington: I just give you a quick story a coach after Kevin Davis. I won't say this man's name but a coach after Kevin Davis, he comes in.

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00:21:30.510 --> 00:21:37.860

Anthony Washington: And he starts to take care of us. You know, some of us a little bit more than others. I was actually always mad as a little kid because my dad.

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00:21:38.340 --> 00:21:49.710

Anthony Washington: Never let this dude buy me shoes right elementary school and middle school and I was always mad like man, he gets shoes. And he was just a street agent.

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00:21:50.160 --> 00:21:54.600

Anthony Washington: Right. And I'm like, man, but he's paying for us to go here.

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00:21:54.870 --> 00:22:01.980

Anthony Washington: And my dad would just he would always be like, man, you can tell he's not like you know Kevin Davis. He's not like Charles Proctor.

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00:22:02.280 --> 00:22:10.800

Anthony Washington: Like he's a street agent, watch, watch. Right, so we get to high school. I'm not playing anymore. I grow eight inches. I don't even talk to this dude, for many years, then

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00:22:11.580 --> 00:22:15.120

Anthony Washington: I got a call from him and he wants me to play basketball on his team.

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00:22:15.690 --> 00:22:24.630

Anthony Washington: Right, I hadn't played but everybody heard that I grew eight inches over the last, you know, few years so they needed a center for the team. So I was that guy.

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00:22:24.960 --> 00:22:31.890

Anthony Washington: And I'm always grateful for that call, right, because like I said I wouldn't, I wouldn't have made it, but I started noticing something.

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00:22:33.630 --> 00:22:39.900

Anthony Washington: You know, he still still taking care of some of the guys that he was taking care of them were younger, but it's

161

00:22:40.710 --> 00:22:47.490

Anthony Washington: Why do all of a sudden, nice to me right. Now he's giving me shoes but it's through you know Gary Payton and Ben Baker that was the

162

00:22:47.820 --> 00:22:57.780

Anthony Washington: sponsors for our team night. It was a Nike team through rotary. But, why is he so nice to me? Right and I'm older now and I kept thinking about what my dad said,

163

00:22:58.290 --> 00:23:12.360

Anthony Washington: I'm just like this dude is really nice. He's talking to the coaches, for me, you know, he's got this connection to UW and you know all these different things. And it wasn't until I think it was probably in college when some of my friends got in trouble.

164

00:23:13.500 --> 00:23:19.860

Anthony Washington: One in particular won't say his name, but he got in trouble and slowly but surely this dude stop talking to this person right.

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00:23:20.310 --> 00:23:29.370

Anthony Washington: And all of a sudden I started noticing that he was having connections with people that did make it that we knew right that he wasn't around early on and so

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00:23:29.970 --> 00:23:39.360

Anthony Washington: I started to realize like my dad was protecting me from a man that saw dollar signs right. He saw kids that could potentially make it

167

00:23:39.660 --> 00:23:49.710

Anthony Washington: I'm gonna take care of these guys. So then when they get to that point, I'll be their financial manager. I'll be there. You know, in some way, shape, or form. I'm going to profit off of these guys. And the only reason I say

168

00:23:51.120 --> 00:23:58.980

Anthony Washington: It ended up being bad is because some of the original kids that he was helping are no longer in this man's life right

169

00:23:59.400 --> 00:24:03.210

Anthony Washington: And you look at the people that still are. He wasn't even originally with

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00:24:03.780 --> 00:24:13.380

Anthony Washington: And he's, you know, kind of latched on to the success and you know we've kind of lost touch. So this is a few years back, but just kind of seeing that it was just like, whoa.

171

00:24:13.830 --> 00:24:22.920

Anthony Washington: So it's a long time investment for some of these people. When you start to understand that there's really adults that are out there thinking like that.

172

00:24:23.370 --> 00:24:32.550

Anthony Washington: You start to think about ways to protect you know these young men to inform their parents and start to think about different athletes right.

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00:24:33.420 --> 00:24:41.280

Anthony Washington: Because you don't want these children to be exploited and you're putting them in a situation where, if you look at the statistics, right, less than

174

00:24:41.730 --> 00:24:48.120

Anthony Washington: I'm gonna say 2% of college football or basketball players in high school, go to the NFL. Right so

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00:24:49.110 --> 00:24:59.250

Anthony Washington: 8 out of 10,000 football players get drafted, you know, I mean, there's all these different statistics nearly 70% of the NFL is black.

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00:24:59.640 --> 00:25:11.070

Anthony Washington: Nearly 80% of the NBA. But then if you would get doctors. If you look at Tech. It's like 8%, 5%, 6%, and so it was just one of those things where I'm seeing his pocket, I could be one of these that those that that genuinely help

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00:25:11.760 --> 00:25:20.340

Anthony Washington: Them play basketball and do that or I could be somebody that is connected to hoop. Cause I will always be connected to basketball but I'm also educated.

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00:25:20.880 --> 00:25:33.420

Anthony Washington: Right. I'm also I'm also doing things in the community as a result of knowing that if it wasn't for Lou Hopsin a frank Ahern taking that time I wouldn't have had the skills, I wouldn't have developed

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00:25:34.470 --> 00:25:43.260

Anthony Washington: I wouldn't have had the opportunity. So my goal is thinking back to the AP classes, thinking, how is the equivalent. Can we get to a point where

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00:25:43.950 --> 00:25:49.440

Anthony Washington: with AAU trials or basketball trials you got 50 kids coming to you all day.

