Write on Sports was founded by Byron Yake

Staff
Mario Cavone, Jake Medor, Jamar Medor, Aidan Rebers, Laryssa Guimaraes, Malilk Wiley, Drew Carothers, Joe Pullia

Thank you to the Cardinal Shehan Center, University of Bridgeport and all of our guest speakers during our inaugural summer.
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Dear Friend of Write on Sports:

Thirteen years ago, Write on Sports held its first two-week summer camp program at Montclair State University in New Jersey. This year, we held 10 programs in four states, including a new one here at Sacred Heart University under the leadership of the Cardinal Shehan Center directors.

Congratulations to Terry O’Connor and Drew Carothers, who led the effort to bring the Write on Sports program to Bridgeport. We hope to see it flourish for many years to come under their leadership. Joe Pullia, a local fifth grade teacher, was the camp’s lead teacher.

Write on Sports is growing and has a goal of having 20 programs in place by 2020.

The mission of WoS is to teach middle school students how to write about sports as a way to help them write. Originally, WoS was simply an idea to be tested. Now former students are college graduates, former students work in the field of journalism or broadcasting and former students are on their way to college. Write on Sports teachers are certified and the interns are skilled and dedicated to the WoS mission. The comprehensive curriculum was developed by Dr. Erik Jacobson, associate professor at MSU.

Guest athletes and journalists hold press conferences with the students, who blog, write a feature story over the two-week camp and produce a two-minute video. Those processes and exercises – from interviewing a guest to writing a lead – help develop the critical thinking students so sorely need.

Building a program takes a committed team, which you have in Bridgeport. It takes students who want to learn and grow and open their minds to new ideas. And it takes the commitment of families who provide support and encouragement to the students. Bridgeport Write on Sports is off to a good start. We look forward to watching it grow successfully.

Byron Yake
Founder, Executive Director
Guiding Questions and Expectations

These are the key questions that we want students to ask themselves – they form the foundation of the program:
- What are the elements of a good story?
- How can I get reliable information to tell my story?
- Do I use facts to support my analysis?
- How do I get others to share my interest in the story?
- How do I organize my ideas for maximum effect?
- How do I choose the right words to make my story come alive?
- Do I express myself in a way that is totally me?
- How can I make my story better through revision?
- How can I work together with other people to create something that I am proud of?

As part of this, we stress thinking about:

The **purpose** of writing – Why are you writing? What do you hope to accomplish?

The **content** of writing – What do you have to share?

The **form** of writing – What genre or structure best fits the purpose and content?

All of this is based on the fundamental idea that we learn more about our subject by writing about it.
Aidan Rebers- Hi, my name is Aidan Reber. I am 12 years old and I go to Middlebrook School in Wilton. I like to do a lot of activities, from basketball to ultimate frisbee. I try to be funny and put a smile on people's faces. I like to hang out with my mom, we have a lot of laughs, and we also have a great time. One of my favorite sports is soccer. I chose soccer because you get the excitement of chasing someone down and taking the ball from them. I also like the fact how it is such a big field. You also get to run a lot. Although all of those reasons is why I play soccer, one reason why I like it is because you kick the ball into the goal. So, the ball flies in the air and it hits the goal and then you get to hear the sound of it hitting the net. I think that I have a lot of fun in life and that is what I look for.

Mario Cavone- My name is Mario. I am going into seventh grade and I am almost 12 years old. I go to Middlebrook School in Wilton, Connecticut. I like to do a lot of different kinds of sports, but my favorite sport is baseball. My favorite baseball team is the New York Yankees. My favorite Yankee player is Gary Sanchez. I like him as a player because he is a catcher (which is my favorite position to play) and he is a great hitter. He is very important to the team and is my baseball role model. I like being a catcher because I get to be in every single play. Whether it is calling the pitch, blocking the pitches in the dirt, and throwing someone out at a base. One of my personal hobbies is playing Lego’s. I like playing Lego’s because they are calming and they are very interesting. You could make a lot of things with Lego’s. I also have a Guinea Pig. My Guinea Pigs name is Brownie. Brownie is very picky with everything. Her food, her things that she plays with, and everything else. Some of her favorite foods are bell peppers, blueberries, romaine lettuce, and shredded carrots.

Jamar Medor- Hi, my name is Jake Medor. I am 12 years old and my favorite sport is basketball. I play basketball with my brother. We either play 21 or 1 v 1 every week. My favorite thing to do at home is my Ps4. Video games is my favorite thing to do when I'm bored or when my friends want to play with me. I go to Fairfield Woods Middle school, Aka FWMS. It’s a good school to go to. I get good grades and the teachers help me a lot. I like running a lot when I play basketball because I always get the ball when I guard them really good. When I first got my PS4, I started to play games, and never watched TV again. I also ride bikes with my dad, my sister, cousin, and my brother every Saturday for some exercise.

