Meet the Sports Media Concentrations's New Producer/Director Joe Ruggiero

by Alyssa DeRosa

Being a Jasper just got a lot more exciting this semester. Students in Manhattan College's sports media production concentration will be working with ESPN to stream all home men and women's basketball games starting on November 10th. This concentration was introduced last year, but this semester saw the arrival of our new producer/director Joseph Ruggiero. Ruggiero attended Monmouth University and graduated in the Spring of 2017 with a degree in Communication. During his time as a Monmouth Jayhawk, he was a part of the student run television station, the radio station, and the newspaper. He also worked in the Athletics Communications office, which gave him his start in sports production.

Before a game even begins, Ruggiero does an in-depth investigation of the two teams in order to better understand the overall storylines, and focus on past performance, team members, and coaches, specifically for information that will help him better understand the story of the game.

Once he gets all of his information, everything starts falling into place. He guides his students on how to best set up cameras and what angles are important to get for the storyline. Before each game he also prepares a rundown which includes the open. For each game the open is produced to seem as though it is "live," when in actuality it was filmed about twenty minutes earlier.

Throughout the game, Ruggiero acts as both producer and director. He cuts between cameras, cues, replays, and make sure the graphics are correct. He does all of this while being on the phone with ESPN to allow for commercial breaks. However, Ruggeiro reminds us that this is a live production and that anything can happen.

"The students are getting more accustomed to what they have to do and are doing great. I'm excited for the broadcasts to continue to get better." Ruggiero said of his students.

The first game was broadcast on Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019. Although the team did not catch a win this time, the broadcast was still a success. Make sure to check Manhattan College's website for the schedule for all remaining games.