

SUPER



BY SUTTON RETTIG

HOW MANY HOMERS will Kris Bryant notch? How many points should LeBron average during the NBA Finals? How much longer can the Blackhawks continue their Quest for the Cup? These kinds of topics may seem like your typical barbershop debates amongst the ole gang, but BHS alumnus RJ Sachev viewed them as potential opportunities to articulate content and connect with fellow sports nuts. While continuing to pursue his bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism at DePaul University, he chased after an opportunity to establish himself as a media personality by founding Lightweight Sports during his sophomore year. Sachev founded the original podcast which tackles a variety of sports coverage centered around in-depth analysis and noteworthy news, building the show on both Facebook and Youtube.

"I liked to cover any and everything I find interesting within sports. I hate the concept of strictly covering and analyzing games and breaking down numbers, that stuff is boring to me. It's necessary to some degree, but I like to be more creative with my content. If people were going to watch, it was going to be because of the creativity and less because they wanted sports updates."

Sachev has announced, however, that his podcast will be ending its run upon the fall semester, as his recreational projects take backseat to the work he's completing as he, like many other college students, looks to find his true calling in life.

"For the longest time I thought I wanted to be a sports broadcaster but I'm not so sure anymore," Sachev illustrated, "I like the creative side better than the typical sports reporting format. If I had to say right now, I think I'm leaning towards digital media and seeing what paths I can go down there. But I'm gonna try to keep creating content all the while."

Still serving as program director for Radio DePaul Sports, Sachev has found genuine pleasure through his involvement in radiologic communication. The junior journalism student's interest in the field was first sparked as a result of his involvement at 238 Studios at Barrington High School, where he served as an anchor for the widely acclaimed student broadcasting program, BHS-TV. Since graduating in the spring of 2015, his obsession with the craft has only grown stronger.

"Barrington High School was where I started my broadcasting career, so I absolutely think my time there was immensely influential to getting me to where I am now. Without my experiences with BHS TV, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today. Like I mentioned earlier, Doles put me in such a good position to succeed with the TV program. He basically gave me the freedom to do things the way I wanted to do them and I am forever grateful for that."

As a result of consistent tutelage and various passion projects, Sachev still dreams of one day being recognized as one of the premier personalities within sports media even after his decision to end Lightweight Sports.

"It was something I'd never done before and something I was basically learning how to do on the fly. But doing this made me realize how attainable your goals can be if you set your mind to them. And now that I know what I can or have the potential to do, there isn't a project I'm afraid of diving into. Once you do something like this, no matter how big or small, it really sets the table nicely."

Even upon his decision to cancel the show, Sachev looks back on his creation in glowing fashion, proud and humbled by the knowledge he attained and the experiences he encountered.

"It was definitely a really satisfying experience when a show or video went well. I'd go back and watch myself literally hundreds of times trying to find ways to make it better. I remember in the first ever podcast I said "um" a million times trying to fill time and gather my thoughts, and I look back on that and laugh at how stupid it sounded. I definitely became more comfortable and confident as a host and seeing that progression every week was really fulfilling. I loved when I got feedback from random people I hadn't heard from in forever or people I didn't know that well. It was crazy to see the reach that was possible with something like this. So really every part of it was in some way extremely fulfilling."

After reflecting on how Lightweight Sports came into its own, Sachev also identifies how critical it is to remain focused, confident and passionate in your work.

"My advice, unsurprisingly, is to just out out and pursue the things you want to do. Even if you have to start a project by yourself and it's a little shaky in the beginning, it doesn't matter. Nothing is going to happen if you don't take that leap by yourself. I was told that if you're not embarrassed by your first product then you waited too long to start."

"The project itself is ending but I'll still be putting plenty of content out all over the internet," Sachev confirmed. For those who are interested in viewing Lightweight Sports, episodes will remain posted on both Facebook and YouTube for anyone who wishes to go and see what they were all about. His passion and intrigue surrounding the sports world still remains potent as he continues to grow as a journalist.

