

## Not Ready by Rashaan Brooks

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Yo Papi, wassup, lemme get a cheesesteak. Yea a platter, you know I need the fries. Salt, pepper ketchup, fried onions, mayo, hot peppers and lettuce. Yea not too much mayo though, you know how I like it. How long will it be pop? Yoooo, what's good bro, you good? We cooked yall bad at the courts yesterday. Have you recovered yet? (Laugh). Yea ard, if you play like yesterday yall will never get a W.

Forgot all that though, tomorrow's the big day though, you ready? I know you're gonna be smiling all crazy, when you walk across the stage. You might as well do a little dance before they give you your diploma, for the pictures. (He laughs).

The real question is though, what you doing next fall bro? What you mean you don't know, oh are you still waiting to hear from a college or something? I know most of the seniors in my school decided in May. Naw, so what happened to Kutztown and IUP? That's wild, I was positive they would accept you for real for real, what about CCP? Don't talk down on CCP, college is college. It's cheaper and at the end of the day getting the degree is important, forget what the name of the school says. We're black so seeking higher education is always an accomplishment.

Yo you gotta go to college, you might as well. Bro, what do you mean nobody will accept you? There are 4,000 colleges and universities in this country, somebody will give you a chance. Everybody's school didn't necessarily prepare them for college, but there's resources there out there to help you.

Hold up, real quick, tell me how many points D.Rose averaged in his MVP season. 25 points a game, that's poppin right? Can you tell me what his free throw percentage was? 86% bro, that's pretty good. Oh you would've been 100%? You right I

believe you. Peep game though, there's 13 of us in the group chat not including me. How many of y'all are going to College? Just 3 of 13 are going to college. Imagine if you shot 3 for 13 in our pickup games, you would say that you played ass right? Me too, of course you would, that's terrible. Do you know what percent that is? 23%, wow I didn't even know that off the top of my head. That just showed me a lot about you bro, you just spit those numbers out like it was nothing, so tell me why you can't become a statistician? You're so intelligent and I'm not even tryna spice it yo, that's real rap. We've been cool for like 5 years now, and you've been that way since I met you, you can tell me so many sports facts and percentages about your favorite players, you can survive in college. Only 33% of black men graduate college. So don't think that Brandon, Jeff, and Travis going to college is good enough. We are hurting the national average for no reason. All I'm saying is give it a chance. I'm the young boul of the group and I'm setting the example for yall. I'm supposed to be looking up to y'all, but instead I feel like y'all are relying on me to make it. I'd rather make it with y'all, together, as the gang that we are.

Everybody's school didn't necessarily prepare them for college, but there's resources there out there to help you. Naw, I don't know exactly where I'm gonna go, but I'm only a junior, so I got some time. What I do know is this cheesesteak platter boutta be dumb good. You already know how i'm rockin. Ay bro, can I get a dollar for a drink though? Good look yo, actually naw take it back, use that jawn for your education.

(He hands the dollar to his friend, and they both laugh)