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Sports Media

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Sports Media Practicum Reflection Paper

Firstly, I would just like to add that I'm extremely grateful for your lenience in regards to this paper, since it would have been impossible for me to get into the press box or to take pictures for any baseball or softball games, as I would have to be involved in baseball games already. So thank you for allowing me to write two articles instead of doing those other jobs, and allowing me to submit it late. My body thanks you for the rest following the 20-inning day that I caught in on Saturday.

Having written game recap articles for class and for the Sounding Board in the past, I knew that I wouldn't have a large amount of difficulty in writing these articles well and quickly, as I had done it so many times before. My greatest challenge was getting them done while juggling all of the other games and practices that I was involved in at the time to get these articles done, while also writing an article for a softball game that I was unable to attend.

The baseball article was fairly simple to write, as I was at and involved in the game, but it provided a different experience during the game for me than I had ever experienced before. I needed to pay more attention to what my teammates were doing it, and remember their statistics for my article, keeping track of what the score was in each inning, as well as when and why runs were being scored throughout the course of the game. Baseball played Spring Arbor University on Friday, April 20th at 4 o'clock, and

rather than showing up the required 30 minutes before the game, I was there at approximately 1 o'clock to get the field ready and to take batting practice. Throughout the game, I took mental notes as to whom was doing what in the game and what was happening so that I could have all of the information I would need to write my game recap at my disposal. It really made me have a different perspective on the game, because normally I'm just involved in the game in the capacity that I'm needed personally, whether I'm hitting, catching, or doing some other kind of job. But to write the recap, I needed to pay more attention to everything that was going on in the game, and approach the game from a journalistic standpoint, rather than just as a player.

The softball game was a very different story, as I obviously wasn't able to be there to attend the game. Unfortunately, I was forced to speak to people that had been there, either in the stands or the softball players themselves, in order to figure out how the game went. I also relied on the information that I could gather from the Grace College Lancers website in order to find out what occurred during the games. I quickly found that it is much easier to write an article about what happened during the course of a game when you are actually at the game, rather than having to look up stats and rely on someone else to provide the information for you (absolutely mind-blowing!). Without the gclancers website, I would not have been able to put all of the information that I needed to write a recap of the game together in a coherent, and more importantly, factual story about how softball lost both of their games to Spring Arbor. This is just another problem that arises from being a spring athlete and journalist at the same time, because I can very rarely do both things at the same time with the constraints that the baseball season puts on my schedule.

Finally, I wish that I had been able to make it up to the press box for a baseball game so I could help score or commentate. It is my dream job to work in a press box as a commentator for a baseball team, and I know that this would be the perfect experience for me to learn the ins and outs of the job. People have told me that I have the voice and the charisma to be a good commentator or announcer and I would love nothing more than to get an experience of doing that. Again, the issue with it is that I can't commentate for the baseball team when I'm playing for the team at the same time.

I spoke to Cole Helman about his experiences in the press box for baseball games, and I've listened to the live streams that are posted on the website, and I have to say that Cole does a great job when he is commentating on the live streams. You can tell based on what he says and the conversations he has with the other people that are with him that he knows baseball pretty well and that he has played the game before, and knows the players that he is talking about as he's playing. He told me that he loves being in the press box and around baseball, even though he can't play with us anymore, it feels to him that he can contribute and that he's still a part of the game when he commentates for us.

Generally, I enjoyed being a part of writing recaps for baseball and softball games, even though I couldn't do all of the jobs that my other classmates can do. I feel that if I had the chance to take pictures and work in the press box that I would really enjoy my time. I'm looking forward to being involved in more of these operations next year, when time allows me to, when I'm an S.I.D assistant. I was grateful for this opportunity to work on writing game recaps, and I feel that I've grown from the experience.