

Rob Balkema is a MHS graduate, Class of 2002. He was a three year varsity letter winner in football and basketball, and 4 years in golf. Rob was named the MHS Male Athlete of The Year in his senior year and twelve years later, in 2014, he was inducted into the Mahwah Wall of Fame.

After MHS, Rob went on to Harvard where he earned a degree in Economics with a minor in Spanish. He earned three year varsity letters in Football and was a member of the 2004 undefeated Ivy League Championship team. Rob is a Two-time Ivy League Defensive Player of the Week. In recognition of his leadership, work ethic, and dedication, his teammates voted him the Henry Lamar Award. Additionally, Rob won the 2004 CoSIDA Academic All-American Award.

Upon graduating from Harvard in 2006, Rob worked as a Multi-Asset Portfolio Manager at Russell Investments, investing in stocks, bonds, commodities, and real estate. He helped his clients, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to fund their mission and pensions. He assisted another client, Smithfield Foods, to pay the benefits to their employees. He obtained Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation in 2009 and is the youngest Portfolio Manager in Russell's history at the age of 29. Rob currently manages \$15 billion in client assets.

Still, Rob finds time to serve on the Board of the Covenant House Mother and Child Shelter, a homeless shelter located in NYC that provides housing, job training, and child care for homeless mothers and their babies.

On a personal note, Rob, and his wife, Erica, fellow Harvard grad and swim team captain are awaiting their first child in February.