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00:25:49.710 --> 00:25:58.920

Anthony Washington: Hey man, did you hear about know rotary or when is Garfield's trials. I'm just one of the tallest dudes in the school school, not a coach though and I hope I continue the

182

00:25:59.430 --> 00:26:14.130

Anthony Washington: announcing stuff like that but AP classes I've never heard a kid, a African American male come up to me and say, Mr. Washington. Do you know when the AP exam is? I've never had a parent ask me that. Right. So you're seeing it like

183

00:26:15.030 --> 00:26:26.040

Anthony Washington: As an adult, we have to do a better job of balancing things out. Right. And I said this years ago and it came off the wrong way and I hope it doesn't come off for every Darryl Hennings,

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00:26:26.820 --> 00:26:35.850

Anthony Washington: For every D Hennings for every Dan Finkly, for every Andrew Barnard. I want to give them the roses, right, because they've helped out this community tremendously.

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00:26:36.180 --> 00:26:46.770

Anthony Washington: There needs to be an equivalent to those guys in athletics and basketball. There needs to be that equivalent in education and the problem is, you know, you don't have companies like Nike

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00:26:47.460 --> 00:26:57.420

Anthony Washington: Or Adidas, or you know any of the Under Armour lining up to give money for education, like they are willing to. So there's all these outside pressures. Right.

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00:26:58.440 --> 00:27:04.770

Anthony Washington: That that encourages this monetization of basketball, AAU.

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00:27:05.790 --> 00:27:10.950

Anthony Washington: And then there's within the communities the admiration that you get from the kids perspective, it's like

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00:27:11.310 --> 00:27:19.200

Anthony Washington: Oh, okay. I did my math work, nobody said anything. I dunk the ball and I'm out here, the gang members don't mess with me.

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00:27:19.440 --> 00:27:24.750

Anthony Washington: You know, like they're telling me, i'm cool, you know, all this different stuff. And then the parents is like

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00:27:25.260 --> 00:27:31.860

Anthony Washington: Well, I know I'm thinking about discrimination, I'm thinking about history, I'm thinking about social economic issues. I'm thinking about, you know,

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00:27:32.220 --> 00:27:36.750

Anthony Washington: His best friend that is no longer with us, his older cousin

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00:27:37.110 --> 00:27:45.810

Anthony Washington: that's in prison. My brothers that did basketball, football. We gotta keep them safe. We got to make sure

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00:27:46.080 --> 00:27:53.790

Anthony Washington: That they're learning how to be on a team, you know, what about the chest club right we don't think about that stuff because it's

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00:27:54.270 --> 00:28:02.850

Anthony Washington: Almost immediate, you can see a kid in fifth grade, he grows, develops and all of a sudden a free ticket to college right. SO

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00:28:03.420 --> 00:28:09.750

Anthony Washington: Is it seems easy. It's really not easy, but it seems like that's the route to go and then we start to break down the numbers.

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00:28:10.410 --> 00:28:17.460

Anthony Washington: And that's really what I want my study to be around. When I get to that point. Is, is basketball is football..

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00:28:17.970 --> 00:28:24.330

Anthony Washington: ...are those the best route for our children right and then kind of break it down, what's the success rate? Eell as a basketball player. You're not really

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00:28:25.200 --> 00:28:31.380

Anthony Washington: You know, people would say, I'm successful because you got to see overseas. But if you're if you play on the highest level.

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00:28:32.370 --> 00:28:40.230

Anthony Washington: In college, in AAU and all that, your goal is the NBA. So you're not successful, unless you make it to the NBA, right, then you're not successful.

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00:28:40.530 --> 00:28:45.960

Anthony Washington: If you don't get that contract that allows you to build generational wealth. There's all these different ways to measure it.

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00:28:46.290 --> 00:28:53.700

Anthony Washington: But, you know, you have to figure that out. You have to define success and all that, but that's where I'm at right now.

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00:28:54.210 --> 00:29:01.440

Anthony Washington: But I looked at a picture of a CAY football team, not basketball it was a CAY football team.

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00:29:02.040 --> 00:29:14.730

Anthony Washington: The basketball team that I played for was actually a lot more successful. I will throw that out there. But this football team. I counted the amount of people that were unfortunately dead, imprisoned,

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00:29:15.930 --> 00:29:29.970

Anthony Washington: No high school, no college. Some on the other side, doing things that if football is supposed to be making us safe if

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00:29:30.390 --> 00:29:35.670

Anthony Washington: It's supposed to be helping us out. They wouldn't be doing the thing that they're doing right and I looked and I was like, man.

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00:29:37.320 --> 00:29:48.900

Anthony Washington: Do sports, you know, is that the best route to go? Is that the best way to go and and so that's where I'm at. I don't think so, I think we limit our kids.

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00:29:49.770 --> 00:29:55.710

Anthony Washington: When we tell them that basketball is the best route or football is the best route.

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00:29:57.120 --> 00:30:07.410

Anthony Washington: I have friends with kids and they do an amazing job of balancing out sports with academics, so I got I've seen a

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00:30:07.920 --> 00:30:18.690

Anthony Washington: One person in particular who I've always looked up to you even when we were both at Garfield. His name is Roydell Smiley and his son, is it makes sense why he comes from..

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00:30:19.320 --> 00:30:24.270

Anthony Washington: You know, Roydell's father played at Garfield right so he's a great basketball player.

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00:30:24.960 --> 00:30:33.300

Anthony Washington: But his son is a great basketball player, but more than that. He's a great student. Right. And so you see my generation, you know, their kids.

