READ on Sports

PRESENTED BY

Write on Sports
DENVER

WELCOME

Dear Friends of Write on Sports Denver,

This summer marked our fifth-year inspiring middle school students, many from underserved communities, to develop reading and writing skills and build self-confidence using the lens of sports and the tools of journalism. The result was two-weeks of learning, hard work, lots of fun, and personal growth that you will sense as you read this magazine.

Students became better writers. They learned to interview, research, organize, revise and write with a voice that sounds like them. John told us "WoS taught me how to interview, get good quotes, and make my writing more interesting."

Students gained confidence. Over and over, we heard the campers talk about speaking up, collaborating, and sharing ideas. Teddy noticed the culture that made the growth possible: "Everyone could stop being shy and use their own voice. It was a very safe environment."

Hosting the camp on the MSU Denver campus matters. Working in classrooms, using facilities such as the media center and athletic complex, made college seem like a realistic goal. Many of the students told us they hope to attend MSU Denver one day.

Students connected the classroom to real world storytelling. From podcasting and video day, to conversations with professional athletes and journalists, to the field trip to Coors Field and the National Ballpark Museum, our campers experienced journalism from the inside.

Having fun was a common theme. Campers made friends from different schools and backgrounds.

You'll see the growth throughout this magazine. The feature stories, spot stories, photos, and the care our writers took to get the facts right. This magazine is their story!

We are incredibly grateful for all of our amazing partners and supporters who made this camp possible. MSU Denver deserves special recognition for their continued support and enthusiasm, as do the middle schools that participated in this year's program: Foster Dual Language K8 (Jeffco) and DSST: Cole Middle School.

Together, we're making a difference in the lives of Colorado's youth. Writing is a lifetime skill, and Write on Sports Denver is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

THANK YOU

From Write on Sports Denver
(* multiple times contributor)

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READ ON SPORTS

STUDENT WORK FROM THE WRITE ON SPORTS DENVER SUMMER CAMP 2025

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COLORADO ROCKIES/COORS FIELD

Traci Abeyta
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Chuck Cuthill
Rachel Englert
Bill Schmidt
Don Wahl
Emily Wilson

MSU DENVER ATHLETICS

Tanis Chavez
Christian Garcia
Blake Hadley
Tanner Kay
Eric Lansing
Kai Nuhn
Sebastian Ojeda

MSU'S FILMING EXPERIENCE

BY: MATTHEW

Cinema, don't we all love it? It makes us laugh, it makes us cry, and it makes us feel all sorts of emotions. You know what else makes us laugh? Chesley eating a sandwich for 15 minutes at 10x speed.

Metro State University's Filming Experience is amazing, we got to use high-definition cameras, and they were terrific! We went out to the Media Center where we were introduced to the cameras we were going to use. It was amazing, the camera was high quality, we had a microphone, and we also had headphones to listen to the audio. The person who was heading this filming experience wouldn't even let us in with beverages or food, that's how expensive the equipment was.

When we were used to the setup, we were going to start filming, so we walked 20 minutes to the MSU field, where we would be able to get footage of what it was like there, and we would also be able to interview some of MSU's best athletes. We walked into the complex, where we were greeted by the head of the building basically, and he said he was going to show us around. He basically told us he was going to give us a good view into the inner workings of the building.

We then went inside the building, where we saw the Soccer field, the baseball field, and the tennis court. We got good footage of it all, but then we were going to interview other athletes. We went down to the soccer field, and we set up our cameras and microphones. Two athletes then entered the complex, followed by the manager of the building. My team and four others were going to interview them, and me and my team waited for a little while, until we could interview them. They were very nice, and they were amazing to work with.

Next, when we were all done interviewing, we went back to the media center, and edited our video footage, and we managed to do a lot of editing before we were out of time, and in the end, I think it turned out amazing!

All in all, this was my experience with MSU's filming and editing software and hardware, and it was amazing in the end.

MSU DENVER ATHLETIC FACILITIES TOUR

BY: NOAH

On July 23, 2025 we toured the MSU Denver athletic facilities and we recorded most of it, this was my experience.

First, we did intros to our videos at the soccer field and made our way to the baseball field. There was a baseball game about to be played and we interviewed some of the players. They talked about warming up and how they were going to cook.

Then we went to the tennis courts and recorded some of the tennis players. They were working hard in the heat.

