

Featured Alum: Andre Jackson - Attended 1980

Years Attended: 1980

Area of Study: Athlete/Music

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FEATURED YC ALUM



Meet Andre Jackson
'The Player'
Attended 1980

Attending Yavapai College in 1980 Andre Jackson was a gifted athlete but did not continue his schooling here. Andre was and still is a very good athlete. He had more than 25 scholarship offers but because of his disability, which was not discovered until 1986, he could not take advantage of these different opportunities. Andre was born into an environment that challenged him; he was born with a handicap and suffers from ADD and dyslexia. He was always under the impression that he is not accepted in society, that people do not take him seriously because he can hardly read and write.

After being discovered in the movie "Major League," Andre played baseball for the California Angels. This experience changed his life. In 1988, he had the chance to play as an extra in the movie "Major League 1" with Charlie Sheen and Wesley Snipes. Andre did the hitting for Cerrano, the voodoo character in that famous baseball movie. What was very important: he impressed Charlie Sheen. With his help, Andre signed with the California Angels in 1989. Andre later went to Australia and New Zealand to play professional baseball there. He discovered his love for music and started to plan a professional career in that business. To this very day he plays baseball, the last two seasons (2006 and 2007) for the Goeppingen Green Sox in Germany. Andre's message is very simple: he wants to stand for something in his life and he has always tried to contribute to society even though he felt like the outcast. Andre wants to encourage people, especially people with disabilities, to live their dreams and to stand for something. We hope to bring him back to campus to share his amazing success story. He certainly is an inspiration to those with handicaps.

In 2003, he was a contestant on American Idol. Andre did not make it on the show but he impressed Antonio Brown Production with his talent and his energy. They decided to sponsor him. "The Player" went back into the studio in Atlanta last month in order to record with Seth Warren from Coalition Recordings Inc. He is also signed to that new and hot label! The music that can be heard on Myspace is not finished yet but it gives an idea of the style and the slamming beat.

Andre continues to achieve his goals, to which he is extremely dedicated. He is not only trying to release his music, but he continues as an athlete in Germany. Andre brings out the best in people with his huge heart, warm smile and outstanding charisma. Read more about this amazing alum by visiting his website at www.myspace.com/andretheplayerjackson.