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00:30:33.750 --> 00:30:41.190

Anthony Washington: Where it's like you can't just be that basketball player, you definitely had to apply yourself in other areas. And so I want to commend

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00:30:41.820 --> 00:30:48.450

Anthony Washington: The guys that do that because there are people that are doing that is usually people that have experienced it right there was a sense of

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00:30:48.960 --> 00:31:00.930

Anthony Washington: Whether they made it or not. They just know like you can't just be a Hooper. It's just not gonna work out that way. So I know I wanna I want to honor the D Hennings, and the parents that are are balancing their kids

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00:31:02.220 --> 00:31:04.680

Anthony Washington: Lives with sports and academics.

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00:31:05.670 --> 00:31:07.290

Sarah Shultz: And I work with a lot of

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00:31:08.130 --> 00:31:13.350

Sarah Shultz: colleagues who work in that space of merging sport with stem and in particular

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00:31:14.370 --> 00:31:22.110

Sarah Shultz: trying to engage those students who they know they love ball.

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00:31:23.130 --> 00:31:26.280

Sarah Shultz: But they don't know that they like the math behind the basketball.

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00:31:26.400 --> 00:31:27.750

Anthony Washington: Yes, yes.

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00:31:27.810 --> 00:31:36.630

Sarah Shultz: Right, and how much math and how much physics and how much biology goes into making you a really good player.

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00:31:37.770 --> 00:31:47.790

Sarah Shultz: Right, I've got good colleagues that are part of fourth family. They do a lot of that space where we're trying to integrate

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00:31:48.600 --> 00:31:57.030

Sarah Shultz: Stem particularly with basketball. And so there are these opportunities. But you're right.

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00:31:58.200 --> 00:31:59.670

Sarah Shultz: And I want to ask you this question.

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00:32:00.780 --> 00:32:22.710

Sarah Shultz: Why basketball, why football? Why are there those assumptions that that's the only way to get into college? What is perpetuating it? Is it within the community or is it outside of the community? What are the drivers that are keeping such a single lane focus on...

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00:32:24.120 --> 00:32:30.120

Sarah Shultz: Is it because you can see it is because you can get a crowd there you know you don't get a crowd for an AP exam, right.

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00:32:31.680 --> 00:32:35.700

Sarah Shultz: What's in that space. What are we, why do we think that that's happening?

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00:32:36.150 --> 00:32:41.910

Anthony Washington: It's crazy. This is actually one of my favorite subjects to talk about actually just talked to

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00:32:43.620 --> 00:32:49.620

Anthony Washington: It's a world is history class, but we were talking about the African dashboard and we're focusing on sports right now and

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00:32:50.610 --> 00:33:00.120

Anthony Washington: You know, it's a theory of mine. But, and I'm pretty sure it's not my theory, you know people, there's no original thought out there anymore. But,

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00:33:00.570 --> 00:33:12.660

Anthony Washington: I always look back to the history of sports, you know, African Americans in sports, especially in the United States of America. Right. So if you look the black

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00:33:14.040 --> 00:33:22.770

Anthony Washington: athletic superiority. The idea of black athletic superiority. So, at one point it was men. Right. So you can think about a Jack Johnson.

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00:33:24.270 --> 00:33:33.840

Anthony Washington: Heavyweight he was pitted against white men. Right, you have society, the media, doing everything they could to get this championship belt back once he won it.

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00:33:34.380 --> 00:33:40.410

Anthony Washington: And they painted them up against white men, right, this idea that, you know, it's a white man's

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00:33:41.340 --> 00:33:52.890

Anthony Washington: Belt and we need to have it. So they're throwing all these dudes at him. And what they're not realizing is they're actually empowering and breaking down some of the thought processes at at play at that time were

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00:33:53.280 --> 00:34:01.290

Anthony Washington: You know, black people are inferior, we're less than human. Just all these different things that are out there at this time in the 1800s, early 1900s and you had

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00:34:01.620 --> 00:34:09.690

Anthony Washington: This large strong black man and Jack Johnson, who's killing it out there. Right he's basically

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00:34:10.500 --> 00:34:18.630

Anthony Washington: He's crapping on the idea that that we are inferior at least physically speaking right and so we start to cheer for

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00:34:18.960 --> 00:34:26.520

Anthony Washington: These guys because it is, you know, there's this paradigm At the time, right.

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00:34:27.240 --> 00:34:34.710

Anthony Washington: And There's white and black. Right. And so if you're black, you're cheering for Jack Johnson, if you're white you're cheering for whoever's in the ring.

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00:34:35.070 --> 00:34:48.180

Anthony Washington: Then you get to the Jesse Owens right the Olympics where Hitler. I think it was, 1936 he's you know white race Again. You have this man talking about, you know, we are superior, you know, physically

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00:34:48.750 --> 00:35:04.020

Anthony Washington: And Jesse Owens wins 4 gold medals in that Olympics further establishing. No, that is not the case right and making it a race thing where we're rooting fully for not America but Jesse Owens right, and other

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00:35:04.500 --> 00:35:15.780

Anthony Washington: black athletes and those Olympics. Obviously fast forward. Think about Babe Ruth right 714 home runs, you have a man and Hank Aaron that comes along.

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00:35:16.080 --> 00:35:29.220

Anthony Washington: He gets close to the record the media, white me, again makes it about race. Right. They don't want this icon. This, person has become a legend in American history, become bigger than baseball

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00:35:30.240 --> 00:35:45.300

Anthony Washington: They don't want this record to be broken, especially not in baseball because baseball of all the sports with American sport. Right. Which really means it's white men. It is their sport. Right. And so by breaking

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00:35:45.840 --> 00:35:55.770

Anthony Washington: The greatest player's record the greatest record in baseball. We further establish that you know what we're on the same level. And we're dominant. Right.