Then we saw the equipment room and there was lots of workout and sports equipment. We made our way to the weight room and there was lots of equipment there. We saw where all the locker rooms are and where the players chill.

After that we made our way back to the field to interview some of the athletes. I got the opportunity to interview Assistant Athletic Director Eric Lansing and he said that MSU is a very good atmosphere for sports. He said it is very satisfying to see players succeed due to all his work.

At the end we went to the computer lab and edited our videos to look the best. In the end it was a very fun day.

MSU ATHLETICS TOUR & INTERVIEWS

BY: TEDDY

July 23rd 2025 - Write on Sports took a tour around MSU Denver and interviewed the following college sports players Blake Hadley, Kai Nuhn and Eric Lansing. First we learnt how to start a camera, then we moved to the baseball fields to video them as well as interviewing some baseball players. After the baseball fields we moved to video the tennis players and court. Once we finished videoing the tennis courts and players our tour guide named Mr. Alfredo guided us to the garage where all the supplies for the players are. After the garage we went into the sports facility and saw the player locker rooms and where they relax. We then moved to the turf fields and interviewed Blake Hadley, Kai Nuhn and Eric Lansing. After the interviewing, we edited our videos and created a great mini movie for everyone to watch.

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC FACILITIES TOUR

BY: JOHN

On July 23rd, 2025, the Write on Sports summer camp took a tour of the athletic facilities of Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado. The campers walked to the baseball field and soccer field of the university with their cameras. They met with Eric Lansing, Blake Hadley, and Kai Nuhn, an Assistant Athletic Director, men's basketball player, and women's soccer player. Their helper with cameras and editing videos was Alfredo Sanchez, an Associate Professor at MSU Denver.

After walking about 20 minutes to get to the facilities, the campers checked their cameras and then went to the Baseball Fields. They interviewed multiple high school baseball players who had games later that day. These players talked about how to warm up before their games, they went through the motions and also made sure to stretch before their games.

After staying at the baseball fields for a while, the campers went to the Tennis Courts. They watched players trying to get better, day by day. Then Lansing, Alfredo's good friend, showed up. He showed us throughout the building, stopping by the training room, the garage where the equipment was stored, and the film room. The campers learned that the players have very different regimens in the weight room depending on the sports that they play.

Then the students got to interview Lansing, Hadley, and Nuhn. They were able to ask many different questions about school and sports. One of the students, Manuel, asked Nuhn about balancing school and sports. She said that she just had a schedule to separate them, with sports in the morning and school and homework in the afternoon and night.

Later on, the students got to piece together the videos that they took to make one big 5 minute video. They put the different clips together and stored their videos on an SD card for later. They learned about how to upload videos to Adobe, put text on those videos, and how to transfer the finished product onto an SD card. The most important thing that the campers learned during this educational field trip is that to balance school and sports you would have to separate the two into different parts of the day.

Finally, the campers went back to the Science Building on the MSU campus, where their classroom was, and ended the day.

NATE & PATRICK

BY: MANUEL

Nate Jackson said that being a football player was painful and was hard because you get injured but he still loved football, "I loved it so much I would put my body on the line." This shows that he loves football. And how his career ended. He had 6 seasons but after 3 he got injured badly he was not recovering well so he stopped playing football. But after his football career he became a writer and authored the book Slow Getting Up. It was about his experiences in the NFL. Nate is married and has a young son.

Patrick Saunders has worked for the Denver post since October 1998 when he began his career covering the Denver Broncos. That year was the same year they won their 2 straight Super Bowl. He's been a Rockies beat writer since 2005 where he travels with the team and writes game stories. Patrick was honored as

the 2018 Colorado sportswriter of the year and was president of the Baseball Writers Association in 2017.

SAUNDERS & JACKSON

BY: CHESLEY

At 10AM on July 15th at Metropolitan State University there was a press conference with Write on Sports interviewing Patrick Saunders and Nate Jackson. Nate Jackson is a retired football player for the Denver Broncos and Patrick Saunders is a Denver post sports writer and mainly writes about baseball.

Each guest has special advice for their campers. "Don't be bummed if you lose because every game is a new chance," said Saunders. According to Jackson, players should "Go into a game 100%."

