

# comm·unity

## FALL 2021

### Sports Media Production Adds New Sports to Production Schedule with ESPN+



by Timmy Kwong

This semester, the Communication Department's sports media production team is expanding their coverage areas beyond the basketball court to broadcast other Manhattan College Division I sports games, including softball, lacrosse, and soccer, as part of their partnership with ESPN+.

In the past, the sports media production team only produced home basketball games. With expanded coverage of new sports this year, producer/director Joseph Ruggiero is thrilled for the opportunity to broadcast on ESPN+ using the mobile production unit. Ruggiero says that students will not only be able to gain more hands-on experience, but will also get exposure to filming and broadcasting different sports.

"Basketball is a fast-paced sport, and the three additional sports are more considered as slower-paced sports," Ruggiero said. "Therefore, the new coverage really allows students to not only adopt new skills in streaming a wide variety of sports, but also learn how to assist other inexperienced students."

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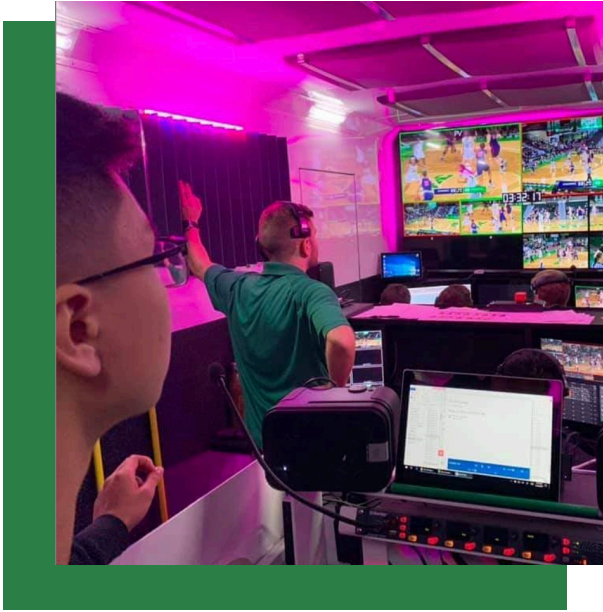
Cal Lepkowski '23 is one of the communication students who works in the sports media mobile production unit, and is anticipating even more expansion to other sports in the coming years.

"I am extremely excited that we are able to branch out and broadcast other Manhattan College sports," Lepkowski said. "In my eyes, it'll result in the further campus-wide recognition of other sports on campus (rather than basketball, the sole sport we thoroughly produced last year)."



Although Ruggiero and his team of communication department students have successfully broadcasted some home soccer games at Gaelic Park, he stated there are still a lot of enhancements when it comes to improving the setup of the facilities and the training for students.

"We are used to streaming home basketball games at Draddy, [and] because of the expansion, we also stream at Gaelic Park now," Ruggiero said. "So it is important for me to ensure our setup is well-rounded and our students are prepared to work and collaborate together in the truck."



Ruggiero, however, had high praise for the leadership skills of students and what they were able to accomplish during production of the various games on ESPN+. He noted that students really put what they learned in the classroom into the live sports programming using the mobile production unit.

Cort Koss '21, alum and former sports media production major, is currently working for the National Basketball Association as a Broadcast Assistant. According to Ruggiero, the production experience Koss received as a student helped him secure his current job, stating that the sports media production program thoroughly prepares students to succeed in the industry.

“Our production and opportunity here not only allowed Cort to find his place in the broadcast crew but also prepared him for his future career,” Ruggiero said. “So his success really validates what we are doing.”

Thomas Courtney '22 has been assisting Ruggiero and the crew for the past two years. Ruggiero says that students like Courtney make producing the games fun and easy.

“[Tommy] was in my very first class I have ever taught at MC,” Ruggiero said. “He was also the first few people who came up to me. So he actually makes my job much easier because students who are passionate show their curiosity and how much they would love to learn with the resources provided by the Communication Department.”

We are incredibly proud of the Sports Media Production team, and look forward to more accomplishments in this year's expanded coverage of streaming athletic events. ★