



# SUCCESS STORIES

## from Michigan City Area Schools

### SUCCESS begins with William Walker

...PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER

...SCHOLAR ATHLETE

...MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

As a child, William Walker dreamed of playing professional basketball. Now he's living that dream as a power forward for the Sodertalje Kings, a Swedish team, averaging 15 points and 6 rebounds per game. "It took me a while to get used to the physical and fast style of play in Europe," he says. "But now I'm the leading scorer for my team. It helps that I have a 7'2" wingspan and a nice jumpshot."

**SCHOOL DAYS:** William attended Niemann Elementary and Krueger Middle School, and graduated in 2005 from Michigan City High School. He credits a long list of coaches and teachers with helping him succeed — including his mother, Kathy Walker, a teacher at Elston Middle School. "Teachers pushed me on the track, on the field, on the court, and in the classroom," he says. "They saw I had potential, and they expected a lot from me."

**STAR POWER:** William was MVP for the Wolves his junior and senior year. . . and an honor roll student, a member of the football and track teams, and a saxophonist in band. At Bethel College, where he earned a degree in Sports Management, he scored over 2,000 points and grabbed more than 1,000 rebounds for the Pilots. This past fall, he was named NAIA Division II Player of the Year.



**FUTURE PLANS:** "I want to make it to the NBA!" For now, though, he's enjoying playing overseas and traveling the world. "I'd like to stay involved in sports, whether it's coaching, or maybe venue management or marketing for a pro team."

**SECRET TO SUCCESS:** "Trust in God. And stay mentally tough. Prepare your mind and body as if every day is game day!"

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