MENTAL HEALTH EFFECTS ON ATHLETES

BY: NOAH

On July 15 at Metropolitan State University in Denver, former Bronco Nate Jackson and Rockies beat writer Patrick Saunders came in to take questions about their life and jobs. Saunders answered questions about the Rockies, who are on a historically bad run. Saunders talked about the impacts on the players of losing many games, saying, "It's hard to play when you're losing." Jackson added on by saying, "It's like a funeral the following week after losing a football game, no one talks or smiles."

Another way that sports can affect athletes is injuries. Injuries also impact players' mental health. After asking Jackson what it was like getting injured, he replied, "It was depressing, my season was over." Even knowing the risks he still wanted to play, "I loved it so much I would put my body on the line."

It is also very stressful to be a player. Jackson got traded from the 49ers shortly after joining, because he was dealing with injury problems. He had to fight for a spot on the Broncos roster.

He says that playing was nerve-racking and exciting, because an injury meant your career could be over at any moment. In the end, sports are not all exciting plays and celebration, there are also internal struggles too.

NATE JACKSON

BY: EDGAR

On July 15th 2025 the campers from Write On Sports interviewed Patrick Saunders and Nate Jackson at Metropolitan state university.

Jackson grew up in San Jose, California he went to Pioneer High School where he became an all-American wide receiver and he attended Menlo college. It wasn't a big school but he stood out between 100 football players being monitored by 49ers coaches and stayed a year in the off season.

He had shoulder problems and got traded and got on a flight and the next morning was a Broncos player, he stuck with the team for 6 strong seasons as a wide receiver and tight end playing for coach Mike Shanahan.

"The Broncos have a place in my heart. I still have good memories with the 49ers but I root for the Broncos."

After his career ended he became a great writer and was able to get his articles published in TIME Magazine, LA Times, NY Times, etc.

He published his first book called "Slow Getting Up." It has some meaning because after your hit you are slow getting up. Jackson is always active and if he ever got the chance to play he would take it even if he wouldn't survive a practice.

Jackson is involved in sports talk radio and podcasting. He also spends time helping work for charity and has a big impact on the football world as a former player and writer. He now lives a happy life with a wife and a younger son

THE AVERAGE NFL CAREER

BY: JOHN

On Tuesday, July 15th, Students from Write on Sports Denver, a sports journalism camp, interviewed guests at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Patrick Saunders and Nate Jackson, a local beat writer and former National Football League player turned author, were ready to answer questions. They appeared at MSU at 10:00 am.

Through Saunders' interview with Jackson and students' questions, we learned from Jackson that on average NFL players play only a shocking 3.3 years. "It's impossible, in my opinion, to stay safe in the game of football," Jackson said about how short some NFL careers are.

Jackson also spoke about how the NFL is a moneymaker that is used for entertainment purposes, putting it simply, "They protect the moneymakers." Another thing that he touched on was how, "Every play is an opportunity," speaking about how there are 53 players on the active roster and 16 on the practice squad, and they know that they could have an opportunity to become known nationwide.

Not every player goes to a huge college and has an opportunity to become a star. This angle from Jackson shines light on the lesser known and lesser valued players in the NFL. Some of these players we don't know now, but every chance they are on the field is a chance to become known. He feels that the story of the non-stars who don't play 20 years needs to be known, and they deserve to be highlighted.

He wrote a book, "Slow Getting Up: A Story of NFL Survival from the Bottom of the Pile," to try to put these stories into the limelight. Published in 2013, he has sold many copies of his book. He knows how much injuries can affect careers, as he himself played a shorter career hindered by his lasting shoulder injury from college. To recap, there are many players on an NFL team that feel underappreciated and don't have the opportunity to play, but they are ready to make their mark when they get a chance.

NEED TO KNOW - PATRICK SAUNDERS & NATE JACKSON

BY: BEN

A team of young journalists from Write On Sports held a press conference July 15 at Metropolitan State University to interview two prestigious sportswriters, Patrick Saunders and Nate Jackson. The conference revealed important information about both journalism and sports, with personal stories from both writers. Here are some of the most important points from the interview.

The first hot topic today was largely directed at Saunders, a beat writer at the Denver Post who has covered the Colorado Rockies for most of his career. People wanted to know what his thoughts were on the team he reported on. "The Rockies are in the worst place they've ever been in," Saunders said, referring to the team's 2025 season. "I think they need to make some major changes."