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00:35:56.100 --> 00:35:59.910

Anthony Washington: And again, you have black people in these communities cheering for this man.

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00:36:00.420 --> 00:36:08.430

Anthony Washington: Then you think about Muhammad Ali, he takes it a step further, he's political right. And at this time, you had the Jim Brown's The Bill Russell's. So you have all these people being political

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00:36:08.850 --> 00:36:24.870

Anthony Washington: But just thinking of certain players Muhammad Ali again represents his community. So when you, when he goes into the ring white or black he's representing black people. Right. And so just think about this large history bigger than life personalities.

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00:36:25.920 --> 00:36:31.770

Anthony Washington: Sports is the area where we're allowed to, we can hit a white dude right we're allowed to

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00:36:32.580 --> 00:36:38.340

Anthony Washington: Be at the top, even though they didn't want us to. In certain areas right now, we're still not allowed to be in the building.

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00:36:38.790 --> 00:36:52.170

Anthony Washington: As a lawyer, or as a, whatever. So there's a certain level of empowerment that the black community got from Sports right from the athletes that were playing that were representing them.

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00:36:52.620 --> 00:37:00.360

Anthony Washington: And so as a result, I mean you're a kid, you're idolizing somebody you're going to do what they do.

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00:37:00.810 --> 00:37:11.190

Anthony Washington: Right. And then we get to a point where the idea that black athlete starts to fade after the Magic Johnson versus Larry Bird was probably the last time where you had

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00:37:11.580 --> 00:37:21.780

Anthony Washington: The white, black, the idea that there's the white team. And it's the black team, or is this the bad guy and this the white guy right and then you get into the Michael Jordan.

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00:37:22.800 --> 00:37:30.690

Anthony Washington: Which is, You know, Nike marketing him to the point where right now. I'm a grown man and I still love Jordans right but

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00:37:31.980 --> 00:37:44.040

Anthony Washington: So we idolize the athletes. Okay, so then at this point in the 80s, 90s we idolize the athletes. Now all of a sudden you have this marketing scheme where we're supposed to be just like Mike

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00:37:44.460 --> 00:37:53.010

Anthony Washington: Right, and they follow that same marketing scheme with Bo Jackson plays football. They follow that same scheme where, oh, I want to be like him.

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00:37:53.520 --> 00:38:04.230

Anthony Washington: Right. And at this time, you do have lawyers, you have Bill Cosby right he's you know you, can't really say his name anymore. But at the time he was a doctor, He's funny, he has a family.

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00:38:04.590 --> 00:38:12.150

Anthony Washington: You know, maybe had a couple people that aspire to be like him, but you also have Michael Jordan, who has these tapes.

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00:38:12.450 --> 00:38:21.510

Anthony Washington: Where he's showing you how awesome he is he's showing you dunking on all these people he's just throwing in our face right. Then you had the playgrounds.

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00:38:22.230 --> 00:38:31.080

Anthony Washington: Where a basketball hoop, football field is going to be more accessible to us, then even baseball, you know, which at one point.

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00:38:31.530 --> 00:38:44.070

Anthony Washington: Especially in the black community in Seattle, baseball is like the most important sport here at one point in time. If you look back far enough into Seattle support system, you know. But,

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00:38:45.450 --> 00:38:53.640

Anthony Washington: then you have the adults who are experiencing the discrimination in these other areas right they have kids.

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00:38:54.480 --> 00:39:00.630

Anthony Washington: Right, who also experienced that discrimination, you see your kid getting attention from a coach or you see your kid,

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00:39:01.050 --> 00:39:08.910

Anthony Washington: You know, he looks kind of like Michael Jordan, he's doing things out there that make it to where you know what, hey, this guy might be able to get to college.

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00:39:09.480 --> 00:39:15.150

Anthony Washington: He might be able to get to the NBA. Right. So there's this infatuation with sports period.

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00:39:15.780 --> 00:39:22.230

Anthony Washington: Then you take the athletes, the black athletes in the community that are empowering people in the community. Right.

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00:39:22.740 --> 00:39:34.410

Anthony Washington: Whether sports or your thing or not they empower everybody because you know being pitted against the white athletes. Um, and I will put weren't allowed to play. And then all of a sudden, now you're allowed to play.

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00:39:35.580 --> 00:39:36.810

Anthony Washington: Now,

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00:39:37.830 --> 00:39:46.860

Anthony Washington: it's fully established in the black community basketball, football, all the different sports are established and now you see that basketball, football, all these sports

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00:39:47.280 --> 00:39:52.560

Anthony Washington: are the ways that kids are getting the school and at one point they didn't care about your grades.

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00:39:52.920 --> 00:39:59.580

Anthony Washington: Right, if you talk to certain athletes from a certain generation, they didn't even care about your grades. They were figuring out ways to get you into school.

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00:39:59.910 --> 00:40:08.670

Anthony Washington: They were figuring out ways to get you on their campuses to benefit them. you know, to take advantage of your talent. What

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00:40:09.300 --> 00:40:16.290

Anthony Washington: institutions pro-leagues started to also believe, if you look at the disproportionate numbers of African Americans and think about the population.

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00:40:16.800 --> 00:40:25.470

Anthony Washington: Everybody started to believe that black people were just superior athletes, right, when the reality is we were just highlighting those areas.