Jake Medor- Hi my name is Jamar Medor and I go to Fairfield Woods middle school. I am going into 8th grade and I play basketball for PhD, and Fierce, but now I stick to PhD. I like playing game like 2k, Fortnite, and Rocket League, and my favorite hobbies are to go bike riding and to practice basketball outside. I’m 13 years old and I like playing ball because that’s the only sport I stick with and I don’t play any other sport because I just like basketball. I want to make it to the NBA one day. One of my favorite activities is to watch basketball on Youtube, like different moves I could do, how I can handle the ball and how I can be a better shooter. My favorite NBA player is Russell Westbrook and my idol to the game.
Laryssa Guimaraes- Hi, I am Laryssa Guimaraes, but most people call me Lala. This is my second year with the Write on Sports Program. I am a big basketball and soccer fan. My favorite basketball team is Oklahoma City Thunder and my favorite player is Russell Westbrook #tripledoubleGOD!. In soccer, my favorite International Team is Brazil and my favorite club team is Real Madrid. My favorite players are Ronaldo, Neymar Jr, Gabriel De Jesus, and Philippe Coutinho. I like to crack jokes once in a while and I’m always up for competition.

Malik Wiley- Hello people, my name is Malik Wiley. I play for Mobilios Fitness Basketball in Milford, Connecticut. I am a relative of former NBA and street ball legend Rafer Alston otherwise known as 'Skip 2 My Lou’. My favorite sport is basketball and I am a big LeBron and Devin Booker fan despite being a Heat fan. It sounds like bandwagon, but I promise I’m not. I work at the Shehan Center as a C.I.T. I enjoy playing pick-up, and games like Fortnite and NBA 2K. Unpopular Opinions: LeBron was robbed of MVP this year, as of now, Chris Paul is the best PG of the post-Magic Johnson era, Steve Nash is overrated, Devin Booker is the most efficient scorer in the NBA right now, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker are common, everyday role players without Tim Duncan and Duke has been the best college basketball team for the last 25 years.
Meeting with Marc Robbins

By Mario Cavone

Today we were able to talk a lot with Marc Robbins. Marc Robbins is a local Fairfield County famous ex-newscaster and now he is a sportscaster for ESPN and Vantage Sports Net. He was born in Boston. In his childhood, he played sports, but then he started watching and following up about sports. In high-school he started with a journalism club and started loving the job.

His first aired TV show was at South Dakota. He talked about news casting and news stories. Then, he worked in Indiana for the same business. He finally came to Connecticut to work on sports stories. At Connecticut, he came to News 12, the 12th channel on Cablevision TV. He stayed in News 12 for 5 years, and then moved to Channel 8 for 11 years. He also went to Channel 3 for 4 more years.

His craziest news story he aired was when an industrial plant exploded. It was a Sunday Morning, right before the Super Bowl. It was in Middletown CT. When he was driving to the exploded plant, he saw swarming emergency cars from neighboring towns because of the destruction and all of the people scrambling around all over the place. His coolest interview was when he got to talk to Frank Ramsey. He used to play basketball for the Boston Celtics. Frank won 7 NBA titles in his NBA career.

Now, Marc Robbins works at a Frontier supported channel, Vantage Sports Net. He works for this channel every Monday through Friday. Vantage covers sports all over the state. They have two main reporters, Marc and his friend Noah Finz.

He also works for ESPN. There are two sections he works in for ESPN. He is in the radio sports center updates, and the International ESPN. The radio sports center is a certain time when they go live on TV and talks about new recent updates in sports. For example, he might talk about the World Cup, or Tennis results, or NBA summer results, or even the Olympics that aired earlier this year. He works for the ESPN from 2am to 6am! These hours are important for updates for the World Cup and the Tennis updates because of the time differences in Europe and other places in the world.

He finished off by talking about how long he has been working in the TV/newscasting business. He said, "It doesn't feel like 30 years." Of course, like he said in the beginning, he's not working at all. "I consider it effort. Work is something you have to do but you don't want to."

By Aidan Rebers

On July 10, 2018, I got to spend an amazing day with Marc Robbins! I had the pleasure of talking and asking questions about his career. He loves to do his job and he made this statement, "Work is something you have to do but fun is what you want to do." Marc has a great time interviewing and recording people and events. During the interview we covered almost every topic. We had a ton of fun. We learned a lot about the insides on what he does.
Marc actually plays sports himself. He plays softball and a little bit of basketball. Marc likes to play sports because then he can talk with other people about what happened. Marc loves to watch the pro leagues. He enjoys how he gets paid to talk about what he loves. He also used to play baseball when he was younger.

Marc's first aired show was in North Dakota which kicked his whole career really. Marc was with News 12 for five years then went to Channel Eight for 11 years. After that he went to Channel Three for four years. Marc loves what he does so much he said it felt like a couple years. Life has lead him down the road that he wanted. He pursued his dreams of being on TV and enjoying his job. Marc said, "I like how I can talk about all sports and follow them as my job." The most important thing is that he loves to do his job.

Marc eventually took a year off he said he wanted to try "The real world." He decided he did not like it. After that he wanted to go back to his job now. Marc had to change his schedule multiple times. From normal day shifts to early morning shifts to overnight shifts. A funny thing that he had said was it was hard to fall asleep sometimes because of the light or his shift.