Saunders described many of the problems that the organization faces, such as a lackluster front office (in which most people have the same last name), a team of players that struggles offensively, and the difficulty of playing in the hardest ballpark in the league.

According to Saunders, Coors Field is the hardest diamond to play on in the league, with the thin air making hit balls travel farther and pitches break less. "They're going to lose 100 games for the third straight season."

Jackson, as a former professional football player, got a lot of questions about his playing career. People wanted to know more about how he'd gotten started in the professional field.

"I liked rough sports and I liked to wrestle. Football is a violent game. The most aggressive team wins," Jackson said. He said that he hadn't even started playing until his freshman year of high school, since his mother had thought it too dangerous, but he kept going because he loved – and still loves – the game so much.

Jackson told us that he had been cut from the first college team that he tried out for then moved to the tiny Menlo College, where he did make the team. He played through college as a wide receiver then was signed as an undrafted free agent by the San Francisco 49ers.

"It was a dream come true," said Jackson, who'd been a Niners fan his entire life. But unfortunately, a lingering shoulder injury from college ended up getting him cut for the season. The next year, he was traded to the Denver Broncos, where he spent the rest of his career.

And if you're wondering which team Jackson cheers for?

"I still have good memories with the 49ers but I root for the Broncos."

Another part of Jackson's career that sparked a lot of interest was his injuries. He suffered a lot of them in his six-year career, and they were what eventually caused his retirement.

"I was on IR (injured reserve) to end the season three out of my six years." Jackson said.

Jackson emphasized how tough injuries can be on athletes, but he also said that sometimes getting hurt is part of the game. He also praised the NFL's doctors. "You get hurt, there's like 15 doctors running out to help you. They get you to the hospital or the training room. Make sure you get the care you need."

He also described his three season-ending injuries, and as a person who was there, I'm seriously glad none of them have happened to me, and also respect the toughness of NFL players even more than I did before.

The final topic was the two's experiences with journalism. Saunders received questions as a sports beat writer. He said that the experience of being a beat writer is a lot more enjoyable when your team is good.

"Rocktober, the Broncos' Super Bowl runs, those were so much fun to cover," said Saunders. "But with the Rockies' struggles, it's been tough. It's not nearly as much fun to cover a bad team."

Saunders said that his love for his job and the sport of baseball as a whole remains unchanged, despite the team's hardships.

Jackson, whose articles had shown up in newspapers as prestigious as the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, gave some advice to the young journalists. "It's just like any sport, you have to work hard and dedicate yourself."

He also talked about the process of writing a book, as an author. He said it was a very lengthy process, and it takes a lot of work and commitment.

CHRIS & ABBY

BY: TJ

On July 21st 2025, the Write on Sports camp interviewed Abby Bartolotta and Chris Dempsey about their sports-involving careers. I received new information about Abby and Chris being that both of them wanted to be athletes but unfortunately Chris' athletic career did not work out he became a journalist. He became a sportswriter and now works in the Denver Nuggets environment to cover the Nuggets on television.

Abby was born with sports genetics due to her mother ran track and was an athlete herself. Meanwhile Chris works with the Nuggets, Abby was fulfilling her basketball career and even got drafted into the WNBA! Sadly, when Abby got drafted, she was on the New York Liberty roster but got cut before she could play her first game. Both of them despite their struggles had persevered and still were able to import sports in both of their lives.

ABBY & CHRIS

BY: MANUEL

On July 21, Write on Sports Denver interviewed Chris Dempsey and Abby Bartolotta about how they became successful and how you need to work hard to get where you want to be after a career in sports.

Abby Bartolotta stopped playing because she wasn't playing like she used to play. The New York Liberty cut her from the team, but she still loves basketball and is a fan of basketball. After her basketball career she became a broadcaster. But after she started a family, she stopped broadcasting. Today Abby is an executive in the healthcare real estate business.

Chris Dempsey liked playing basketball, and he was an above average HS basketball player. He tried to get on the University of Colorado basketball team. But he did not make the team but he wanted sports in his life so he found another way. He became a journalism major so he could write about sports. Soon after, he was covering the Nuggets.

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CHRIS DEMPSEY & ABBY BARTOLETTA

BY: RANDY

On July 21 at Metro State University, the campers from Write On Sports interviewed Abby Bartolotta and Chris Dempsey. Abby had a 3.9 GPA and was told to maintain good grades and good scores in sports. "I was focused on playing Basketball and other sports but Basketball made me realize that it wasn't just about sports it was also about academics and how important it is," said Bartolotta.

