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Ray Smith was supposed to be a college basketball star for a national powerhouse. We should have oooh'd and ahhh'd as we watched him fly over the rim and throw dunks, snatch rebounds and swat shots for the University of Arizona Wildcats. It's a sad story, but incredibly, with an encouraging ending. Smith's college hoops career is finally set to start this Tuesday after a run of bad luck delayed his fate. Instead, his promising future on hardwood was unfairly interrupted before he could even get started. SEE ALSO: Cliff Alexander and NBA Draft Grief you've never heard of Smith arrived at Arizona's Tucson campus a year ago as a top-flight rookie from Las Vegas. Recruiting site Rivals.com his 17th best player in the high school class of 2015, while ESPN.com has put him the nation's third-best small forward rookie. He could run the word and finish with power. The NBA career was very much in the game; at least, one can assume he could make a lot of money playing pro ball abroad. This blend of high school zest since March 2014 demonstrates Smith's tantalizing potential as a 6-foot-8 wing player. Smith missed his senior season at Las Vegas High School after tearing an ACL tendon in his right knee. But it seemed like a small setback - he was young and talented, and still has his entire career ahead of him. Smith worked his way back onto the court and Arizona is still happy to add it to its vaunted 2015 recruiting class. But in October of that year, just as his first season was set to start, Smith tore an ACL in his right knee. A budding basketball star suffers not one but two ACL tears back in his teens? It was a blow to massively bad luck. However, Smith underwent surgery. Once again. He's soaked through rehab. Once again. This Tuesday night, he finally took to the court in Arizona's uniform for the first time. After missing his last high school season and his first college season, the moment was a long time coming. On Halloween, he shared his anticipation Tuesday night on Twitter. Excited to play his first college game tomorrow @@@@ - Ray Smith (@raysmith2297) November 1, 2016 Excitement will be short-lived, however. Smith scored four points and grabbed two rebounds in 10 minutes of game time Tuesday night. But in the first half, he left the court to check on the locker room. He returned in the second half but fell to the floor on a contactless play. This time he was taken off the court. For the third time in three years, Smith tore his ACL. For the second time in three years, it was his right ACL that gave way. At 25 years old I was a college basketball coach, I never felt as helpless as I did when I saw him go down Tuesday night, Arizona coach Sean Miller said in a statement released by the school. Smith, middle, reacts teammates on the Arizona bench during the NCAA Tournament last season. Image: AP/Icon SportsWire via AP Images No. 19-year-old child must experience three season-ending injuries in a 30-month period, Miller said. I watched Ray work with our strength and conditioning coach relentlessly for two years. I saw him in our training room around the clock, doing his best to play the game he loves. Witnessing his extraordinary efforts and seeing how it happens to him is not disheartening again. Smith announced Thursday afternoon that after three ACL tears in three years, he was ending his basketball career before he really even started. It is reported that he will undergo another operation in the near future. I love playing basketball, but I decided to move away from the game forever, he wrote in a message posted on Twitter, adding that he still plans to visit Arizona and stay in touch with the team. But he warned fans and observers against pitying his fate. It's not a letter to be sad, because when I look at the opportunities basketball presented to me, I'm grateful, Smith wrote. Less than 48 hours after his last ACL tear, Smith returned to Arizona practice helping teammates go through the drills. On Tuesday night, hours after he was injured, but before he announced his early retirement, Smith took to Twitter and posted a message. In it, he put his predicament in perspective. Thanks to all the fans, but I'm blessed to be where I am. One of my Vegas brothers was killed in his apartment the other day. - Ray Smith (@raysmith2297) November 2, 2016 So we can ask ourselves about a career that never happened and the brightest moments we'll never see. But Ray Smith seems to be fine. The Associated Press contributed to this report. Our product selections have been verified by editors and approved by experts. We can earn commissions on links on our website. Forget the mystery of Mondays meat and freshman 15. These dining rooms offer 5-star meals well enough that no co-ed ever miss cooking moms again on April 12, 2014 1 in 10 You can't spend most of your student years buried in books in the library or record notes at 8am lecture halls-sorry, mom and dad, but you'll spend a fair share of the time dining. In recent years, campus dining programs have captured the attention, and money, of major universities. Goal? Keep these hungry college students satisfied and avoid freshman 15 love handles. Here's a roundup of the best chow universities down. We will activate our lunch cards as soon as possible. Photo by Paul Turang/UCLA 2 of 10 University of Massachusetts, Amherst We Food is serious, says Ken Toong, executive director of support services at UMass, Amherst. We strive to serve our students healthy, sustainable and delicious food in every meal. Four residential The halls offer 15 cuisines of the world every day, including over 3,000 sushi rolls, roast stations, wild salmon, beef and chicken sliders, and local free roasted turkey. Since 2009, the dining program has also featured a stealth health program that implements smaller portions, less sodium, fewer processed ingredients, and healthy oils in all meals, meaning no matter what students choose, their food will be a little better for them. Photo Courtesy of UMass Amherst Dining Services 3 of the 10 University of Notre Dame You can't have anything in Notre Dame without football, including dining. Both North and South dining common to provide students