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FROM THE PUBLISHERS DESK...

We are in our 15 year in Chicago Sports Journal. Want to thank my graphic designer Katrina Zentefis. Also, special thanks to Joe of Rayco Printing helping me out when my computer was being service and updated. Special thanks go to Tom Nichols broadcaster, media and public relations director of Dayton Dragons providing us with picture of the ball park the Dragons play in. Our interview in this issue is with play-by-play announcer and public relations director of Lansing Lugnuts Jesse Goldberg-Strassler and everything has turned out awesome once again.

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For more information, please contact the Dragons at (937) 228-2287.



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By Fred Colantonio

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COLLINS AND JOYCE

Jesse Goldberg-Strassler

Born & Raised: Born in Washington, D.C., raised in Greenbelt, Md.

Education: Ithaca College, class of 2004, majoring in Television/Radio with a double minor in English and Writing

First Job: delivering Greenbelt News Reviews in my hometown, a weekly local newspaper.

Your Position: I am currently in charge of broadcasting and media relations for the Lansing Lugnuts.

How Did You Get into Baseball: When I graduated from Ithaca, I was unable to initially find work. I received the advice to go to the Winter Meetings, attend the Job Fair, and see if it could open an opportunity for me. From that Job Fair, I was hired by the Brockton Rox to serve as their pregame/postgame host and media relations intern.

Typical Day: I work in the stadium for the Lugnuts from March through September. When the season is in session, a typical home game looks like this: I arrive around 10 a.m. and create the daily stat pack, which is then distributed to each clubhouse along with that day's Sudoku and crossword puzzles. The home manager messages me the home and away starting lineups, which I turn into social media graphics as well as printing and distributing them officially; I also take this time to write the lineups in my scorebook, starting me on the road to broadcast game prep. After lunch, I then work on the daily game notes. When these are done, I organize and distribute game notes/stats/rosters/lineups to guest services for the fans and to the press box/both broadcast booths. The players have by now arrived at the field, so I check in and conduct a pregame interview with a player (scheduled from the day before). I also check in with the visiting broadcast team. When all pregame work is concluded, I host an on-field pregame show, eat dinner, and call the game, posting social media updates during the game. Following the game's conclusion, I print off the box scores for distribution to both clubhouses and the visiting broadcast team, create a social media graphic for the final score, cut and share highlights from the game, write the game recap (which is then emailed to local media and posted on the website), update the website, and call it a night. I am usually at the ballpark until 11 p.m. or 12 midnight.

Difficulty About Your Job: It is all encompassing, and so it is too easy to

lose touch with friends and family during the season.

Favorite Sports Team: Growing up, the Detroit Tigers and Maryland Terrapins. As an adult, the Washington Commanders.

Favorite Baseball Players: Growing up, Alan Trammell and Scottie Pippen. As an adult, all of the players who I see in the minors and then am able to cheer on in the Major Leagues, wherever they go, whichever uniform they wear.

Favorite Baseball Memory: Kirk Gibson beating Eck in 1988. I was tiny, and I remember it being mindblowing that the Dodgers could have won the game. I didn't think anyone on earth had a chance at beating those A's, let alone rallying against Eck.

Favorite Sports Movie: A League of Their Own.

Favorite Saying: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." – Jackie Robinson.

Favorite Baseball Food: Ben's soft homemade pretzel, at a South Bend Cubs game. I love a good soft pretzel. Runner-up: a frozen lemonade on a hot summer day.

Personal Hero: My parents. Alan Trammell. Harry Belafonte.

The One Thing You Can't Stand: Mosquitos. Runner-up: yellow jackets, ticks, bed bugs, and all other pests.

Most Humbling Experience: A tie between being named the 2019 Ballpark Digest Minor League Baseball Broadcaster of the Year or calling three Major League games at Fenway.

Three Words Describe You Best: Enthusiastic. Loving. Polymath.

If You Were Baseball Commissioner For Two Weeks, What Would Be The First Thing You Would Do: End the TV blackout policy. Let everyone be able to see any game they wish.

What Do You Do When You Want to Relax: I spend time with my wife and four-year-old: playing baseball in the backyard, riding our bikes, drawing, reading, and cooking together. I also relax by reading (or re-reading) a good book by myself, either on the couch or amid a walk around the neighborhood.

Hobbies: Reading. Pitching to our four-year-old in the backyard. Listening to new Commanders podcasts or old mystery radio programs.

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