Chris Dempsey explained how being a part of the team is an amazing experience and meaningful. "Seeing the team score is great but the only bad part about it is I can't show any emotions because it means nearly losing my job. "Bartolotta also was playing against high schoolers in Basketball while she was in 6th and 7th grade." I was not playing against 11 and 12 years olds I was playing against 14,16 and 17 year olds".

CHRIS DEMPSEY AND ABBY BARTOLETTA

BY: CICI

Chris Dempsey and Abby Bartolotta, showed up at Write on Sports, for a guest appearance. Abby Bartolotta revealed that she likes basketball because her friends played with her. She used to go to a YMCA to play pull off with her friends, and they'd just beat each other up to practice. She said she mainly only liked basketball because she got to hang out with her friends. She was named the Gatorade Player of the Year, and the McDonalds All-American. A McDonald's All-American is a playoff between all the best in the country face off to see who's the best. Gatorade Player of the Year is when the best female and male basketball player both get awarded. This meant a lot to her, cause even after she was cut from a team she didn't give up, and she kept going and won these awards.

Dempsey shared that he enjoyed writing for the CU buffs and also loves covering for the Nuggets. In his twenties, a veteran said that he would grow tired of sports writing. But nothing even close to that happened, according to Chris. Instead, Chris told himself that he's so lucky to cover sports like that! So, he kept doing it.

CHRIS DEMPSEY & ABBY BARTOLETTA

BY: DANTE

On July 21 Chris Dempsey and Abby Waner got interviewed by Write on Sports. The most interesting thing that they said is they both talked about their career and basketball.
Chris Dempsey said that when he tried out for the team they said no. Then they got a new coach and the new coach asked him to play for the team. He wanted to play but he couldn't because he was taking journalism classes and then he couldn't play or move the classes around.

A VIEW OF ABBY BARTOLOTTA AND CHRIS DEMPSEY

BY: LEO

On July 21, Abby Bartolotta and Chris Dempsey came to visit Write on Sports at MSU for an interview by WoS. The guests went to MSU to teach about their career experiences as athletes and journalists. Bartolotta recalled what it was like playing in championship games. "There's nothing more special," she said. She recounted that she had played in four championship games. "You think about all the hours you spend on the court, but that's less than 10 hours playing in championships." While Abby was saying this, based on her expression and form of speaking, she was happy and nostalgic. Bartolotta

also spoke about the advantages of spending more money on players. "Money is having a huge impact on sports, especially in feminine sports."

CHRIS DEMPSEY AND ABBY WANER

BY: EDGAR

On Monday July 21 2025 Write On Sports Students interviewed Abby Waner and Chris Dempsey at Metropolitan State University. The most interesting piece of information I learned today is that Abby changed her career because she started to grow her family. Although she started her career in sports with Chris, she didn't end her career there. Abby continues to use the skills she learned in sports by learning from her mistakes and has resilience on how it can impact her life as well as reflect on what went wrong. She got her Masters and had connections from a worker of health care and secured a job.

Abby grew up with lots of different sports but mostly basketball she remembered being on the bench in 2nd grade nervous to actually play and was lightly pushed into the court and knew this was her sport she had a good relationship with her sister and considered her best friend. She was very competitive and never liked losing in pick up games. She had the same schedule when she was in 7th grade. She was always told to get good grades and focus on school which helped her graduate college with 3.9 GPA.

ABBY WANER AND THE EXCITEMENT OF MARCH MADNESS

BY: JOHN

On July 21st, 2025, the campers from Write on Sports, a local summer camp, interviewed Abby Waner, a former WNBA player turned to the healthcare business, and Chris Dempsey, the Denver Nuggets broadcaster at Altitude Sports. Waner told the campers about her experiences in March Madness, the NCAA basketball tournament.

When Waner was asked about the excitement of playing in the national championship game, she replied simply. "There's nothing more special than playing in a national championship game." She told the campers about how there was a police escort for the team bus, but when they entered Madison Square Garden, it all just boiled down to basketball. There were all of the competitive women's college basketball players who wanted to win a championship for their respective teams. When asked to describe what made March Madness so different from a regular season game, she talked about how anything can happen, and that's what makes it so exciting. She said, "There's nothing in sports like March Madness." She talked about how there's the Duke's of the tournament, but then, "There's other teams that have their moments."

