380,000

380,000 signify the number of students enrolled nationally in America’s colleges and universities whom have chosen to combine education and athletics. We know them as Student-Athletes. Student-Athletes must be able to balance a schedule of classes, study time, practices, road travel, and workouts. In essence, student-athletes must manage the demands of academics, athletics, and college life. The ability to perform in the classroom as well as the practice/game field calls for intense training. This training requires time, effort, and sacrifice - all of which are important in life after college.

The NCAA prides itself with the notion that "almost all student-athletes are going pro in something other than sports." Since only a very small percentage of collegiate athletes actually do go "pro" in sports, the other significantly larger proportion of student-athletes either continues their paths into further forms of academia or into the workforce. Nonetheless, no matter which path they choose, their ability to claim themselves as student-athletes separates them from the pack. In most cases, the term student-athlete can be associated with the characteristics of courage, pride, discipline, loyalty, integrity, and other innumerable virtues. An individual who is composed of such is likely to become successful in the post-college world, ultimately becoming the leaders of our society.

As for me, being a student-athlete has formed who I am today and will continue to shape who I am tomorrow. Though I undoubtedly know that my ability athletically and intellectually is not amongst the best of all the other 379,000 student-athletes, I do know that my preparation and sacrifice is just as, if not more than, the same. And while being a student-athlete at one of America’s top institution, that of Centre College, I am fully
aware of the time and effort that I have wielded in my 3 years here, but am also aware of the success and advantages I will have in the coming years.

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