

## “Take 10” with Priya Dave



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Welcome to another edition of Take 10, where we ask players to select and answer 10 of 25 intriguing questions about themselves. Look for this feature every week!

This week we're featuring senior setter **Priya Dave**. Dave is captain of the AVCA Team Academic Award winning **Batavia High School** in Batavia, Illinois. She also plays for **Club Fusion**, and is the first ever three time **JVA AthLeader Award** winner and three time **AAU Academic All-American**. She wants to study Medicine or Engineering in college because she believes we need strong and smart women in those fields.

### TAKE 10

#### What's the wisest thing a parent ever said to you?

Mom always says, “Be yourself.” She inspires me because as a young physician twenty years ago, she worked in DeKalb, Illinois (kind of a rural community) to serve young women who didn't have access to female doctors.

Dad shares with me a poem every season before I go down to Nationals in Orlando about greatness called “Our Deepest Fear.”

He says young women should not be afraid to be great just like this line in the poem, “And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.” It's a wise poem and I want to share it.

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves,

Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

**You can blink and be transported to any place in the United States for a day. Where do you go?**

I want to be transported to New York City. I love its energy. Manhattan. The Bronx. Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Bridge. Queens. Staten Island. Central Park. Time Square. Skyscrapers. Ellis Island. Statue of Liberty. Empire State Building. New Yorkers. New York pizza. Restaurants. Broadway. Concerts. Nightlife. Shopping. Schools. Museums. Madison Square Garden. Riding the subway. Languages. Diversity.

**If you could personalize your license plate, what would it say?**

My license plate would say "P DAWG." My high school coach gave me that name. She used to call me "Little Dave" because my older sister made quite the name for herself academically and athletically in high school. But, when coach saw that I was making a name for myself academically and athletically, she changed it to "P-DAWG" because I stepped out of her shadow and became a leader and an individual in my own right.

**How did you get your start in volleyball?**

Actually, I followed in my older sister's footsteps. Before I started kindergarten, I was in dance. Then, dad put a soccer ball at my feet because he wanted to play with me. So, I started in park district soccer where you play with boys and girls. There are no goalkeepers and just one giant scrum around the ball. As I got older, I played travel soccer then switched to competitive swimming. The toughest thing about swimming is being able to swim (of course) and being able to swim the length of the pool without stopping (that one was really tough). When my older sister tried out for volleyball in junior high, I did the same thing. Just like everyone else, I learned the basics and served underhand at first. When I was to able to serve overhand for the first time that same first season, I fell in love with volleyball. You get to play and see firsthand how great volleyball is played in Northern Illinois and the suburbs of Chicago especially the Fox Valley Area.

**What's the wisest thing a coach ever said to you?**

Well, it's not one thing. It's three things..

"Do the right thing, because your teammates can count on you."

"Do your best, because you're committed to excellence."

"Show them you care, because you care about winning."

**If you could have one superpower, what would it be?**

Mine would be to actually remember every password for all my accounts so I don't have to constantly be locked out of everything.

### **What makes a good teammate?**

One of the first things I learned in club volleyball is that there are ten things that require zero talent.

1. Being on time.
2. Work ethic.
3. Effort.
4. Body language.
5. Energy.
6. Attitude.
7. Passion.
8. Being coachable.
9. Doing extra.
10. Being prepared.

Those are the qualities any player wants/needs to make a good teammate. Now that I'm a Senior and Varsity captain of my high school team, I let my actions speak louder than my words. And, that's how I want my teammates to describe me. So, at practice, in the weight room or during matches, those are the qualities I try to demonstrate and that's what makes a good teammate.

### **Where is the best place outside the States you've ever been?**

I really enjoyed Paris, and you can't just describe Paris. You live Paris. I would go back to Paris a hundred times if I could afford to. I have been there twice so far and all I can say is it is an amazing feeling that runs through you when you realize how many things there really are to do there.

You walk to the Eiffel Tower and go up this architectural wonder to get amazing 360-degree views of the city. Then you walk along the Seine River, walk down the Champs-Élysées and walk through the St. Germaine district. You take a boat ride that takes you up and back past all the bridges. You go to any of the wonderful museums especially the Louvre to see the most famous painting in the world, the Mona Lisa, looking at you while you look at her.

Of course, find a nice bistro, sit outside and people watch while you enjoy a wonderful meal ... leisurely. Paris is an experience and I highly recommend it to go as many times as you can!

### **What is your favorite class in school?**

I like Math because it's about problem-solving and risk-reward. Think of math like a puzzle. Solving a puzzle requires logic. You know all the pieces fit together and each piece is dependent on each other and, at some point, all those pieces will converge. But what if those pieces don't converge? You will venture into something bigger or something that never ends like infinity. Another fun thing about math is that the harder the problem, the bigger the reward. My parents always tell me the bigger risk you take, the bigger the reward you receive. And, that's why I like math because of its real-life applications – problem-solving and risk-reward. If you really think about math, it is really the most liberal art. If you can think of a concept, then describe it mathematically, you will see that artists and mathematicians have created some of the most amazing works of art in the world.

### **What is your favorite animal?**

I love goats. I did goat yoga with my club mates after this past club season ended. It combines nature and animals with yoga, and I guess you could say they all go together so well. It's definitely a thing that many people are doing now. Actually, we had fun because the best part for me is watching people's faces when a little goat comes up to them while they're doing a yoga pose. It also helps people cope with whatever they're going through.

*So there you have it. Priya Dave is an athlete, an academic all-star, a world traveler, and an avid goat yoga enthusiast. Volleyball players really are the most unique. Stay tuned for more 'Take 10' features headed your way soon.*

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