Lastly, Dempsey asked Waner in a mock interview about how she felt after the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, which her team, Duke, won lots of the time, with the NCAA Tournament and Madness right around the corner. She replied, "We'll celebrate this game, and then move on to the NCAA tournament." She also cited Michael Jordan's rule to celebrate for 10 minutes, but then move on to focusing on your next challenges. Overall, Waner talked about how March Madness was different from any other major sports tournaments. She talked about playing in the championship game, and how exciting that was because she had dreamt of playing in that special game since she was a kid. She also talked about celebrating, but also focusing on your next challenge as well. Waner credited sports in opening up other opportunities by teaching her skills, and now is in the healthcare industry and thriving.

COORS FIELD TOUR

BY: TEDDY

On July 17th, Write on Sports went to Coors Field to learn more about the Rockies. We learned about the history of Dinger the Triceratops, the mascot of the Colorado Rockies. Dinger was chosen as mascot of the Colorado Rockies because of these specific events. When Coors field was being constructed, the stadium needed to be big enough to hold capacity but had to follow city height regulations. Due to regulation, they had to dig 21 feet down.

When digging deep, what they found was shocking. They found the bones of dinosaurs. When the Rockies found them, they gave the bones to the Denver Nature and Science Museum for clarification on the species of dinosaur. After the examination on the bones the paleontologist figured that the bones belonged to a plant eating dinosaur. While the specific species of dinosaur is unknown, Rockies officials chose the Triceratops as their mascot. They decided on Dinger the Triceratops to be their team mascot.

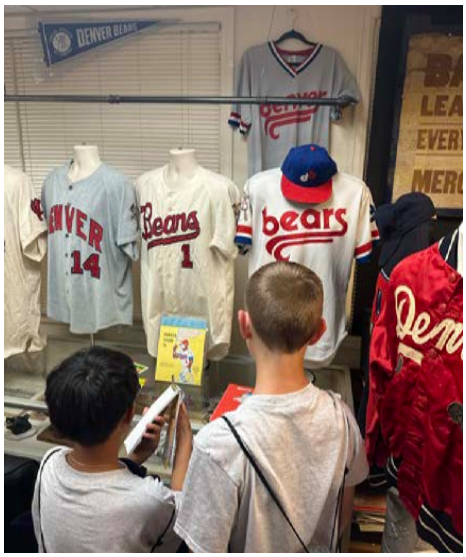
When the Rockies introduced Dinger they chose to place Dinger in a 10-foot egg, then moved him to the middle of the field, and when the time was ready (1994 April 16th) he would hatch out and the Rockies would have their new official team mascot known as Dinger. Rockies officials chose the name Dinger due to the meaning (a home run).

NATIONAL BALLPARK MUSEUM

BY: DANTE

On July 17, Write on Sports went to the Ball Park Museum to learn about the history of Baseball. The guides made the day fun and interesting.

The museum showed the love of baseball. The guides were very passionate about sharing the history of baseball. The museum is also a place for education to learn about uniforms, stadiums, and important people in baseball history. The artifacts were very important and valuable with the significance of each explained in detail. The museum also protects the history of baseball. People pay to look at the artifacts within the museum and would be responsible for paying for any broken items. This is why many pieces are found within cases.



THE DENVER BEARS' HISTORY

BY: MATTHEW

The Denver Bears were a historic piece of Colorado Baseball History, they were formed in the late 1800's and have continued to exist in present day. The Denver Bears were also influential in the rise of the Colorado Rockies, they played in Mile High stadium with the Broncos and moved to become the Wichita Windsurge almost a century later.

The age of the Denver Bears as a franchise is almost a century old, but when did they actually start? To give you a sense of how old they are, according to a tour guide at the Ballpark Museum, (which, keep in mind, had the largest collection of Denver Bears memorabilia) "Do you see that street in the corner? *Points to an undeveloped Federal Ave* That was Federal, and if you want an exact date, they were founded in 1885 and started playing shortly after." This shows how small Federal Avenue was compared to today.

