

USC Senior Doucette, Former Men's Basketball Forward, Wins 2008 Rhodes Scholarship

Becomes fourth Trojan athlete to receive the prestigious honor

Nov. 18, 2007

 ">Printer-Friendly Format

 ">E-mail this article

LOS ANGELES - Reed Doucette, a USC senior who was a forward on the Trojan men's basketball team the past four seasons, has been named a winner of a 2008 Rhodes Scholarship.

Doucette becomes the ninth USC student-and fourth Trojan student-athlete-to win the prestigious scholarship, which is the oldest international fellowship and brings outstanding students from countries around the world to the University of Oxford in England.

"It's a great honor to represent USC and the basketball team in particular," said the 22-year-old Doucette. "I've always had great educational ambitions and am proud to accept such a prestigious scholarship. Playing sports is something the Rhodes Scholarship committee values and my Trojan athletic career will serve me well at Oxford. It has been rewarding to represent the USC athletic department and the Trojan Family as best as I could during my playing career."



Reed Doucette becomes USC's fourth athlete to receive a Rhodes Scholarship.

The other USC student-athletes who have won a Rhodes Scholarship are trackster James O'Toole (1966), football quarterback Pat Haden (1975) and Olympic swimmer Desmond Koh (1995). The other USC students who were Rhodes Scholars were Frank Swain (1913), J.F. Goley (1938), Gerald Brown (1938), Holly Wyatt (1989) and Tara Silvestri (1990).

Doucette is among 80 students from around the world, including 32 Americans, to receive a Rhodes Scholarship for 2008.

Doucette was a 6-6 reserve walk-on forward who appeared in 17 games in his Trojan career (2005-07). He scored 6 points and grabbed 5 rebounds in 23 minutes of action. He was a member of USC's 2007 squad that advanced to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament and won more game (25) than any team in Trojan history. He redshirted in the 2004 season after coming to USC from Lodi (Calif.) High, where he was a 2-time All-League player and was his class valedictorian.

He had another season (2008) of athletic eligibility available at USC, but decided to concentrate on academics in his final year as a Trojan.

Doucette twice (2006 and 2007) won a Tommy Award at USC, presented to the male student-athlete with the highest grade point average. He had a 3.98 GPA as a mechanical engineering major with a minor in business.

A USC Presidential Scholar, he has done research at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to improve the efficiency of catalytic converters and the effectiveness of medical implants. He is now doing research involving chemistry, physics, engineering and biology to optimize the efficiency of solar cells.

Doucette co-founded an organization that has provided consulting services to more than 30 Los Angeles community projects.

At Oxford, he plans to get a master's degree in engineering science.

The Rhodes Scholarships were established in 1903 by Cecil Rhodes, who "dreamed of improving the world through the diffusion of leaders motivated to serve their contemporaries, trained in the contemplative life of the mind, and broadened by their acquaintance with one another and by their exposure to cultures different from their own."

Rhodes hoped that his plan of bringing able students to study at Oxford would aid in the promotion of international understanding and peace.

Each year, 32 U.S. citizens are among the approximately 80 Rhodes Scholars worldwide who take up degree courses at Oxford.

Rhodes was a British-born South African businessman, mining magnate and politician. He was the founder of the diamond company De Beers.