Marc now works for Vantage Sports. He does a thirty minute show Monday-Friday every week. It is backed by Frontier Television and they record at Sacred Heart University. He lets you in on game recaps, highlights and teams records and thoughts. They cover all high school sports around the state and can travel to four or five games a day.

Overall, I had a great time talking and asking him questions. He sparked my interest in his job. In my opinion, I had a great time. Marc had a lot of fun talking about his job. I got all of my questions asked. I thought was amazing to hear a voice I recognized but didn't know who it was.

By Jake Medor

On July 10th 2018, I sat down and interviewed local sportscaster Marc Robbins, and I got to ask him questions to get good answers. He told us that he likes his job interviewing people and recording people. I asked all of my question that he answered, and we covered every topic.

The sports that he plays are softball, basketball, baseball, and tennis. He interviews people on ESPN & Vantage Sports. The main thing he likes about his job is about talking about sports

His first show was in South Dakota. He was also on News 12 Connecticut & Channel 8 CT. Marc just likes to talk about sports. That's the important thing he loves in his job. Marc took a year off working because he wanted to take a break. After that he went back to his job.

He now works for Vantage Sports. He does shows at Sacred Heart University. He tells you about high school sports are the state, game recaps, highlights, and team records and thoughts.

I had a great time listening on his opinions about his job & what he likes about it.
By Jamar Medor

I met local sports broadcaster Marc Robbins recently. He was born in Boston, and his childhood memory is playing and watching sports. He told us the sports he likes and used to play are motorcycle racing, softball, basketball, baseball, rugby, and tennis. He was talking about his career working for ESPN, and how he did so many new jobs. He worked for ESPN, as well as for Channel 8 and Channel 3, both in Connecticut. Marc talked about sports on those different channels, but his first job was in South Dakota. He talked about the fun of sports casting and news, working for News 12 for 5 years and Channel 8 for 11 years. On his shows he likes watching sport highlights and likes talking about them. His favorite part of his job is having fun at the station talking about sports all day. It’s positive news about what he talks about on TV. It was fun interviewing him and asking a lot of questions. My favorite quote from Marc was, “Do whatever you want for a job, and if you’re lucky enough to get paid for it, you really never work a day in your life.”
An Interview with Brandon Sherrod

By Mario Cavone

We were able to have an interview with local basketball star Brandon Sherrod. The 6'6" friendly giant is a professional basketball player who plays overseas in Italy. He also sings in Italy at concerts in churches and events.

In his earlier life, he played baseball when he was 9-12 years old, but then he started not liking baseball anymore. He also played lots of video games and said, "I used to like Madden, and NBA live." He didn't ever really play basketball when he was younger. He also started singing when he was 6-7.

In his high school freshman year at Stratford HS, he started to play on the basketball team. He came into high school with a weight of about 300 pounds. He got onto varsity, and then that’s where his career began. During his first season, he lost another 40 pounds. He also started loving the game. He finished off by playing basketball for Stratford High for all 4 years. In his senior year, he won the 2010 Gatorade Player of the Year, CHSCA and NH Register Player of the Year, and finished with Stratford’s record for most blocked shots.

In his college career, he played for Yale University. He got a four years bachelor degree, and more awards. Some of his awards were 8th for ALL-IVY rebound, 3rd for field goal percentage. 2nd for offensive rebound, and finally 1st for team ALL-IVY. He also made an NCAA 30 consecutive shots record. In his sophomore year of college (2012-2013 season), he hurt his wrist and had to get out of basketball for a while for it to heal. I asked him about that and he said, "It feels like the game was taken away from me." When he came back he said he felt a lot better and he used that injury as an experience to help him with body maintenance and fire to play better.

For his professional career in basketball, he plays in Italy. His first team in Italy was the Scafati Basket. He now plays for the Roseto Sharks.

What Brandon also does in Italy is singing. He sings at concerts in churches and events in Italy. In college, he wanted to play basketball for his senior year, but he went to travel abroad and sing in an A Capella group. He traveled to 26 countries all around the world. He started singing when he was younger. He picked up singing from his church when he was little. He kept singing through high school and college. His first year of singing in Italy was at a church. He also went to a castle in Italy to sing that the old Emperor of Italy was ruling at. He made a CD album of all of his songs and got 8,000 euro out of it. He gave 4,500 euro to the Stratford high school for their musical program. He also gave a school in Italy 2,000 euro to help their schools funds.

What he now does in his free time without basketball and singing, he sometime just talks with his parents on the phone. He would also go around Italy and see some landmarks and sites. He went to the Pompeii ruins to sightsee last year. In addition, he sometimes thinks about after basketball, coming back to his hometown, and becoming the mayor of
Bridgeport, so he checks the news frequently. Finally, if he’s not eating with his friends, playing basketball, or singing, he would just sit down and relax to read a book.

Finally, his motivations to do all of these things, he admitted was his parents. He said that they mostly pushed academics throughout his life, so he didn’t have to worry about that, but just basketball and singing.

