WEST PALM BEACH — Myron Rolle was as well-known at Florida State for his football-playing abilities as he was for his academic achievements.

An All-America safety for the Seminoles, Rolle graduated magna cum laude with a degree in exercise science and also earned a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, which allowed him to study at the University of Oxford in England for the 2009-10 academic year.

On Friday, Rolle shared his experiences as a student, athlete and philanthropist with about 100 students and faculty members at Oxbridge Academy. He talked about his dream of becoming a neurosurgeon when he was a young boy, his ambitions to play in the National Football League and the struggles he faced trying to balance academics and athletics at the highest levels.

He also spoke of his dedication to community service and philanthropy. In 2009 Rolle founded the Myron Rolle Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports children and families in need through health, wellness, educational and other charitable initiatives.

“My message is about striving for your highest potential in academics and athletics, being a leader and having success going forward every single day,” he said. “These are already incredible students. If I can motivate them and inspire them just 2 percent more than they’re already doing, then I think we have achieved something.”

Rolle, now 27 and enrolled in medical school at Florida State, talked about the tough choices he had to make while a student-athlete in college.

After a stellar career with the Seminoles, he chose to postpone an NFL career for a year to study at Oxford, where he earned a Master’s Degree in medical anthropology.
The year away likely hurt his draft status. Rolle was taken in the sixth round of the 2010 NFL draft by the Tennessee Titans.

Rolle played three years in the NFL before giving up football in order to pursue his dream of practicing medicine.

“Life is about choices,” Rolle said. “Since I was young I always wanted to be a physician, but I had some God-given ability to play football. Once I exhausted all of that out of my body, then I could move on to the next chapter in my life and truly make an indelible impact for a long time.”