The Bears were influential in bringing major league baseball to Colorado, because as a minor league team playing once every week at a small outing, they started to gain popularity with the residents of Denver. The Denver Bears then reached a level of popularity, where there would be hundreds of fans coming to each game. According to the tour guide at Ballpark Museum, "The Denver Bears essentially brought baseball to Denver, and made people want more of the game they loved." The Denver Bears made the people of Colorado hungry for a Major league baseball team, and that would give way to the Colorado Rockies.

The Bears then changed their name to the Denver Zephyrs, and sometime later they would move to New Orleans, and became the New Orleans Baby Cakes in 2017. According to the tour guide, the Bears had to move to Wichita, and became the Wichita Windsurge, because when the Rockies were formed, the state had a major league baseball team, and there was no use for a minor league team anymore.

All in all, this concludes the Denver Bears' extensive history, in Denver, under a new name, and in a new state, and eventually settling in Kansas.

SUITES AT COORS FIELD

BY: LEO

On July 17th, Write on Sports went to Coors Field to interview and learn about baseball. While WoS was on the tour, led by the very inviting Don, students learned about the clubs like PNC, Mountain Ranch and the Legacy club. A club is a limited group of people that are in the same social circle. The difference between standard tickets and club tickets is that the clubs have more privileges, such as food, drink and better views. The fancy suites like Legacy club are very expensive but are fun and pretty with a great view and an enjoyable experience like this, with a cost of $21,060 a person for season tickets or single-game tickets starting at $300. The Legacy Club members get food from a buffet, drinks from the bar, and the best views of the game. PNC cost $16,200 and Mountain Ranch Bar has a buffet option as well with the following pricing options:

- Season Ticket - $85 per ticket (includes VIP Lot parking)
- 20-Game Pick 'Em Plan - $95 per ticket
- Single Game – Starting at $110 per ticket.

While the cost is expensive, the one-of-a-kind experience could be worth the price.

THE STORY OF COLORADO ROCKIES' MASCOT, DINGER!

BY: CICI

It was a breezy 78° at Coors Field, located on 20th and Blake in Denver, CO. When WoS campers attended a tour at the ballpark, the tour guide Don shared with them the history of Dinger the Triceratops.

It was July 21st, 1993 and the Rockies were figuring out how they were going to escape height ordinances to have a spacious sitting area for fans. They decided to dig down. They dug down 21 feet and discovered three bones. They chose to turn them into the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. DMNS stated that the bones belonged to a herbivore but didn't know which one it belonged to. So, the Rockies assumed it belonged to a triceratops.

According to the tour guide Don, an egg appeared in Coors Field on Opening Day, rolled around, and a crack appeared. When the whole shell cracked open, a baby purple triceratops slowly creeped out of his shell and roared. They named him Dinger! Dinger is a playful term and is also baseball slang for a home run.

FUN FACTS ABOUT COORS FIELD

BY: RANDY

Campers from Write on Sports took a tour at Coors Field on July 17th. The most interesting piece of information I learned was the discovery of dinosaur bones. According to the tour guide, they dug deep below street level at 21 feet and found bones they believed to belong to a Triceratops.

Within Coors Field, they have three rules that are important in the locker room. They are feeding the players, doing the laundry, "and treating them like guests and being kind to them," said the tour guide. Every morning, the teams that will play send out someone to get them bananas to eat for breakfast. "Bananas have a quick source of energy with rich carbohydrates and have high potassium with high water content," said the tour guide.

There were many baseballs hit high, some even got past 500 feet. The farthest one to break the record at Coors Field is 504 ft by C.J. Cron on Sept 9, 2022. According to the tour guide, "The highest one hit the smash burger sign and another went under the Toyota."

The Journalists have assigned spots and they have to get there before the players to predict what is going to happen during the game while also observing the plays by the players. "The journalists watch and observe the game play as they write about the plays and scores while using the yearbook and old game scores from some players," noted the tour guide.

JACKIE ROBINSON: BASEBALL'S BEST FRIEND

BY: TJ

Jackie Robinson is a legend in the sport of baseball and exceeded the limits in baseball set for his time. He may have not been the first and only, he is highly recognized as an icon for African Americans to play baseball despite segregation. Robinson was one of those people that was crucial to the development of baseball as a whole. Without Jackie Robinson, things would be very different in baseball and many other sports without athletes like him. Robinson was a great athlete but he was not perfect. He also had his own personal struggles due to discrimination. Robinson once stated, "I know that I am a black man in a white world. I know that I never had it made."

