

## **Rebecca Lobo**

### **Tolerance**

“I think one of the great things about sports is [that] it breaks down a lot of the barriers that people might otherwise have, whether it’s culturally, or ethnically, or racially. And so I see myself more as a basketball player. I’m always on teams with a mixture of people from different backgrounds, whether it’s African American or Caucasian . . . Oftentimes in the WNBA, you have players from other countries and English isn’t even their first or second language. The great things about sports--especially, I think, when you get to the professional level--is how it breaks through all those barriers and you see each other as teammates who see each other as basketball players, and you don’t see each other as you know, a black person or a white person or a Hispanic person.”

### **Strengthening Communities**

“I guess, you know, I can only speak for myself and relate to my own story. But I would just say, you know, [that] I have a wonderful family who did a terrific job, I think, . . . , in raising me. But at the same time, I had a wonderful community that helped. Whether it was friends of [my] families or other people in the community [they] really helped to raise me and helped me to get to where I am today. For people to understand the importance in their own communities to support, especially the kids, to support the people in schools, to support the sports programs or the music programs even if their own child doesn’t benefit from that--they are helping to make a community strong. So just to reemphasize, [it is] , , , important . . . to be involved in making sure that your school systems are strong, your after-school programs are strong, so that you can hope to raise a community of strong, hard-working kids.”

### **Goals and Dreams**

“I’m a firm believer that people can reach whatever goals they have whether it be in sports, or their life, or job, if they work really hard, if [they] set their mind to it, and if they find mentors who can help them along the way. So, in basketball I would like to see and encourage more young Latinos and Latinas . . . to become involved in sports when they’re young, to find a good coach who can help them along. And if it is their dream to play in the NBA, or to play in the WNBA, or to play in college, or high school, whatever they want to do, that they really go after [that] and not look and turn on the TV and say, ‘Well, I don’t see very many other Latinas or Latinos playing basketball, so it can’t be done.’ It can be done if people want to do it, if they work really hard, if they set their goals and have their dreams. I really am a believer that people can make any dream come true if they set their minds to it and find a mentor who can help them along.”