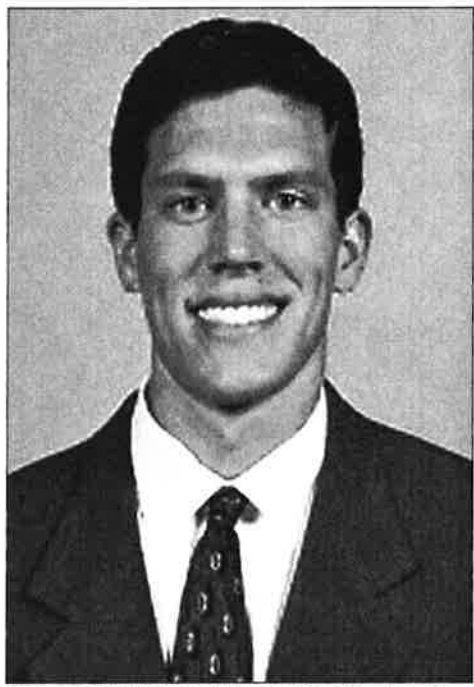


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Former Lodi High School valedictorian Reed Doucette was named a 2007 Rhodes Scholar on Sunday. The prestigious award will provide Doucette the opportunity to pursue further studies at Oxford University in England. (Courtesy photo)

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- Lights, camera, murder
- Lodi's Reed Doucette named a Rhodes Scholar
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Lodi's Reed Doucette named a Rhodes Scholar

By Ross Farrow
News-Sentinel Staff Writer
Last updated: Monday, November 19, 2007 6:48 AM PST
Comments (8 comment(s))

Lodi now has a Rhodes Scholar in its midst.

Reed Doucette, who is finishing up his studies at the University of Southern California, was one of two Californians to earn the prestigious scholarship to Oxford University.

The announcement was made late Saturday afternoon in San Francisco.

Doucette, valedictorian for the Lodi High School Class of 2003 and a star basketball player for the Flames, endured a grueling interview on Saturday before the announcement was made.

Questions ranged from what he hoped to accomplish at Oxford, to world events, to how to drown a witch.

Apparently, all 16 California finalists were thrown some oddball questions, like the one about the witch. Doucette thinks interviewers came up with that question after finding out through the USC basketball Web site that "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" is one of Doucette's favorite movies.

"It's not so much what you say, but how you say it," he said, describing one of the keys to winning the scholarship.

Then came the announcement.

"I was pretty stunned when I won," Doucette said. "You just don't expect to get that kind of news."

Although it will be hard to not think ahead to jolly old England, Doucette still has to complete his studies at USC. He is scheduled to get his engineering degree in May. Then he'll head to Oxford when classes open in the fall. He'll be there two years to get his master's degree in engineering science.

"I'd like to study alternative energy sources and combine a career advancing causes of sustainable energy," Doucette said.

All about Rhodes Scholarship

The Rhodes Trust was created in 1902 by the will of Cecil Rhodes, a British philanthropist and African colonial pioneer. The first class of American Rhodes Scholars entered in 1904. Candidates are first endorsed by their college or university and then judged by representatives of the family trust. Applicants are chosen on the basis of criteria actually set down in the will. They include high academic achievement, integrity, unselfishness, respect for others, leadership potential and personal vigor. Two hundred nine applicants from 98 universities reached the final stage of the competition. Thirty-two Americans were chosen from 16 regions. California is one of the 16 regions. About 85 scholars are selected elsewhere in the world each year.

Source: The Rhodes Trust.

Had he not become a Rhodes Scholar, Doucette said he would have applied for jobs and probably attended graduate school.

A 6-foot, 6-inch forward, Doucette was a walk-on basketball player for three years at USC.

A USC Presidential Scholar, Doucette has done research at 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, according to the USC Web site. He has a 3.98 grade-point average at USC.

The son of Tom and Barbara Doucette of Lodi, Reed Doucette didn't single out anyone in particular for leading him on his path to Oxford.

"One of those things during the interview (that) you realize is that you can learn something from everybody,"

he said. "That's not me blowing smoke. There were so many people who had an influence on me. All my teachers at Lodi High and St. Anne's had a big impact."

Doucette had a 4.5 grade-point average at Lodi High and scored an impressive 1540 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test during his senior year.

Contact reporter Ross Farrow at rossf@lodinews.com.

Reader Feedback

8 comment(s)

But can he dunk on Kobe ? wrote on **Nov 19, 2007 4:47 PM:**

" Ironically enough, we're all probably better off that he's not good enough to go to the NBA. He'll most likely benefit many more people in his academic and career endeavors. "

Wow.... wrote on **Nov 19, 2007 3:53 PM:**

" what an accomplishment and an honor! Congratulations!! "

Becky Jauregui wrote on **Nov 19, 2007 3:18 PM:**

" Reed, You are so deserving! Congratulations and best of luck to you. You make Lodi High proud! "

Patricia wrote on **Nov 19, 2007 12:31 PM:**

" Awesome! Congratulations to the family..and God bless your journey, Reed. "

M Cook wrote on **Nov 19, 2007 10:40 AM:**

" Congratulations to Reed. This is a great honor and achievement for a fine young man and wonderful family. Best wishes from all of your Lodi family. "

Dave Kovich wrote on **Nov 19, 2007 10:27 AM:**

" As one of Reed's former teachers, I would like to congratulate him on this incredibly significant accomplishment (to add to a growing list!). He is simply an outstanding young man. Also, a huge congratulations to his family. "

Very Impressive wrote on **Nov 19, 2007 10:01 AM:**

" I am not surprised by any of Reed's accomplishments but that is flat impressive. Congratulations to the Doucette family. "

Weezer wrote on **Nov 19, 2007 8:41 AM:**

" Congratulations to one of Lodi's best ever. "

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- **Personal attacks, insults or threats.**
- **The use of another person's real name to disguise your identity.**
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If you believe that a commenter has not followed these guidelines, please use our online complaint form.

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