

- 1) Name: Steven Cook
- 2) New Trier sport(s): Basketball
- 3) Suburb you lived in when you went to New Trier: Winnetka
- 4) What year did you graduate NT? 2013
- 5) Where do you live now? Chicago
- 6) Who was your coach? Scott Fricke
- 7) HS sports accomplishments/awards/honors:

- Illinois State Playoffs Super-sectional Finish
- All-Area Honors
- All-State Honors
- Chicago Sun Times Athlete of the Week
- 2012-2013 team captain

- 8) Favorite high school *individual sports* memory:

My favorite individual memory from New Trier Basketball was the sectional final game against Niles North in the state playoffs at Glenbrook North High School. The gym was packed with students from both sides making for an awesome environment. It was a hard fought game against the guys on Niles North who I had been playing against for years. We ended up winning that game to move on to the super-sectional and I had my personal best scoring performance in a high school game.

- 9) Favorite high school *team* memory:

My favorite high school team memory was our run in the 2013 state playoffs my senior year. We made it all the way to the super-sectional against Simeon, who had Jabari Parker at the time – the highest ranked high school recruit at the time. The team peaked at the right time of the year and everyone was playing their best basketball of the season. It was so much fun to play on a team that had grown so close and it showed on the court. Although we ended up losing a close, tough fought game at the Chicago State stadium against a great Simeon team, we made memories that I'll remember for a long time. My teammates and I still talk about that game when we get back together nowadays.

- 10) Who was your biggest team rival rival in HS, and where did they go to school?

Traditionally, our biggest rival at New Trier is always Evanston. Watching New Trier play growing up, I had always dreamed about playing against Evanston at Welsh-Ryan arena at Northwestern. When it was finally my chance to play against Evanston I always tried to make the most of it. I also regularly trained with players from Evanston in the off-season so that added an extra element of competitiveness to the games. I'm happy to say we came out with a positive record during those games and I made some incredible memories.

11) Favorite class and/or teacher at NT:

My favorite class at New Trier was AP Economics taught by Jennifer Niemi. I ended up majoring in Economics when I got to Princeton, and her class greatly influenced that decision. I loved coming to class every day. She was extremely engaging and made some of the introductory economics concepts fascinating, which is not an easy task. Having taken her classes in high school gave me a huge leg up when I got to college level courses as well.

12) Where did you attend college? Princeton University

13) Compare your HS sports experience to your college experience:

College basketball is a completely different ball game than high school. While I grew a tremendous amount from my experience playing basketball at New Trier, a lot more is expected and you are pushed to your limits on a daily basis at the college level. When you throw in high-level academics in the equation, it adds another degree of challenge. I chose Princeton largely because it would challenge me both on and off the court, and I would become the best version of myself as a result of those efforts. In the end, those efforts paid off and I was able to build some very special relationships, have some amazing experiences, and have a lot of fun along the way.

14) College sports accomplishments:

- 2-year captain
- 3-time All-Ivy League Honoree
- 2-time Academic All-Ivy League Honoree
- 2017 All-District First Team
- 2017 Undefeated Ivy League conference record and NCAA Tournament appearance
- 2017 CoSIDA Academic All-American in recognition of outstanding academic and athletic achievement, the program's first honoree since 1998
- Princeton Basketball Paul Friedman '81 Award, awarded rarely to a player for "Doing his very best every day in every way"
- One of five Division I basketball players honored on the court at the 2017 NCAA Final Four as member of the NABC Good Works Team
- Princeton University Department of Athletics Art Lane '34 Citizen Athlete Award for "Selfless contribution to sport and society as an undergraduate athlete"
- NCAA 2017 Senior CLASS Award honoring the attributes of NCAA Division I senior student-athletes in four areas: community, classroom, character, and competition
- William Winston Roper Trophy nominee for 2017 Princeton Male Athlete of the Year
- 2017 NABC Honors Court Honoree for Academic Achievement
- 2016 PNC Bank Student-Achiever Award recognizing exceptional leadership qualities as a student, athlete, and citizen
- 3-year Team Liaison to the Princeton Student Athlete Service Council organizing Men's Basketball volunteer and charitable activities
- Finished as program's 15th all-time leading scorer, 9th in 3-point field goals made

15) Favorite college sports moments:

My favorite college sports moment was playing in the NCAA tournament against Notre Dame. I had dreamed of playing in the NCAA tournament ever since I started playing basketball when I was growing up. Having the opportunity to fulfill that dream was extremely gratifying. In many ways, the game felt similar to the New Trier – Simeon game in high school. We were underdogs as a 12-seed playing against a 4-seed, although we knew it was a good matchup for us. It was a tight game for 40 minutes, and we had a few opportunities to win the game right at the end. Unfortunately a couple shots didn't drop for us, and we ended up losing by 2. Regardless of the outcome, it was an incredible memory I'll have forever.

My other favorite college sports moment was just before the NCAA tournament game, when we defeated Yale in the Ivy League Conference Tournament to complete our undefeated Ivy League Season. We were the first team to go 16-0 in Ivy League history, as they had just instituted a conference tournament that year. The feeling of the fans rushing the court after the buzzer sounded and celebrating with my teammates was an incredible feeling I'll never forget.

16) Area of study: Economics

17) What do you do now?

I recently finished playing 2 seasons of professional basketball overseas – one season in Estonia and one season in the Netherlands. Professional basketball was an incredible experience and I'm really glad I took advantage of the opportunity to continue playing. I learned a lot about what it means to be a professional in every sense of the word, connected with people from all over the world, and got to travel the world along the way. While I enjoyed my time overseas, there are a lot of things I want to do outside of basketball and I was ready to move on to new endeavors after this season.

I spent the last four months since I finished playing overseas traveling throughout Southeast Asia, Europe, and doing service work in Uganda. Now that I am back in the U.S. I'm looking for opportunities to build my financial acumen and work in private equity.

18) If you could go back in time and give yourself advice/wisdom as you are starting Freshman year at New Trier, what would that advice be?

My advice would be to read more, travel more, and be open to new experiences. Since I entered college and played overseas I've become a voracious reader, traveled to new places, and experienced many new things. This has exposed me to so many new ideas and ways of looking at the world, which has greatly expanded my range of thinking. The benefits of doing these things compound over time, so naturally I wish I began sooner.

19) What would you do differently if you could do it again?

I wouldn't change many things in the past, but one thing I wish I took the time to do when I was in high school was to join clubs and other opportunities that were outside of my normal interests and circle of people. At times, I fell into the tendency at New Trier to stay engaged with basketball as much as possible and I missed out on opportunities to explore other interests. Part of this was due to time constraints, but it was also because it was most comfortable. I would imagine this is true for many students at New Trier who tend to stay in their usual lane and circles of people. I would encourage everyone to join clubs or try new things that are outside of their normal wheelhouse because you never

know what you might find interesting. This attitude has served me well and I only wish I had started earlier!