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00:40:25.920 --> 00:40:41.640

Anthony Washington: And in some cases, at one point, that was the only area we were able to be great, or on top. So, you take discrimination, you take the fact that we showed brilliance right in these in these areas. You take the social economic issues at a time.

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00:40:42.810 --> 00:40:53.280

Anthony Washington: The lack of avenues at one point in time and that's what establish the idea that that you know obviously it's not as simplistic as I just put it, but

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00:40:54.330 --> 00:41:04.650

Anthony Washington: That's a very rough version of how we got to the point where we're at now where we over emphasize sports we're great at. Why wouldn't you, you know, why wouldn't you continue

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00:41:05.100 --> 00:41:13.410

Anthony Washington: To pursue something that you're grading. I don't argue that. I don't argue having, you know, using score says Abby, but

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00:41:14.040 --> 00:41:21.330

Anthony Washington: I think it's a lot easier. And this is no disrespect to doctors, and I'm only telling you this because I got my

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00:41:22.170 --> 00:41:37.560

Anthony Washington: masters. It's easier to become a doctor than it is to become a professional NBA, NFL athlete period. And we don't look at it like that. And so, that's the unfortunate thing.

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00:41:43.980 --> 00:41:52.320

Sarah Shultz: So, There's this over emphasis on that there's an under emphasis on becoming doctors and lawyers and in that space, and some of it overlaps.

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00:41:53.070 --> 00:42:00.450

Sarah Shultz: Some are using it to get to those points because they know they want to be these other things and it provides that pathway. But what do we do?

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00:42:00.810 --> 00:42:09.720

Sarah Shultz: How do we use the sport that already has such a foothold in the community. How do we use it to

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00:42:10.230 --> 00:42:18.000

Sarah Shultz: bring awareness to these other areas within the community. How do we bring awareness to everyone outside of the Community.

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00:42:18.600 --> 00:42:26.550

Sarah Shultz: To emphasize these other areas that need to grow. You said it in the book, and you've mentioned it a couple times here. But it's that idea that

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00:42:27.090 --> 00:42:39.720

Sarah Shultz: You know, why not the chess club. Why are we constantly over emphasizing the sport, and we need to move into this other space. And I know that you're doing some great things with ACE.

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00:42:40.170 --> 00:42:51.150

Sarah Shultz: That Academy for creating excellence and I'd love to hear more about that space and how can we make something that is good.

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00:42:51.510 --> 00:42:53.520

Sarah Shultz: It has its shadows, but it

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00:42:53.760 --> 00:43:05.100

Sarah Shultz: has also these virtues to it. How do we let it shine a light on these other areas that also have virtues and need growth.

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00:43:06.030 --> 00:43:14.460

Anthony Washington: I'ma say this of all the institutions right now doing COVID. What was the main thing that they got back up and running?

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00:43:15.960 --> 00:43:26.790

Anthony Washington: It was one of the first day that they felt, we have to have it you know. People are getting so crazy. It has to be because of the fact that there are no sports on

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00:43:27.390 --> 00:43:31.140

Anthony Washington: Right? Of all the things that are up and running and back to normal.

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00:43:31.620 --> 00:43:48.750

Anthony Washington: Sports are back and running, that should tell you where, not only where our community's emphasis is but, our nation's emphasis is right. What I'm saying is an overemphasis in the community, the black community that's a microcosm of the society period right

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00:43:49.050 --> 00:43:52.950

Anthony Washington: We had a society over emphasized sports period. I actually just got into an argument and this dude

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00:43:53.460 --> 00:44:06.270

Anthony Washington: was like "man, \$40 million dollars these guys are underpaid." And I'm like the fact that we think that \$40 million is not enough money for somebody to play basketball and we don't even question it like?

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00:44:06.960 --> 00:44:23.400

Anthony Washington: You know, and this is somebody that works extremely hard and isn't making nowhere near that an important job as a teacher and it's just like, that's crazy. So there's just an overemphasis all over the board. So that's part of the problem, though, because you don't have

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00:44:24.870 --> 00:44:32.760

Anthony Washington: You know, the, English department of colleges coming to school, saying, hey, we noticed that your son.

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00:44:33.150 --> 00:44:42.300

Anthony Washington: Has gotten all A's in language arts for the last four years, they're the projects are amazing right anytime they present in class they're amazing.

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00:44:42.570 --> 00:44:55.320

Anthony Washington: We want to give them a scholarship to come to our school to be an English major, right. You don't have that. You don't have those types of things.

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00:44:56.010 --> 00:45:05.550

Anthony Washington: In other areas. They're not throwing money at your kids. You know, like so the chances of an academic scholarship even or

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00:45:06.270 --> 00:45:14.970

Anthony Washington: You know, I didn't even realize. I feel disrespect, but I'm thinking my mind may be listening, but I feel, I felt ignorant, I should say.

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00:45:15.450 --> 00:45:27.300

Anthony Washington: When I started realizing, like, oh, if you just really got really good grades were in a bunch of programs to say you came from a low income situation you might get a scholarship, just off of that?

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00:45:27.810 --> 00:45:35.880

Anthony Washington: Do people know that, you know what I'm sayin'. So the emphasis in other areas has to be there. Like one reason why

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00:45:36.570 --> 00:45:40.320

Anthony Washington: You know, some of my friends were really excited like aw but you're going to coach, right,

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00:45:40.740 --> 00:45:45.600

Anthony Washington: You're going to be a coach, you know, you got your masters. You can go be a high school coach. And I'm like,

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00:45:46.080 --> 00:45:55.230

Anthony Washington: that don't even sound right. You know, like I just got my Masters in Education and the first thing that some of my friends was saying was, Are you going to coach? Which, is not a bad thing.