with candlelit lunches immediately after home games, featuring special dishes like seafood bisque, steak from top filets, and chipotle glazed vegetables. The dining rooms themselves found themselves at their best, with white tablecloths, mood music, candles, flowers, and occasional ice sculptures, creating a special old-world atmosphere at Hogwarts-esque circa 1920s South Dining Hall. Recently, the Food Services Program partnered with the student government of Notre Dame to introduce more sustainable and local cuisine in canteens, finding food within 250 miles of Indiana University. Photo Courtesy of the University of Notre Dame 4 of emory's 10 university community is a catchphrase for Emory University's Dobbs Market dining room, which serves about 3,000 meals every day. We have several features designed to provide additional services to various members of our community, including a special gluten-free station, a special vegan station, and a special kosher station, said David Furhman, Senior Director of Food Services at Emory. Dobbs Market is also completely peanut-, tree nuts and shellfish, making it a safer and more hospitable dining area for everyone. Dobbs also provides seasonal meals and cooking classes to help students better appreciate seasonal food ingredients, including the Heritage Turkey festival in the fall. At least you know your student is learning that there is more than a bird butterball. Photo Courtesy emory University 5 of 10 James Madison University ranked No. 2 for Best Food in Princeton Review, James Madison University has 25 dining locations, including its 800-seat Gibbons and East Campus halls. The new East Campus Hall has tandoori ovens that serve fresh naan and tandoori chicken at each meal, as well as a homemade ice cream station. Gibbons is known for comfort food, including a popular Thursday fried cheese and tomato soup special. Nutrition also sponsors several farmers' markets each year, giving students the opportunity to purchase locally produced products. Photo courtesy Aramark/JMU Dining Services 6 of 10 Wheaton College Wheaton College Anderson covers changes, with menu menu Each station is in common changing daily and seasonally to best incorporate locally grown ingredients. We don't believe in just offering a few healthy menu options, but those that also contribute to a healthy environment and community, says Raul Delgado, general manager of Bon Appetite. Wheaton's food service company. We have an area of our cafe called On Your Service where guests can come up and ask our chefs questions about the menu to help them make the best, healthier choice for them. For students too shy to ask experts, the menu emphasizes the use of fresh produce, legumes and whole grains - all as sustainably sourced as possible, so a healthy lifestyle can be built in Wheaton, even if it is unintentional. Photo Courtesy of Wheaton College 7 of 10 UCLA, Los Angeles As you'd expect from a university at the heart of beauty-conscious Hollywood, UCLA's dining services focus on all things healthy. The newly opened Bruin Plate is one of the first fully medical canteens in the country and provides a useful seasonal menu with unprocessed and preservative-free items, organic products, cage-free eggs, nutritious ingredients, and extended vegetarian and vegan options. Designed for healthy eating day in and day out. Bruin Plate offers all entrees under 400 calories, with less than 30 percent of those calories made from fat. For students still associated with freshman 15, the university also employs an education nutrition coordinator who is available to answer dietary questions. Photo Linley Flick/UCLA 8 of Yale University's 10 you can feel the Ivy League in all of Yale's dining rooms, including crystal chandeliers, art galleries, and state white columns of Palladian architecture designed to harken back to colonial times. The dining rooms also offer a monthly etiquette class for outgoing seniors where they can learn how to properly equip the kitchen, how to eat and introduce themselves to a business dinner, as well as the basics of food and wine pairing. The dining restaurant offers dishes based on everything you need and the menu varies depending on seasonal availability. Regardless of the season, students can always expect a hot breakfast, including eggs and hot cross buns, burgers and chicken for lunch and dinner, and yogurt or pudding dessert. For special occasions, a spruce dinner brings out quirky menu items such as Turkish Bulger salad, celery and apple salad with glazed walnuts, blackened som with herbs, and raspberry gold ice cake. Photo by Michael Marsland/Yale University 9 of 10 Cornell University Home over 30 canteens, cafes, food courts and coffee shops. Cornell ensures that no student Long. Also, with a consistent ranking among the top 10 colleges for food production, according to the Princeton Review, Cornell proves that it's not just quantity, but quality too. Too. You can choose from all-American classics, sushi, Mexican, Thai, Indian, and fusion. The university also has Fair Trade Coffee and works with more than 25 regional farmers to source about one-quarter of its ingredients from companies within 250 miles of campus. For muggles among you, Cornell hosts a night at Hogwarts themed evening, featuring British fare, butter cream, chocolate frogs, and live ancoats from Cornell Predator program. Photo Courtesy Cornell University Photography 10 of Columbia University's 10 forced to compete with the culinary superabundance, which is a New York, Columbia University dining room steps up its game with appetizers like J.J.'s Steamobell Sandwich, buffalo chicken, and Thai chicken salad wraps. The university also embraces the stealth health movement, eliminating trans fats in cooking and using local, fresh foods. Aside from eating well, the dining room encourages students to do good by donating more than 100 pounds of food each week to charities in the community. For health conscious, dining services also offer an online nutrition calorie calculator plan, allowing students to choose their entrees and sides and automatically counting their calories, protein, fiber, sodium and carbohydrates. 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