By Aidan Rebers

Recently, I had the chance to interview pro basketball player Brandon Sherrod. Brandon went to school at Stratford High, then Yale University and then played in Italy for Scafati Basket and now the Roseto sharks. Brandon got the Gatorade Player of the Year award, and was inducted into National Honors Society. Brandon said those are some of his greater accomplishments. Brandon is also an amazing singer and travels around the world singing for people. Brandon has a variety of activities and is a really nice g

To kick this off, I will talk about his years in high school playing basketball. During the years he played power forward and center. During his freshman year he walked in weighing around 300 pounds. During the season he lost 60 pounds, and then post season dropped another 40. Brandon pushed himself really hard, and tried a lot, that was the alleyway of success for him. When Brandon made varsity, which is when his career blasted off! He played for all four years. In 2010 in fact he won Gatorade Player of the Year. This means that you are the best player in your state. Brandon said, "I remember the day I got the award, I was on a date with my girlfriend at Starbucks, then my coach called and he said, 'You won the Gatorade award.'" He also got CHSCA and NH Register Player of the Year.

In college Brandon made All Ivy League, but sadly only played for three years for Yale. Sherrod had many accomplishments. They were 4th for All-Ivy rebound, 3rd for field goal pent, 2nd for offensive rebound and Finally one of the biggest ones is 1st for All-IVY team. He also got NCAA 30 shot hit record. Unfortunately he had a wrist injury so he could not play. He said," I feel like the game has been taken away from me."

For Brandon’s pro years he went overseas. He played for Scafati Basket, then the Roseto Sharks. When he first started off it was hard because he said, "No one really knew how to speak English." One thing that he did find helping though was his coaches because they knew how to speak English. Brandon said this "I noticed a difference in playing the people in America are way more fit than the ones in Italy, the game is way harder here." Brandon said he likes basketball more than singing but when he is older that might flop.

Now also on top of that he is in the singing world. For his last year in college he sang in a aca capella group called the WhiffenpufFs. They are the oldest a Capella group in the country. He sang all around the world for his senior year including churches and on stages. Once he was done with that he went on to singing by himself and in choir. He is starting to put more of his stuff out in the public. Brandon is making songs and remixes with him singing different styles.
Overall Brandon is a well-rounded guy. I think he has a variety of what he wants to do and enjoys it. He also has many accomplishments which he is proud of. He is very athletic and has an amazing voice. I think that Brandon is special because he also cares about his parents and is a really nice guy. It was an honor to see and talk to him.

By Jamar Medor

I interviewed professional basketball player Brandon Sherrod, and he talked about the love of basketball and how he likes to sing as well. He took off a year of basketball at Yale because he wanted to go sing by himself and with partners. My favorite part of him singing is his Whiffenpoof group, because I saw them on YouTube and they were good at singing.

If he made it to the NBA, he would want to play for the New York Knicks because it’s closer to home and it’s in New York, a great city. When he was little, he used to play baseball, but he didn’t have the passion for the game, but he really had the passion for basketball. Brandin really doesn’t like getting injured because it takes the game away from you, and he missed 7 games for hurting his wrist. When he didn’t play sports, he became overweight, but when he played basketball he lost weight. Now, playing in Italy, he’s in shape to play basketball.

His favorite team he played on was Stratford High, and his favorite number is 35. Since he liked the number 35, he asked to switch from the number 55. When he entered high school, he was 6’2 and finished high school at 6’6. Brandon won Gatorade Player of the Year when he was a senior in high school. He was out with his girlfriend, his coach called and told him he won because he is a good ball player and he likes giving back to the community. The team went 27-0 and won the state championship for Stratford high school.

He learned how to sing when he was six because he went to church with his mom and they always sang, and he really started to like singing. It was great interviewing Brandon.

By Jake Medor

I was able to have an interview with a basketball star Brandon Sherrod. A 6’6” giant who is a professional basketball player who plays in Italy. He also sings in Italy at concerts in churches. I was able to ask two of the questions I had from him. The first question I asked was, “Do you like singing or basketball better?” He said that he likes doing both, but singing is easier for his body, but he said he likes basketball better overall.

Some other things he told us is that every time he wanted to play basketball or do something else, he had to finish his academics in order to do that. He told us that he started singing at a young age, and he really travels a lot when he is playing in Italy.
A Visit From Ashley Battle

By Mario Cavone

Recently, I had an interview with Ashley Battle. This 36 year old, used to be a professional basketball player, who played for AAU teams, UConn, multiple teams for the WNBA, and then finally she played overseas later in her basketball career. Now, she is in the Finance and Banking business.

She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and went to high school at West Virginia High School. She started playing basketball when she was little. She knew that she was good at basketball then. When she was in the 5th grade, she was 5'8"! She was tall, which is good for young basketball players. When she got into middle school, she played AAU, where she was named, "Best player in the country at the age of 12." She kept on playing AAU, until she went to West Virginia high school.

In high school, she definitely proved that she was the best player at the age of 12. In high school, she got onto the varsity basketball team, and won many awards on this team. She recorded, a quadruple double in high school her junior and senior years. In her senior year she was undefeated, and won the Gatorade Player of the Year award twice in high school. Later on, in 2011, she was placed in her state High School Hall of Fame for basketball.

