Professional Athletes

Are you really good at a sport? Do you have dreams at night that someday you would like to become a professional athlete? I know I sure do. I love playing soccer. My mom is always telling me that I can't play until my homework and chores are done. Between you and me, sometimes I try to rush through everything just so I can get outside and play!

Let's take a closer look at professional sports since so many of us dream about it. Did you know that about 8 million students play sports in high school every year? Of that, only 480,000 compete in college. In addition, only around 1% to 9% ever play professionally or become an Olympic athlete. That's a really low number!

Hold on though. Even though our chances of playing professionally are pretty low, that doesn't mean we won't be able to have a career related to the sport we love so much. Here are a few careers that you might be interested in:

- Athletic Trainer
- Physical Therapist
- Medical Assistant
- Sports Massage Therapist
- Sports and Fitness Nutritionist
- Marketing and Promotions
- Coach
- Strength and Conditioning Coach
- Sports Physician
- Sports Psychologist

It's great to think that we can still have a professional role in the sport we love so much … even if it doesn't involve actually playing the sport professionally!

Rpowell. "Estimated Probability of Competing in Professional Athletics." *NCAA.org - The Official Site of the NCAA*, 23 Apr. 2018, www.ncaa.org/about/resources/research/estimated-probability-competing-professional-athletics.