Coms 133 – Documentary Film

California State University, Sacramento

Spring 2022

Hoop Dreams

Released: October 1994

Rating: PG-13

Running Time: 2:50

Directed by: Steve James

Written by: Steve James and Frederick Marx

Music: Ben Sidran

Cinematography: Peter Gilbert

Editing: William Haugse, Steve James, Frederick Marx

Cast (partial):

William Gates

Arthur Agee

Emma Gates

Curtis Gates

Sheila Agee

Arthur ‘Bo’ Agee

Earl Smith

Gene ‘Coach’ Pingatore

Questions:

1. For these boys, was basketball a job or a sport?
2. What percentage of high school basketball stars go on to long term careers in the NBA or in professional basketball? (You will need research to answer this).
3. What percentage of scholarship college basketball players go on to long term careers in the NBA or in professional basketball? (You will need research to answer this).
4. What percentage of college scholarship athletes graduate from college? (You will need research to answer this).Division 1, 2, 3.
5. William and Arthur never seemed to have a problem staying off of drugs and away from Gangs. Why?
6. Evaluate the actions of St. Joseph’s in requiring Arthur’s parents to begin making payments on the bill for past tuition before they would release his transcripts so that he could graduate from Marshall.
7. What did you think of the coach at St. Joseph’s?
8. How do William’s and Arthur’s families help and/or hurt them? (Note: This is really two questions; one for William, and one for Arthur).
9. How are issues of race and class intertwined, especially in urban America? What insight into those issues does this movie provide?
10. Do you think the media glamorizes professional sports and sports stars? If so, is that a positive or negative thing? (This question is “outside” the film).