

College of Education and Human Development Alumna Finds Success in the WNBA

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Dana Evans graduated from the University of Louisville Sport Administration program in May of 2020. A Gary, Indiana native and star player on the UofL women's basketball team, Evans has opened her next chapter in Chicago, Illinois where she plays professional basketball for the WNBA Chicago Sky. During her time at UofL, Evans made an enormous impact on the UofL basketball program, winning a plethora of accolades including Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American in back-to-back seasons, ACC All-Academic Team for three seasons, and an appearance at the 2021 NCAA Final Four. While renowned, Evans' basketball endeavors haven't kept her far from home. In fact, her family was her inspiration for picking up a basketball in the first place.

"I grew up with three brothers in the household, so that was something that made me tougher," Evans explained. "I always played against [my older brothers], and I would go to the gym and watch my dad play too, so I was always around the game. I just kind of fell in love with [basketball] and it has taken me a lot of different places."

Scouted by several schools, Evans chose the University of Louisville, where she played alongside a talented roster.

"I chose Louisville because it was far enough [from home] for me to be able to grow up on my own and get into a routine of being by myself," she explained. "It's a winning culture, the program was stable, the coaches have been there for a while, and I knew that we had the talent to do something special."

With one trip to the NCAA Final Four and three to the Elite 8, Evans certainly made the most of her time as a collegiate basketball standout.

A standout on the court, basketball wasn't the only place Evans aimed to excel in at UofL. As a student in the Sport Administration program, she was able to explore her love of sports on an academic level.

"I wasn't sure during my first year and a half of what I wanted to be or what I wanted to do. I would talk to my academic advisor a lot, and I felt like I had to stay in sports because it's something that I love and know so well."

The CEHD Sport Administration program, housed in the Department of Health and Sport Sciences, gave her that opportunity as well as the chance to pursue an internship in sport psychology.

"I worked with Vanessa Shannon," Evans explained. Shannon serves as the UofL Director of Mental Performance, helping athletes overcome mental barriers and better understand the

psychology behind sport and athletics. “My internship helped me realize a lot of things that I can do better on and off to court. I was actually learning more about myself too during that process.”

As Evans begins her season with the Chicago Sky, she is looking forward the future, and intends to give back.

“My mindset and relationship with God have improved over the last two years. The next stage of my life, I want to be able to uplift others more and take the attention off myself. I feel like when you do that, good things always happen. When you are a genuine person, your blessings will come.”