When she was looking for colleges, she got picked for, "basically every single college in the country except for North Carolina or Tennessee," which meant she had lots of choices. She had her choices, either Stanford, Duke, or UConn became her top three. Although she wanted to play for Duke, she heard that her friends from AA-U got into UConn, so she wanted to join them and play together. I eventually asked her about this decision, and she said, "I am happy with the decision I made." She made the right decision anyway. In her 2000 to 2005 season in UConn, she went undefeated again, she won 3 college championships. She has won a lot of awards in her high school and college years.

In the 2005 season, once she was done with college, she was drafted onto the Seattle Storm in the WNBA. She was a second draft, 28th overall. When she got on the team, she played two games, and then got cut from Seattle because of the teams salary cap. She was more sad than she would be because she knew that she didn't do anything wrong to get cut. After the cut she got traded to the New York Liberty to play in the 2006 season. Her NYL stats, were 22 minutes per game, 7.4 points per game, 3.7 rebounds per game, and 1 steal per game.

After the WNBA, she wanted to play overseas. Overseas, she played for Spain and Turkey. She played on Spain for 4 years, and Turkey for 2 more years. She wanted to play more of basketball overseas, but she injured her hip and her leg, which made her stay at home and making her play no more professional basketball.

Now, she is in Finance and Banking. She works at Barnum Wealth Management (BWM), and she is the Director of New Business Development. What she does, is she helps
famous stars and players make a living and keep it for retirement—not letting them spend all of their money so they have a retirement plan.

She might play a little basketball here and there for conditioning to stay in shape, or maybe for an event or even maybe for fun with some friends. Her favorite part of basketball was playing with her friends and socializing after and before games. Also, she likes experiencing new things. For example, she goes around the country, she played overseas, and more. Ashley Battle was a great basketball player, who won many championships and awards in her whole basketball career. She is also still a great person to meet.

By Aidan Rebers

Recently I had the chance to interview Ashley Battle. She is a former pro player who played for Seattle and Liberty. She also has some great history about middle school and high school. She went to West Virginia high school. Ashley has great records and played for AAU and UConn. Finally she now works at Barnum Wealth Management.

Ashley was born on May 31, 1982 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. Write off the bat she said, "I am going to be good at basketball." She knew she was going to be a legend. Ashley was the only girl in 5th grade to be on a basketball team, she played AAU. She was 5'8" and knew how to handle the ball. She was the number one player in the country when she was twelve. When she was in high school she played Varsity for all of her years in high school. During her freshman year she had a horrid team. Skipping over sophomore year got Gatorade player of the year twice in Junior and senior year. She went Undefeated in her senior year and recorded a triple double. Her stats were 28 points per game, 18 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals per game. That’s Amazing.

During College she played for UConn. She chose it because she thought that she liked the people and it gave her the option to win. She had the choices of Penn State, Duke and UConn. She played college from 2000 to 2005. You might be wondering how that is possible it is because she got redshirted. A red shirt is when you practice with a team but you actually are not on it. This was caused by and injury so she got to add an additional year of recreation after her senior year. She then won the NCAA national championship three years in a row 2002, 2003 and 2004 but sadly she did not win in 05.

Ashley put herself in the 2005 WNBA draft and guess what she made it. The Seattle Storm has selected her. Unfortunately she had only played two games that year and then got cut from the team because of the salary cap. The team only wanted to spend a certain amount so they could not pay what she was worth so she got cut. After that in 2006 Ashley was traded to the New York Liberty. That was when she rocketed and got paid the right amount. She played in thirty four games averaging about 22 minutes per game, 7.4 points per game, 3.7 rebounds per game, and 1.0 steals per game. Then after her Career in America she went and played overseas for Spain for two years and in Turkey for four years.
Currently Battle works at Barnum Wealth Management. She is the director of New Business Development. He helps people make a plan to spend their money wisely and make a plan. She helps people make a plan to spend their money wisely and make a plan. She spends time with celebrities and famous people. She especially makes sure to make a strong and healthy retirement plan.

Ashley likes to play basketball with her friends and stay in shape. Although all of this happened she enjoys her job now too. Life has taken her down the high road and really enjoys it. She still stays in touch with her old teammates. She likes to enjoy socializing. She also likes to explore. To explain what I am saying she went from America to overseas and practically has seen it all.

By Jake Medor

We got a chance to meet Ashley Battle, and I got to interview her. She grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Did you know that she was 5’8 in 5th grade? I bet she was the tallest 5th grader in her school. She was the #1 player in the country at 12 years old. She grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ashley made a full court shot just to win her first high school game. She went to high school in West Virginia and then went to UCONN for college and won three National Championships. She didn’t follow her friends to UCONN, but she loves playing with them. After college, she was drafted by the Seattle Storm. Ashley was good enough to play, but she got cut off the team because of the salary cap.

