

Sports Media Concentration Broadcasts

Basketball Games

by Cristian Forletta

This past fall and current spring semester, Sports Media Production students had the exceptional opportunity of being part of the ESPN production crew in broadcasting all 27 of men's and women's basketball games. Led by producer/director Joe Ruggiero and visiting associate professor Michael Quinn, students were able to gain firsthand experience at what goes into the process of streaming intercollegiate athletic events.



The mobile production unit that arrived on campus in March 2019 provides a new type of classroom, where students produce, edit, announce, and communicate with each other during live broadcasts. Throughout the process, students learn techniques used in producing a live, high definition, multi-camera event, scheduling, and methods for producing sports events with professional grade equipment. Students work in the positions of technical director, time out coordinator, and graphics, audio, and replay operators, producing one professional grade broadcast after another. Due to the work of students and professors of the Sports Media Production concentration in the Communication

Department, Jasper Nation family and friends from all around the world are able to stream their favorite team via ESPN+.



Producing the fast-paced, unpredictable, high intensity sport of basketball gives students the perfect opportunity to gain valuable real-world experience that would otherwise be unobtainable in a typical classroom setting. It is the best place to learn about types of shots, proper audio/visual setup and breakdown, using a Ross Carbonite switcher, preparing graphics, and replays.

Just as unpredictable as the sport can be, the same can describe the events that unfolded when students got the chance to utilize the skills they learned throughout the

year at the 2020 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference in Atlantic City. Arriving on March 11th, the sports media production students were prepared to do what they do best: broadcast the tournaments highs and lows, wins and losses, and victories and defeats. However, things took a turn for the worst when on Thursday afternoon, minutes before the Lady Jaspers' first tip off at 2:30 p.m., MAAC Commissioner Rich Ensor shut down the tournament due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As disappointed as the athletes, coaches, faculty, and students are about the situation, it proved to be the safest decision for all involved in the MAAC tournament.

Class of 2021 Sports Media Production student, Tim Youtkus, focused on the positive aspects of his experience in Atlantic City: "It was a really great experience getting to be at the tournament. We had the opportunity to meet and to work alongside other sports media students from around the MAAC as well as other producers, which was a great learning experience. Unfortunately it was cut short due to the COVID-19 virus precautions, which was tough, however, I am still honored that I had the privilege to gain more experience on a much larger stage than I was used to."

This may have been the first year that Manhattan College's talented Communication students were able to showcase their incredible talents, but it certainly won't be the last. Even though the year didn't end as we would have liked due to the pandemic, it is important to focus on the great things that will come in the future, such as the movement to broadcast more intercollegiate sports at Manhattan College, and the Jaspers' return to the MAAC tournament next year. For now, we thank our Sports Media Production students and faculty, as well as ESPN, for an amazing year!