

Freelance gigs spark career

By Daegiona Wilson
Staff reporter

For families, fans and friends, watching livestream or following stats online is the next best thing to witnessing sporting events.

The sports information director connects the athletic department to listeners, readers and viewers who can't be there in person.

Trevor Jossart, sports information director, said, "As I wound down my senior year of college, I found freelance gigs on job postings and I've always liked writing, so I took those jobs in hopes that they would blossom into something else."

"All those freelance writing gigs led to more opportunities," said Jossart. "As I began writing more, I realized that was what I wanted to do. This job that I am in now is a big part of that."

Jossart, who was hired in 2018, has a whirlwind of duties daily, such as setting up monitors, cameras and sound prior to competitions, creating game-day programs, seeking statistics, team and player notes from competitors, writing articles over athletic events and running media outlets for the school.

Some of his other duties include preparing information for athletic team's social media pages, informing the public about stats and recognitions of players and inputting live stats at basketball, baseball, football and softball competitions.

As someone who is often behind the scenes, Jossart said, "Sometimes there are people often asking what do I even do here."

As he has gotten into the rhythm of how things work, Jossart said he values getting

to promote the student athletes.

Ashley Tasher, sports information graduate assistant, said, "He is a perfectionist, and so am I. I like working with someone who is better than me, because it helps me improve myself and grow within the sports sector, because I have experienced more in a professional sense rather than athletics."

Jossart said, "It all starts on Monday when I look at my calendar and we see what teams we play that week. The first thing I do is touch base with their SID and make sure everything is good so that we can promote to our audience."

As there are multiple contests during the week from various sports, "It is as simple as getting a graphic ready for the final score, to sending the opposite teams our rosters, to making sure all our stat software is accurate for other SIDs to download," Jossart said.

In addition to having his own duties, Jossart helps coaches fulfill theirs.

Kevin Frady, head baseball coach, said, "He gets the news out about our players. He does a lot for media, as far as the newspapers. He preps stuffs on Twitter for us. It's some busywork that is taken off our plate. That's a big help."

"There is always going to be some hiccups, especially at a smaller school such as ours, because we have so many sports teams and there is only one of him. With the seasons overlapping and he can only be at one place at a time, and there are times he needs to be three places at once, and that's obviously impossible," Frady said. "He's done a good job."

Jossart said, "I really enjoy some of the sports that I was not as knowledgeable on in the past, such as soccer or volleyball.



Trevor Jossart

Those are sports I really didn't cover a lot going through school."

Jossart's job keeps him busy throughout the day. He said, "What keeps me going is when we have an athlete who wins Player of the Week, or a team that has a big win, or something along those lines. That makes it the most fun, because I know any content we put out, people are looking for that and people are excited to share it."

Following every competition, Jossart writes post-game summaries and articles on deadline.

Jossart said, "Some take longer than others. Sometimes it is not a whole lot to write about, whereas an overtime win might take a little longer because there might be more to cover."

When it comes to publishing these articles, he is strategic.

"I like to try and space them out, to develop better content."

Jossart said, "This job can tend to be overwhelming. People in this position need to take a step back, and take time for themselves. If a game is completed late, I know that my best work will come when I'm refreshed and ready to go."

To help with all this work, Jossart has Tasher and a crew of students that help out, which he described as being a close-

knit group.

Tasher said, "Most of my work is preparation for game days. Trevor takes a lot of responsibility on his own, so I kind of get the extra tasks, like creating game day inserts, or sometimes programs."

Frady said livestream is huge for the baseball team.

"The important thing about livestreaming is, last season, we had kids from 16 different states and two different countries on our roster, so having the ability for those families to watch their sons play that are so far away from home, that's huge," said Frady. "With the price tag to send that child here, it is not easy to travel to every game as they would like."

Although the department is limited, they are always trying to incorporate more.

Jossart said, "I wish there was more time in the day to get things done and to do more. There are so many ideas I've had in this year and a half of working here to add on to what we have done so far, but since it's just me, Ashley and a couple student workers, we have to cover our basics first."

Tasher said, "It doesn't matter how information was presented to you that day, once we have a successful day, like the game is finished, the stats are correct, the stream was okay, all is well that ends well. We might have had a few hiccups, but we got through it."

Frady said, "SIDs everywhere play a very important role. They have a busy job, making sure they are coordinating with athletic teams' schedules. No one notices, but like I said, it takes a lot of work off our plate."

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Volunteers provide concessions for fans

By Shawn Morris
Staff reporter

One of the most popular things to do on campus is attending sporting events. There are multiple sporting events every week. In addition to attending the sporting event itself, students can also get food from the concession stands.

The concession stands, which are staffed by students from various sports, provide the usual hot dogs, popcorn and candy. These snacks add another enjoyable element to the game for students.

Nick McLemore, health science fresh-

man, regularly attend sporting events, such as football and basketball games.

He said, "It's always nice to have a good concession stand at games. If you are at a football or basketball game, you can get good food, so it's kind of like being at home, only better because you can watch the game live."

Different sports programs work together to ensure the concession stands are available for every on-campus event.

Lewis Derrett, assistant men's soccer coach, said, "One of the advantages of our players volunteering at the concession stands is that we show support of the other

programs and do them a favor by helping out."

Men's soccer and track and field work together when determining what dates each program will volunteer at games. The programs volunteer at both men's and women's basketball games, and ensure that fans in attendance always have concessions available.

Mike McCoy, athletic director, said that the amount of revenue the concession stands generate vary from game to game. He also noted that football tends to generate the most revenue because there are more people out there and the concession

stands are bigger than those in the gym.

McCoy said, "Most of the money goes for restocking for the future. I know that we have to provide more food because there are a lot of people who eat for free. We have agreements with the programs that come and perform at our games to feed them, as well as the referees and any potential recruits. These people eating for free hurts our revenue unfortunately, but they are incentivized to keep coming back."

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