I asked her as the years went by, was anything different. She said her love for basketball changed. Ashley said it became her job instead of fun, even though she was mad or happy during game. She loves being around her friends and family. She didn’t follow her friends to UCONN, but she loves playing with them. She now works for the Barnum Wealth Management.
Is Ultimate Frisbee the New Sport?

By Aidan Rebers

In 1968, Joel Silver founded Ultimate Frisbee. He introduced it to his high school and it just rocketed since then. People have started to play it more often, and the first college game was held at Rutgers University. Now kids and adults are enjoying it. People have made pick up leagues, but they are not in the middle and high schools yet. I think that Ultimate Frisbee should be the new sport because of how popular and fun it has become since it has been founded.

People have started to play Ultimate Frisbee more and more. A ultimate frisbee player, Brodie Smith, is a master at all Frisbee throws and has even started a local pick up ultimate team that plays other pickup teams. He likes how you run and follow the Frisbee as it flies through the air. He has encouraged me to play so I joined my schools Ultimate Frisbee club. Brodie said, "My goal is one that I work towards every day and that is to give every kid the opportunity to try Ultimate and see if they fall in love the way I did." In fact Brodie loves the sport so much he said this “It has certainly been an incredible blessing for me to travel the world and teach the sport I love” Ultimate has been a ton of fun and the community has grown so much. These pick up leagues let players play other people that have the same passion for the sport.

The Ultimate Frisbee community started with only 16 people in a high school. It has grown a lot since them, from 9,951 in 2004 to 16,058 in 2011. Imagine how many people are in the community now. The community has been growing a lot. Everyone who is in it enjoys it. I like it because it’s like a puzzle. For example, it is like should I use my backhand or forearm. I also like the fact how you either chase someone down or the Frisbee down.

The sport has many mechanics to it to, for example in baseball you have different throws, and it’s the same exact thing as ultimate. There is the basic backhand. There is the fore arm and hammer. There is also a thumb, boomer and chicken wing. Although you might not have certain positions everyone but the holder of the Frisbee is a receiver. Now the thrower has options to throw to ore different throws to try. So, the game flows well with its mechanics and it meets all mechanic expectations. Another reason why Ultimate Frisbee meets all the requirements is because of the teams. You are allowed seven players on the field and AboutUltimate.com said "The average amount of players is 12-18 on a team."

Ultimate Frisbee has rocketed. There are many people that enjoy and have fun playing it. Brodie Smith, the well-known player, is a huge enthusiast of this awesome creative sport. In my opinion the new sport has grown so much and really kicked off fifteen years ago. People really enjoy it. Ultimate meets many mechanics and runs smoothly! There are good calls and really no fights. This is why in my opinion Ultimate is the new sports. So why don’t you give it a try?
2018 Yankees trade Moves, or Keepers?
By Mario Cavone

The All Star game is almost here, and trades are heating up! The Yankees need to upgrade their positions, but which? Who are they going to trade to get new players? The Yankees have a lot of questions to answer before the All Star week ends. I think that the Yankees should consider all of these questions about their positions. Should they keep their first basemen lineup? Should they upgrade their pitching? Should they go for Machado? I think that these are the most important and biggest factors in the Yankees’ road to victory in the 2018 Postseason.

One of the positions I think that the Yankees should consider is first base. I don't want the Yankees to trade Bird, but I think trading Walker and some other first basemen in the farm would be good for the Yankees. Yes, Bird is on the DL a lot but Romine or Sanchez could sub in for Bird if he's on the DL. Walker and other first basemen in the farm would be good trading positions. Lots of teams need more first basemen. Some people think that Bird should be traded, but on July 11th, Bird got a grand slam and a win for the Yankees. The day before that game, he did great too. According to ESPN, "Greg Bird homered and drove in four runs for the Yankees..." Also, according to ESPN, Bird hit a sacrifice fly, scoring another run in. Bird is getting better by the day and I don't think he should get traded. Tyler Austin would also be good traded with Walker and the farm.

Another position I think the Yankees should upgrade is the Yankees starting pitching lineup. The Yankees could take Walker, Austin, and someone I think they should trade is Dillon Tate. Dillon Tate is a Double-A pitcher who is healthy and almost isn't ever hurt. He could bring in a starter, especially with Walker by his side in the trade. Maybe even someone solid like Jacob deGrom from the New York Mets or Cole Hamels from the Rangers. Hamels or deGrom would definitely be good for the Yankees starting pitching. Tanaka, Gray, and Domingo Herman are all struggling on the mound. I think Herman and Tanaka are the better prospects that the Yankees should trade. I agree that Gray is struggling, but he can do good sometimes. Gray isn't consistent in his pitching. Tanaka and Herman are almost always giving up runs in either the first innings, or the 5th or 6th.

In addition, the Yankees could upgrade their relieve pitching too. Shreve and Betances aren’t doing so well. The Yankees need them right now to sub into Chapman’s position while he’s on the DL. Betances and Shreve have subbed for Chapman’s position before, but no other relievers like Green or Holder have pitched in Chapman’s position. The Miami’s Kyle Barraclough, or the San Diego Padres’ Kirby Yates, could both add into the Yankees’ spots for Shreve and Betances. Or, the Yankees could give up a prospect named Justus Sheffield instead of Betances or Shreve, and put them in the farm for later. The Yankees could also throw Justus in the trading field for new relief pitching.

