

Crow Tribal Member Making His Mark As A Seminole

By Dana Wilson

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Crow tribal member Rayquan Evans, member of the Greasy Mouth clan, and son of Lavern Old Elk and Israel Evans, is making his mark on the Florida State University basketball program.

He is a 2017 graduate of Skyview High School, in Billings Montana. Evans is a state AA champion his sophomore and junior years and a third place trophy winner earned all-state honors, as named by USA Today. He earned Class AA All State first team and eastern class AA all-conference first team honors as a senior.

From there he graduated from North Idaho College in 2019 with an associate's degree social science and he recognized as the Northwest Athletic Conference Male Basketball Athlete of the Year in 2019

He was also named to the All-East Region Defensive Team and as the East Region MVP in 2019 He led the Cardinals to a two-year combined record of 56-10 and they finished with a combined 27-5 overall record in NWAC play, including a perfect 16-0 record during the 2018-19 season.

Evans averaged 18.2 points, 7.4 rebounds and 4.9 assists in leading North Idaho to its second consecutive Northwest Athletic Conference Championship. He shot .552 percent from the field and .781 percent from the free throw line in his second season and scored in double figures in each of his games as a sophomore with his season-high of 32 points, six assists and two steals coming in NIC's victory over Walla Walla in the NWAC Tournament championship game as a senior.

Evans helped lead North Idaho to the 2019 NWAC Championship, where he averaged 23.3 points in three tournament games including a double-double of 18 points and 15 rebounds in the Cardinals' semifinal round victory over Everett Community College.

Evans lived in Billings as a youth, but then his family moved to Minneapolis. He came back to the state for high school, a sport he hopes to continue after college, he said.

"My biggest challenge was trying to keep head focused on main goal," Evans said of his time in school at North Idaho College. "Junior college changed my life, because I learned a lot about myself and how I have to stay focused to get where I want to go."

He did say being alone at first was the toughest thing he had to overcome.

"It's ok to leave (home). I've had to leave my family a lot of times, and it was hard, and still is, but I know they'll always be there and I have their support," he said.

Evans is continuing his social science track at FSU and is weighing options about what type of career he is aiming for, he said.

"I do want to continue to play after college," he said.

Evans, who spent most of his childhood in the city, said it does feel weird being back in a city, but the Florida humidity is what is really surprising.

"Otherwise, It's just another big city," he said.

Evans has traveled a lot for the sport he loves and encourages kids from small towns to do the same.

“Don’t be scared to leave, being on your own can be scary, but being away, for me, is one of the best things that could happen to me. It helps you appreciate the support and home more,” he said.

Evans spends a lot of his time in practice, class or working out for the team so organization is important to him. He suggests learning a routine and sticking with it manage time.

“I’m really looking forward to getting RayQuan into our rotation. He simply needs playing time to gain his confidence back after missing valuable time when he was injured,” said FSU Seminoles Head Coach Leonard Hamilton. “He’s a very smart player who thinks the game well and has a high basketball IQ. He’s a very instinctive player who is a valuable member of our team; he’s a player who will contribute to the success of our team this year.”

Evans, said he bring a positive attitude to the team and is pretty good at playing his role, and bringing his energy to the environment during a game.

“This is something I’ve dreamed about my whole life, he said. “Always work hard and put everything you have into something you love, don’t be afraid of losing people along the way. If you put your heart into something and not worry about what people say or think, the sky’s the limit”.