

# **Tony Smith**

## **Class of 1986**

**It is estimated that one's odds of becoming a professional athlete are in the neighborhood of one in twenty-two thousand. Tony Smith is a member of this elite club. One of his former basketball coaches called Smith, "...the best athlete in the history of this school," and yet continued that it was Smith's ability to unite and inspire people that motivated his nomination for the Wall of Inspiration. Tony Smith played ten seasons in the National Basketball Association, playing for six teams, including the Los Angeles Lakers and the Milwaukee Bucks. Smith was an All-American at Marquette University. He was named to the All Time State High School Basketball Team in 2003, and inducted into the Marquette Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006. Those things made Tony Smith famous around these parts, but it is his inspiring persona that made him a hero. In the mid-80's, Smith was a pioneering spirit in his school and community, working to embrace racial diversity. As an African-American in a majority white high school, Smith was a role model for his teammates and generations of Wauwatosa athletes who would follow. At the time of this writing, Smith remains active in alumni events and fund raising efforts and has been a mentor to other Tosa East athletes.**

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