Finally, for the rumor going around about if Machado should go to the Yankees or not, I don't agree with that. I don't think that Machado should go to the Yankees. Machado is a great hitter and is a solid player that could play many positions in the middle infield. He could play shortstop, third base, or even second base. But, the Yankees have Didi Gregorius
at shortstop, who is a great hitter and a solid shortstop. They also have Miguel Andujar at third base. He is a great runner on hitter. They don't need a Machado on their team. The only reason that Machado hit those home runs against the Yankees on July 10th, is because of the Yankees starting pitching.

The Yankees should consider these trades and keepers. The Bronx Bombers need these opportunities to not go to waste this season. If I was Brian Cashman, I would use these opportunities. One opportunity would be how they have too many first basemen so they could trade some of them. Another opportunity of how much they can upgrade their starting pitching and relief pitching. Finally, I don't think they need Machado with good middle infield already. The Yankees can't go to the World Series without making these trades or using these keepers.

LeBron Going To The Lakers

By Jamar Medor

LeBron going to the Lakers is not a bad idea because he played for the Miami Heat and the Cleveland Cavaliers, so it's not a bad idea to experience a new team! Other good players that are going to LA are Lance Stephenson, JaVale McGee, Rajon Rondo, and the rookie who joined is Moritz Wagner. Something that happened though, is that the Lakers fans got mad at the spray painting of LeBron, calling him the King of LA, and started covering it with paint. Lebron went to the Lakers to build up a team and to make the team better by teaching the rookies how to get better. He signed a 153.3 million dollar for 4 years. Another reason why the Lakers are going to get better is because LeBron is like a coach. He made up the starting lineup for LA, and what LeBron said to Lakers head coach Walton is, he's about the team and doing the things the right way. He's about winning!

Did Steve Nash steal the MVP from Kobe?

By Malik Wiley

On May 7th, 2006, a decision that shook the NBA and caused controversy in the league for years to come. Steve Nash is awarded his second MVP over Kobe Bryant, a preseason wildcard to win. Many feel that Nash was granted MVP as a luxury because of his team success, while Kobe was snubbed despite his historic scoring numbers and his efficiency on the court. We will breakdown the argument on who really deserved to hold the Maurice Podoloff trophy on this date.

Steve Nash was an essential, and most recognizable player on the "Run and Gun" offenses set by Mid-2000 Suns teams run by all-time great Coach Mike D'Antoni. Steve was the star of the show, as his passing ability transcended through the league and changed the offense of the Suns tremendously following his return to Phoenix from Dallas. Let's compare him to another transcendent player (in his own ways.) Kobe was an amazing scorer, averaging numbers of 35.4 points. Scorching NBA teams on a nightly basis.
Nash was great and so was Kobe. There is no argument in that regard mostly. The argument is about who was most deserving of the award. Let’s dive into the facts. Kobe put on an offensive show in 2006 putting up scoring averages of 35.4 PPG! Nash’s scoring was above average at best, putting up 18.8 PPG. Nash is known for his excellent passing who lived up to his passing name. Unlike Kobe who was lesser known for his passing by the media, sometimes even being dismissed as a "Ball-Hog." Nash finished the season with a resounding 10.5 APG. Kobe finished with average 4.5 APG. Both had great seasons, but winning is important too. Nash's Suns finished a 54-28, while Kobe willed his undemanned Lakers team to a sub-par for Kobe's standard, 45-37.

Not everybody came to terms of agreement with the pick. Many people believed it was themselves, but the majority of overwhelming outcry of disagreement in the basketball universe over the decision was Kobe Bryant. Including average Joe’s at the barber shops around the world to NBA superstars like Shaquille O’Neal and Stephen Jackson. "Kobe [Bryant] should have won three, too. [I should have won] the two that Steve Nash got over me" says NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal.

Stephen Jackson seems to have a similar stance on the debate and backed my earlier statement by saying people felt that he was awarded the trophy as a luxury. "They gave Nash two MVP’s" says former Golden State Warriors great. Nash did have great proficiency with numbers like 10.5 APG, a staggering 92% percent free throw shooting performance and 51% field goal percentage, but the players association felt as this was sub-par to an outstanding scoring display by Kobe Bryant with an insane 35.4 average for points.

What I believe is that Steve Nash did in fact steal the MVP from Kobe. The NBA MVP is an individual award, not a team award dependent on team success. Kobe showed outstanding endurance playing an aggressive style of basketball averaging 35.4 while receiving a 28.0 PER for his efforts. He also beat Nash in defensive categories with 1.8 SPG compared to Nash’s 0.8 SPG and also losing in the blocks category 0.8 BPG to Nash’s 0.2 BPG. His assist may have been higher, but Kobe had to will his team to the playoffs similar to a 2017 KIA MVP Russell Westbrook. I believe Kobe deserved to have one more MVP award on his Newport Coast home shelf. The stats and his teammates and even some competitors agree Nash stole an MVP from the Black Mamba.