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00:45:55.950 --> 00:46:04.500

Anthony Washington: I admire the coaches so we need coaches, so I'm not- but for me it was like man I could be in education.

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00:46:05.070 --> 00:46:09.810

Anthony Washington: But if I go right into that basketball gym where I'm gonna spend a certain amount of time in there. I'm passionate about it.

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00:46:10.110 --> 00:46:20.520

Anthony Washington: And as a result, I'm gonna start to be one of these guys that over emphasizes it, even this part of my job, rather than the academic part of my job. So I actually made it a point like,

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00:46:20.970 --> 00:46:23.340

Anthony Washington: I will help out with the basketball team.

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00:46:23.880 --> 00:46:34.770

Anthony Washington: I'll announce basketball games, but until I am a doctor or, you know, just, a worldwide scholar or something along those lines. I'm not going to coach basketball.

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00:46:35.070 --> 00:46:45.390

Anthony Washington: Because I want to be somebody that shows like, Yo, this is a dude that played. He had a 2.3 GPA and 890 on the SAT. He got a scholarship to UW

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00:46:45.900 --> 00:46:57.630

Anthony Washington: get kicked out of UW, goes to Portland State basically gets kicked out of there. Comes back goes overseas plays some basketball gets hurt, you know goes through a little rough financial patch, and it was actually education

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00:46:57.990 --> 00:47:03.600

Anthony Washington: that whole time. That was the thing that I was going to put him in a position to support his family and to support his community.

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00:47:03.870 --> 00:47:09.480

Anthony Washington: Now think about that if if there was an emphasis on academics outside of my household

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00:47:09.870 --> 00:47:18.120

Anthony Washington: You know at that early age. Instead of oh you're 6'4 you're 6'8, you need to play basketball. What if it was man this dude doesn't like coming to class.

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00:47:18.450 --> 00:47:26.610

Anthony Washington: He's thinking outside the box. Whenever he comes to classes takes a test, though he does really, really well on it. That's weird. Like, how are they doing, without even my help.

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00:47:27.060 --> 00:47:33.720

Anthony Washington: Maybe, I should get him in an AP class, maybe, I should, you know, talk to his parents about... there is none of that right and so

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00:47:34.020 --> 00:47:48.270

Anthony Washington: it's on the adults. It's not the kids fault that they're going into things that they get attention in. That's not the kids fault. It's on us to start up to over emphasize some of these other areas. Malcolm Gladwell,

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00:47:49.560 --> 00:47:51.780

Anthony Washington: He had the 10,000 hour right

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00:47:52.920 --> 00:48:03.870

Anthony Washington: Right now, so it's like 20 hours a week for 10 years and you're a specialist in a certain area you have certain kids at this point like,

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00:48:04.230 --> 00:48:16.380

Anthony Washington: I did the math. I wasn't a specialist. right until I got to college, so I was a late bloomer. Some of my friends, you know, we did the math with practice. how much they went to the gym. Asking all these questions. They were specialist

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00:48:17.430 --> 00:48:27.180

Anthony Washington: By the time they were juniors and seniors in high school, right, why can't that be the case for for for a stem, you know, for math,

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00:48:27.510 --> 00:48:38.520

Anthony Washington: for tech, for computer science, you know, why is that the case. Why aren't there the same programs you know where's the funding for those for those areas right.

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00:48:39.060 --> 00:48:48.510

Anthony Washington: Microsoft just talked about the fact that they're having issues with diversity, you know they're not able to to hire more... people that look like me.

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00:48:49.170 --> 00:48:59.010

Anthony Washington: And for me, it's like why don't you do a colleges do, and start recruiting. You know why don't you go into the schools and start- Like, why don't they do that, you know. These

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00:48:59.580 --> 00:49:07.470

Anthony Washington: athletic programs have access to the grades and all these different things. There's a system in place to look at kids grades and measure where they're at.

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00:49:07.800 --> 00:49:14.520

Anthony Washington: But there's nothing like that for tech or is it just not in our communities, right. Because I'm pretty sure there's there's something

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00:49:14.790 --> 00:49:20.610

Anthony Washington: I'm pretty sure there's some, but it's not reaching our community. And so with the fact that there's only 8% in tech

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00:49:21.090 --> 00:49:34.590

Anthony Washington: You know Trish Dziko who started TAF with Microsoft for 15 years and she started a STEM school. We need more stuff like that. We need more programs like ACE.

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00:49:34.980 --> 00:49:43.800

Anthony Washington: We're working with black boys. And there's a sense of mind, body and soul. Right. So we do work out. We do make sure that you're healthy.

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00:49:44.130 --> 00:49:46.080

Anthony Washington: But we're making sure that you're critically thinking.

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00:49:46.410 --> 00:49:54.240

Anthony Washington: You know, we're making sure that you're thinking about your community. Everything that you're learning with us. You can apply back into your community in one way, shape, or form.

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00:49:54.540 --> 00:50:06.450

Anthony Washington: Right, even with the athletes that we pull from there. You know, hopefully, as I get more established I can, work with a rotary I could work with some of these programs to create

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00:50:07.320 --> 00:50:13.470

Anthony Washington: Like a separate you know training athletes to be community leaders, right, because we know that they are

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00:50:13.800 --> 00:50:22.800

Anthony Washington: some of the most influential people in the community. They're the most visible right. If some of these guys do have access to money and people that could possibly donate

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00:50:23.100 --> 00:50:33.660

Anthony Washington: But they're not necessarily thinking along those lines. They think basketball, but they don't think from a wider point of view.

