

The Roe's Hatch

February 22, 2024



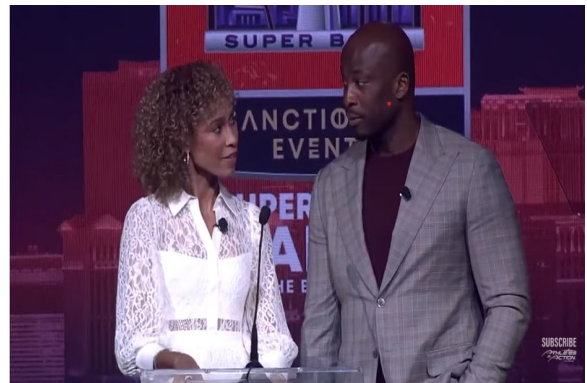
Caleb Hill played basketball for Edgewood College in Madison. He's a newly reported staff on the Athletes in Action team. Here he is interviewing Wisconsin Badgers basketball player Chris Hodges at Badger Cru.

Dear Friends,

Athletes can be a key factor in reaching others. Cru has realized this since its beginnings at UCLA in the 1950s. In the 1960s, Cru launched Athletes in Action, which reaches and equips professional and amateur athletes to serve in scores of countries. AIA's tremendous platform includes hosting the annual NFL-sanctioned Super Bowl Breakfast where the Bart Starr Award and the hope of Christ is presented. This year 60 people indicated decisions to accept Christ after the event and 200 more expressed interest in learning about the Christian faith.



Cru founder Bill Bright with Olympic decathlete Rafer Johnson.



You can watch this year's event at superbowlbreakfast.com

The Lord is also reaching and using student athletes on our campuses in Wisconsin.

Silvio is one of those student athletes. Coming to college to play on UW-Whitewater's perennially successful team, he lived as he was, one without the hope and help of Christ, prone to party and more. But the Lord was working, and he accepted a teammate's invitation to Cru Live.

Later in the fall he met with Jordan, a movement leader on the Southern Wisconsin staff team, and placed his faith in Christ. Finding forgiveness and direction, Silvio's life changed. He expe-

rienced great community and has been a joy and influence to those around him.

Recently, he was given an opportunity to share about his changed life at Whitewater's weekly meeting. A record 216 students attended that meeting with maybe 50 athletes including many of Silvio's teammates.

Silvio was honest and vulnerable while being full of gratitude and encouragement. Athletes and nonathletes listened intently to his journey of faith as he shared in fresh ways what a relationship with God was about.

A student recorded his testimony, so I got Silvio's permission to share it with you as it is an amazing look into his life and the people around him. Scan the QR code here to watch it. I think you'll be encouraged, but we ask that you not share it with others.



Upcoming Events to Know and Pray for:

- [Feb 22-29](#) *Join the Story Outreach* where people will be sharing their testimonies online and in person. Pray God uses these steps of faith to strengthen those sharing their stories and reaches many who read or watch them. Read some at [JointheStory.net](#)
- [March 1-2](#) Men's and Women's Retreats.
- [March 11-15](#) Freshmen Takeover Week can be a fun week for the youngest class to get their feet wet leading outreaches, Bible studies, and other things like the weekly meeting.
- [March 13](#) Faculty Appreciation Dinner. Students are inviting favorite faculty to honor them and sow seeds of the gospel into their lives. We know of one professor who came to Christ following last year's dinner.
- [March 22-30](#) Two Spring Break Mission trips to Havana, Cuba, and Panama City Beach, Florida, with over 80 students signed up so far! This will be Scott's first trip to Cuba.
- [April 1-5](#) Easter Outreach at UW-Whitewater
- [April 18](#) Vision Night at Badger Cru. Register at [WisconsinCru.com](#) to if you are able to join us.
- [April 19-21](#) Next year's intern training. We might have 7 interns next year on our Southern Wisconsin campuses!

Along with the football team, God is working among other athletes in Whitewater. Four baseball players accepted Jesus this last fall and went through 5 weeks of follow up with a former teammate. One of those new believers started a Bible study for the team which sees 8 to 9 players attending on a given week. It's fun to see them sitting together on Tuesday nights at Cru Live.

The cross-country team also has a new Bible study this year. 13 men on the team had been meeting under the direction of 2 players, one who came to Christ through Cru a year-and-a-half ago. In recent months, women on the team became interested, so now it's co-ed.

It makes sense that the athletes have found ways to affect fellow teammates with whom their lives naturally intersect each week. Yet their influence hasn't stopped on their teams. Athletes from other sports are impacted and it's even fostering an overall feel in the whole Whitewater movement of warmth and celebration.

Praise God for the lives that are being transformed on Southern Wisconsin campuses. Your prayers and investments make a difference.

Thank you!

Scott & Bonnie Roe