

Greg Smith, II



College – Saint Joseph's University – Erivan K. Haub School of Business

High School – Rutgers Preparatory School

Parents – L. Greg and Fran Smith

Degree \ Major – Bachelor of Science - Business Administration – Finance –Dean's List All 8 Semesters

Career – Investment Analyst at Barclays



Saint Joseph's versus Davidson

Saint Joseph's versus LaSalle



Graduation Day



Saint Joseph's versus Loyola Chicago

Greg Smith, II

Saint Joseph's University

Hawk Hill – Philadelphia, PA

Atlantic Ten Conference



Greg Smith Scores versus St. Bonaventure

2020 Graduate Finds Success on and off the Court



by Gabrielle Lacherza | April 22, 2020



Greg Smith (5) Class of '20 scores against Big 5 rival Temple last season. Josh Pierre-Louis of Temple looks on in the background



“An example of believing in one’s self, determination and perseverance...”

- Don DiJulia, Assistant to The President and Former Athletic Director, Saint Joseph’s University

Greg Smith’s lifelong childhood dream was to play Division I college men’s basketball. “Basketball is in my DNA,” Smith ‘20 says.

Smith, whose father played for Seton Hall University, has been playing basketball for as long as he can remember. He grew up with a deep passion and love for the game and went on to become a standout high school player at Rutgers Prep.

After a successful high school career, Smith wasn’t receiving the college offers he had hoped for. “I didn’t want to give up on my goals and made the decision to look at schools where I could potentially be a walk-on candidate,” Smith explains.

Smith’s sister was attending Saint Joseph’s University, so he was familiar with the campus and the Jesuit educational tradition. “Saint Joseph’s had everything I was looking for in a school and provided a nice sense of familiarity,” he says.

During his freshman year on Hawk Hill, Smith prepared to try out for the reigning A-10 champions. He made it to the practice round of tryouts, but ultimately fell short of making the team.

“This was the first year of my life that I wasn’t playing basketball. It was a big adjustment for me and motivated me to work even harder,” he says.

After his freshman year, Smith made the decision to transfer to Rutgers University, in hopes of walking on to their men’s basketball program. The school was also closer in proximity to his hometown of Flemington, N.J.

He spent the fall semester of his sophomore year on Rutgers’ New Brunswick campus adjusting to a new environment and training for their team’s tryouts. But again, he did not make the final roster. That only added fuel to his fire.

After much reflection and consideration, Smith decided to transfer back to Saint Joseph’s and returned to Hawk Hill the spring semester of his sophomore year.

“Saint Joseph’s doesn’t feel like just a college campus, it feels like a family and I knew that’s where I wanted to be with or without basketball,” Smith says.

As a junior, Smith tried out once more for the Hawks and ultimately accomplished his lifelong dream. He made the team for the 2018-2019 season. “It was one of the highlights of my life because my dream came true and the process showed me what it truly means to never give up,” he says.

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Greg Smith '20

Through the basketball ups and downs, Smith remained level-headed and on top of his academic career. Smith, a finance major, met with [Todd Krug, Ph.D.](#), director of the Erivan K. Haub School of Business [co-op program](#), and shared his career aspirations and interests in the world of banking. Krug helped him search for co-op opportunities and introduced him to former students working at Barclays.

“Greg navigated the internship process as perfectly as anyone I have ever worked with. He was clear about his career goals, he met with me several times to prepare for his interview, he followed-up on every recommendation I made, and he networked professionally with my co-op alum at Barclays,” Krug says. “Greg is one of those remarkable students who blends all of the best characteristics employers seek. He brings excellence to everything he does.”

After his first season as a Division I basketball player, Smith received the news that he had landed a summer internship at Barclays New York City office. “It felt like all of my hard work and determination was finally paying off. All of my professors and advisors wanted to see me succeed,” he recalls.

Smith worked hard all summer and at the end of the competitive internship program, he accepted an offer for a full-time position for after graduation.

“During our lifetimes each of us will knock on a door, pursue a dream, or seek an opportunity that for whatever reason just doesn’t work out. At this point we can either cover up, run away, become bitter

OR

Do as Greg Smith has done. He got up and knocked again and again, and despite the disappointments, he never gave up on himself. The beauty in Greg’s journey to be a part of a Division 1 basketball program was what he would not sacrifice-

His character, his love of family, and his pursuit of academic excellence. A hero is an extraordinary person who does extraordinary work.

Greg Smith is a hero!”



- Phil Martelli

*Assistant Coach, University of Michigan
Former Head Coach, Saint Joseph’s University*



“I viewed my role on the team this year as a senior leader, and tried my best to help mentor my younger teammates and show them how to persevere through life’s adversity.” Smith appeared in 22 games for the season.

“Greg was a first-class leader for our program this season. His personal growth was evident and inspirational for his teammates and coaches as the season progressed,” says Head Coach Billy Lange. “He had a unique journey on Hawk Hill and takes the THWND spirit with him as he embarks on his career and personal ambitions.”

Throughout his senior year, Smith has been working on a book with his father about his journey as a basketball player and the valuable life lessons the game has taught him along the way. He hopes to release the book before the end of the year.

“I want to be an inspiration for the younger generation and encourage them to accomplish their dreams.”



- Member National Association of Outstanding College Graduates 4 Years
- Saint Joseph’s University, Erivan K. Haub School of Business Dean’s List – 8 Consecutive Semesters





5 GREG SMITH

POSITION: Guard

WEIGHT: 183

HOMETOWN: Flemington, N.J.

HEIG *The Smith Family Graduation Day*

CLASS: Senior

HIGHSCHOOL: Rutgers Prep





Sports

Fan Zone

Multimedia

Tickets

Support

Athletics



SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY
#THWND

Independence

MEN'S BASKETBALL

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Presented by:
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Men's Basketball Hosts Davidson Tuesday In A CBS Sports Network Matchup

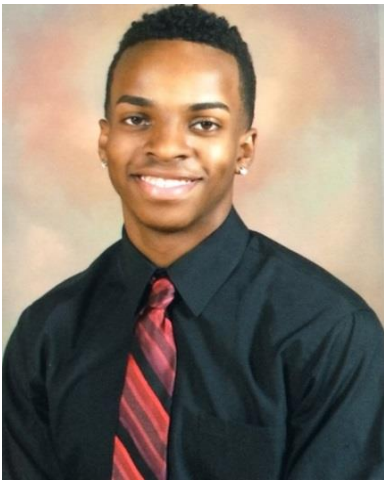


#THWND

SJU Senior Greg Smith II defends fellow Suns Alum James "Monty" Scott of Temple in a Big 5 Matchup



Greg Smith Joins Men's Basketball as Walk-On 10-8-18



Greg Smith, II – Flemington, NJ

Point Guard - 6-2 185

High School – Rutgers Prep

College – St. Joseph's University

Major – Business Administration







Greg Smith of Rutgers Prep drives versus Bridgewater-Raritan 1-12-2012