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00:50:35.640 --> 00:50:45.840

Anthony Washington: Perfect example. When you look at athletes who they give their money to. Some of these athletes want their names on the hall.

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00:50:46.620 --> 00:50:56.820

Anthony Washington: Of the, you know, the locker room or the training room or the weight room. So they give \$5 million dollars to the school they give \$6 million dollars to the school. It really doesn't need.

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00:50:57.240 --> 00:51:00.180

Anthony Washington: Right then they go back to their communities and they give backpacks.

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00:51:00.900 --> 00:51:12.990

Anthony Washington: And you know they give pencils and it's like that is backwards. That's backwards, right, and it's not necessarily their fault because we're not training them to look back at us and say,

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00:51:13.290 --> 00:51:21.870

Anthony Washington: Yo, why don't you have this building in your name. Why don't you have this right and so you know it's a number of different things, but

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00:51:23.130 --> 00:51:32.730

Anthony Washington: We just have to emphasize other areas, and we have to train the athletes that are already in these places to start to think more communal. And to think

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00:51:33.870 --> 00:51:42.150

Anthony Washington: Just on a bigger scale right there should be a school in Seattle, based on the amount of athletes, based on the amount of attention,

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00:51:43.230 --> 00:51:56.820

Anthony Washington: based on the amount of sponsorship for these athletes. There should be some type of school in Seattle for black and brown kids. Or just some community center. Just bigger than a program, though, you know. Even the programs here,

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00:51:57.870 --> 00:52:00.090

Anthony Washington: there shouldn't be a problem funding any of these

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00:52:01.500 --> 00:52:15.660

Anthony Washington: right now. We need a Nike type company to come in and really put their money in, you know, in order for us to help develop these guys in other areas. So, it's a frustrating situation.

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00:52:17.040 --> 00:52:22.530

Sarah Shultz: If you have one more question I wanted to ask you this around your international places you mentioned that you spent a couple years internationally.

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00:52:23.550 --> 00:52:47.100

Sarah Shultz: I've lived abroad mostly in Australia and noticed a huge difference in how society sees sport right and there are quite a few similarities. But, there were quite a few differences as well, primarily because of the lack of university sport right so

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00:52:47.160 --> 00:52:49.230

Sarah Shultz: the idea that the universities abroad or not.

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00:52:50.340 --> 00:53:04.380

Sarah Shultz: They have club levels that students will play in but they are not playing the university itself does not host teams. Did you see a difference in how

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00:53:05.370 --> 00:53:15.690

Sarah Shultz: The sport was perceived, how it was used? How was exploited in some of those similar ways that we've seen in the United States. Some of those

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00:53:17.010 --> 00:53:22.530

Sarah Shultz: Over emphasis or the drive. Was it as prevalent where you were playing

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00:53:24.390 --> 00:53:35.460

Anthony Washington: So it's crazy. I played a couple different countries. So like Germany, was my first time out of the country. They had the, I think it was

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00:53:36.630 --> 00:53:43.170

Anthony Washington: 15, 16, 17 year old's that we had the training. You know, they would have their practice. These guys are with the team.

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00:53:43.800 --> 00:53:53.520

Anthony Washington: But, they lead a normal life. But they're basketball players and some of them maybe on the national team. One of the kids actually did get to the national team later are the

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00:53:54.900 --> 00:54:03.900

Anthony Washington: But, I thought it was cool because it's like, you know, they get to play with grown men right. They get to do their own training and then you start to ask questions as you get to know them. Like hey man

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00:54:04.710 --> 00:54:13.860

Anthony Washington: How's this going? They're going to school, right, they seem well versed in whatever they're in. And just like man, that'd be dope if you know,

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00:54:14.430 --> 00:54:24.210

Anthony Washington: they had that in Seattle. Right. That'd be cool. Then you go to a place like- with the social economic-

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00:54:25.080 --> 00:54:34.860

Anthony Washington: -That the kids weren't struggling at least from the kid that I was exposed to. Based on some of the things that they were saying. I went to Uruguay.

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00:54:35.880 --> 00:54:48.300

Anthony Washington: Same situation right where I was in Montevideo, and you have a club. The club team, you have the pro team, you had the lower levels. The younger kids,

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00:54:48.870 --> 00:54:57.030

Anthony Washington: there was an emphasis that reminded me of home and it was a direct result of the fact that, you know, even more so than home.

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00:54:57.360 --> 00:55:09.510

Anthony Washington: These kids are trying to get to that national team or even one of these proteins, where they're not going to get paid anything closer with the Americans getting paid. But, just if they make it to that point right man.

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00:55:09.960 --> 00:55:17.400

Anthony Washington: I'm in a whole 'nother bracket from from a lot of these people in my community and soccer was actually

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00:55:19.800 --> 00:55:30.810

Anthony Washington: The sport where it seemed more like basketball, if that makes sense in America soccer was a sport, but even then it's just done differently. It's not exploitive

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00:55:31.650 --> 00:55:44.850

Anthony Washington: Obviously, you know, probably learning more about how the things work out there, you probably do find that right... well there is, you have a lot of young boys coming from Africa.