LeBron Leaving The Miami Heat

By Jake Medor

In July of 2014, LeBron James left the Miami Heat to go to the Cleveland Cavaliers because he was always losing against the San Antonio Spurs. After that happened, Pat Riley said that LeBron "Did the right thing". The Miami Heat back then were very good because they had Dwayne Wade, Shane Battier, Chris Bosh, and Mario Chalmers. If he stayed, it would’ve been the best team in the NBA, but LeBron left.
In the finals he played good. It was his team that was doing bad. When he lost the championship, he was a free agent before the next season started. Pat Riley was really in shock when he heard that LeBron left the Heat. He said that LeBron had a chance to win every year.

LeBron James started off at his hometown Cleveland, Ohio. He got drafted to the Cleveland Cavaliers. Then he wanted to 'take his talents' to the Miami Heat on July 8th. When he lost the Finals against the San Antonio Spurs. 4-1 League, that's when LeBron James decided to go back to Cleveland Cavaliers. I think that when LeBron left the Miami heat was a bad thing.

Raptors and Spurs Drama

By Laryssa Guimaraes

"The San Antonio Spurs have traded Kawhi Leonard and Danny Green to the Toronto Raptors for DeMar DeRozan, Jakob Poeltl and a protected 2019 first-round pick, the Spurs announced Wednesday". -ESPN  With this being announced on the morning of July 18th, 2018 ,the Spurs NBA franchise has really outdone themselves.

The San Antonio Spurs have traded Kawhi Leonard and Danny Green to the Toronto Raptors for DeMar DeRozan and Jakob Poeltl. The Raptors also have the first round pick in the 2019 draft. I myself feel like this trade was a really bad decision for both teams because DeMar DeRozan has made a great friendship with Kyle Lowry and the rest of the team, and to trade him off like that totally showed how the league isn't big on loyalty to players. I am quite sure that Lowry will break out of his contract with the Raptors to join his best friend, DeRozan, on the team he decides to sign with. This trade is also bad because Kawhi most likely will not stay at the Raptors for more than a year, and Leonard is already planning to head to the Lakers in free agency, so there is no use for this trade in my opinion!

Another really important thing about this trade is that neither DeMar nor Kawhi want to leave their teams for this trade. Earlier that day, DeRozan posted this on his Instagram story, "Be told one thing & the outcome another. Can't trust em. Ain't no loyalty in this game. Sell you out quick for a little bit of nothing... Soon you'll understand... Don't disturb." With this being said, I as a fan of the NBA can assume that some players are getting traded just for the money, and that the NBA isn't just about basketball anymore.

Not only the fans, but many NBA players are upset with this trade. Isaiah Thomas Tweeted this on Twitter, "Just learn from my story! Loyalty is just a word in this game SMH". Lou Williams posted this on Twitter, "I'm hurt bro. I'm hurt. My dog gave that city and organization his heart and soul. He was loyal to the soil and got stabbed in the back." This supports my opinion that the NBA isn't so loyal anymore.
The Story Behind Carmelo Anthony
By Aidan Rebers

Carmelo Anthony was born on May 29, 1984. He is 34 right now. Carmelo Anthony is overall an average player. He went to two different high schools, one being Oak Hill Academy and Towson Catholic high school. During his high school years, his stats were amazing. He went to Towson Catholic for three years then his mom thought about switching to Oak Hill, so he did. Carmelo moved onto Syracuse University. Carmelo did a little bit better than his senior year in high school averaging 22.2 points.

Carmelo Anthony started his first three years in Towson. Moving on to his sophomore year in high school, he averaged 14 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 steals. He started to rocket since then and became such a better player. He made it to the state championship. Anthony enjoyed a successful high school basketball career as a junior, almost doubling his numbers in scoring and rebounds, averaging 23 points and 10.3 rebounds. Sadly, Carmelo had to switch to Oak Hill because his average grade was below a C. Also because he got an offer from Syracuse. So, he needed to meet the education requirement to apply and learn their.

Carmelo then went to College at Syracuse. Carmelo he averaged 22.2 points and 10 rebounds. Carmelo only played one season from 2002-2003. Carmelo played 36.4 minutes a game. During the NCAA tournament, he won the tournament’s most outstanding player award.

Anthony started his NBA career in 2003 when he was chosen 3rd overall pick for the Denver Nuggets. Anthony was at his highest peak when he averaged 25.7 points per game, 7.4 high rebounds and 3.4 assists per game and 2.3 steals. He played for the Nuggets from 2003-2011. After that Carmelo played for the New York Knicks. Anthony played for the Knicks from 2011-2017. Anthony chose to wear number 7 with the Knicks. The Knicks qualified for the playoffs as the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference, and were matched up against the Celtics. Anthony had 20 points and a career-high 22 rebounds. Anthony then averaged league’s best, 29.5 points. Next Anthony got traded to OKC. Where he plays with Westbrook and many other good players.

Even though Carmelo has made a lot of moves between teams, he is a well-rounded player who has many skills and can handle the ball well. Carmelo seems like a nice and talented guy.
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