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00:55:45.450 --> 00:56:03.510

Anthony Washington: Right, where they're being basically shipped off to, you know, their adoptive families or, you know, just whatever. In order to play for a club team and develop within, within that system and then eventually become a pro. So that is pretty

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00:56:05.850 --> 00:56:17.400

Anthony Washington: You know, for the reasons why some of these families are letting the kids go right and even thinking about how the lack of development that happens. This is a perfect example. So

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00:56:18.030 --> 00:56:23.700

Anthony Washington: If you could think about the amount of athletes and Africa that are right soccer players.

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00:56:24.420 --> 00:56:34.440

Anthony Washington: That are that are that are, you know, picked up from all these different countries in Africa and basically their sent to European countries where they develop

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00:56:35.070 --> 00:56:43.500

Anthony Washington: Right then they apply for these European teams, if in those communities there were programs.

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00:56:44.040 --> 00:56:56.520

Anthony Washington: In Africa, where they can develop their right. Think about how much money soccer brings in internationally, think about what it could possibly do for those- same thing with individual communities here in the United States.

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00:56:57.030 --> 00:57:07.320

Anthony Washington: Right. Think about if we trained our players to not just go off to college, but to come back and become teachers and and to become the community builders, right, rather than

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00:57:08.010 --> 00:57:16.890

Anthony Washington: Having community builders kind of speak at their events. They are actually the community builders. They're the ones in positions to change the community.

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00:57:17.220 --> 00:57:33.600

Anthony Washington: A very random based on what I was talking about, but it advocates is just a microcosm of what's going on in our community just a microcosm of what's going on not only you know nationally but but globally actually.

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00:57:37.980 --> 00:57:51.210

Sarah Shultz: We hadn't explored your time internationally. So it was good to hear how you saw the similarities and the differences between between the spaces, but I agree that in so many ways we say

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00:57:52.230 --> 00:57:54.480

Sarah Shultz: Do it to get out of the community. Right.

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00:57:55.530 --> 00:58:00.480

Sarah Shultz: We're doing this to get out of the community. Well, why isn't it. We're doing this to build the community.

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00:58:00.600 --> 00:58:02.370

Anthony Washington: Exactly. Exactly. Yeah.

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00:58:02.520 --> 00:58:07.140

Sarah Shultz: And I think that, you know, it's easier said than done, but I think

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00:58:08.160 --> 00:58:08.430

Anthony Washington: Way easier.

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00:58:09.000 --> 00:58:19.860

Sarah Shultz: Being able to change some of that mindset. Would make, you're right, such an impact and you can see how that domino effect would set up.

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00:58:37.560 --> 00:58:47.310

Anthony Washington: Yes... Thinking about what you just said. Right. I remember my mom wanted me to go to the HBCU and I thought she was crazy.

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00:58:48.120 --> 00:59:00.060

Anthony Washington: Aye mom like what? Like what HBCU have you seen on CBS or ESPN no like come on mom right. Now I'm like, dang, I wish I would have listened to my mom.

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00:59:00.570 --> 00:59:11.220

Anthony Washington: Cause' that's what's needed. Right. So you look at athletes. There's a couple of high profile basketball players and now football players because Deon Sanders taking the job

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00:59:12.030 --> 00:59:18.750

Anthony Washington: at a HBCU you're seeing some of these guys go to the schools right and if that happens enough

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00:59:19.350 --> 00:59:23.370

Anthony Washington: There's going to be attention brought on them, ESPN is gonna have to come knocking on the door.

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00:59:23.730 --> 00:59:37.080

Anthony Washington: That's money right for the conference that gets distributed to each school and is utilized in ways that could benefit not only that program, but the whole institution. Right. And we know that HBCUs are-

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00:59:37.890 --> 00:59:51.150

Anthony Washington: You know I know they got some funding, but there's always issues with funding that right there would solve that. Right. And so at least some of that. So even thinking like that, even thinking, you know,

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00:59:52.200 --> 01:00:00.750

Anthony Washington: the community on a larger scale on a national scale there's things that we could do. Just, just like that. Just going to HBCU but then you're asking a kid.

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01:00:01.230 --> 01:00:12.120

Anthony Washington: To, you know, be at that school, rather than North Carolina. Right. And so you don't understand, there's so many things, like you said, IT'S way easier said than done.

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01:00:12.840 --> 01:00:18.750

Anthony Washington: You're starting to see that type of stuff. And so that's a good sign. That's a really good sign.

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01:00:24.480 --> 01:00:43.710

Sarah Shultz: This has been so much fun. I have thoroughly enjoyed the conversation that we've been able to have. And I want to thank you so much for taking the time to speak with us today, for our audience for taking the time to engage this podcast is our last podcast for 2020.

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01:00:44.760 --> 01:00:48.720

Sarah Shultz: Right, because we are about to end 2020 and everybody can't be happier about the end of 2020.

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01:00:51.750 --> 01:00:55.590

Sarah Shultz: Will be returning with all new guest speakers in January and will continue to chat.

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01:00:56.190 --> 01:00:58.710

Sarah Shultz: About moving our bodies and progressing our futures.

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01:00:59.070 --> 01:01:12.870

Sarah Shultz: Information about the winter terms podcast schedule will be posting the upcoming weeks on our website and social media pages. That's also where we're going to be able to find the archived version of this podcast Tyler. Can you tell our friends. How to Find us on the World Wide Web, please.

408

01:01:13.890 --> 01:01:30.630

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01:01:31.500 --> 01:01:37.530

Sarah Shultz: Wonderful, thank you so much. That's all the time we have for today. Thanks again. And remember, be kind, be healthy and be active.