Disregarding the fact that there were people that did not support and even hated him for who he was, he persevered and continued to play the sport he loved. Due to this, when he passed on October 24, 1972 (may he rest in peace) the number on his jersey "42" was not allowed to be worn after April 15, 1997 because of the MLB community/player showing league-wide honor to Jackie Robinson. Even though Robinson is gone, he will always live on in the world of baseball and our hearts.

ARTIFACTS FROM THE BALLPARK MUSEUM

BY: CHESLEY

July 17, 2025 was an interesting day for students from Write on Sports. They went on a tour at Coors Field and the Ball Park Museum. Today, I am writing about the students experience at the Ball Park Museum.

One of the sections was dedicated to the original Colorado team called the Denver Bears; they were started in 1800 hundreds. The tour started in a room dedicated just to the Denver Bears. One portion had lights from the first night game in 1935 there and they looked like big baseballs with stitches. The room also had a big blue circle with the number 42 honoring Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play professional baseball in the MLB.

The museum had artifacts from the original fourteen ball parks. There were sixteen teams and the museum had chairs and bricks from each stadium. They even had the chair that the farthest home run hit made it to. It was interesting that they would go out of their way to get that stuff. It is just unbelievable to me.

They had turnstiles that worked from the 1910 and one of them had a working counter, while another had a ticket box. The people who ran them had to suit up and wore suits and dresses until 1960-70. Overall, the ball park museum had a surprising amount of ancient pieces of baseball history and was worth the visit!


THERE IS Always Room FOR Jesus


TECH KNOW


Bears (1885)
Wichita


EPIC
GIRL


Write on Sports
Denver
BUDDY BEAN

A DEEP DIVE INTO THE ROCKIES 2007 RUN

BY: MATTHEW

The year is 2007, and baseball season's about to start. The Rockies fans in Colorado are ready for another year where the Rockies don't make the playoffs. They hadn't made the playoffs since 1995.

However, they shocked everybody near the end of the 2007 season. They made it to the World Series. The year 2007 was a wild year for the Rockies and their fans, each game being an actual baseball game instead of a clean sweep. The Rockies made insane runs, and when they got to the National League Championship Series against the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Rockies won in a 4-0 sweep. Everybody was shocked, the Rockies were going to the World Series for the first time.

When the Rockies got to the playoffs, it was Rockymania in Colorado – Rocktober, they called it. Win after win, inning after inning, Rockies fans cheering for them.

This was an important run in Colorado baseball history. The Rockies broke the record for most wins in franchise history, and got to the World Series for the first time.

But how did they get here? Why, after 16 years had they finally gotten good?

How the Rockies had gotten to their first World Series is still shrouded in mystery. They had players from the last team, but with new faces too. The Rockies were known for being wildly inconsistent with their wins, mostly losing. But something was different this time of year, the Rockies were going to have a different season.

Almost immediately, the Rockies hit off the 2007 season with a bang, they were winning the National League West division. They then kept winning, all the way until the Rockies got to the World Series. The Rockies had actually gotten good, because they hired new players for their team, and that helped them win those games.

Some notable additions to the Rockies 2007 lineup were Franklin Morales, Cory Sullivan, and Troy Tulowitzki, all of whom contributed greatly to the Rockies in their run.

The people of Colorado had the minor leagues Denver Bears, but they yearned for a major league baseball team. The call was answered by the Rockies, who debuted in 1993, and "set an unbreakable record for attendance on opening day with 80,227 fans," according to Don, a tour guide at Coors field. And when the 2007 season came around, everybody was tired of the Rockies losing again and again, and everybody wanted the Rockies to win for once. The 2007 Rockies run was the answer, they were winning all across their season, and the fans went crazy for it.

"If you went downtown during Rocktober, you could definitely feel the excitement around them." said Chris Dempsey, an Altitude sportswriter.

But it wasn't all wins, as the Rockies on September, 15 2007, they were fourth place, 76-72 in their League. The Rockies had to do something fast, they had to get a massive number of wins, and that they did. They went on to the Wild Card spot, and then they played an extra game in the season, and beat San Diego in a 1 game playoff. And the insane part about this, is that the Rockies won 21 out of 22 games before the World Series in the 30 days from 9/16 to 10/15.
The Rockies were very good in the 2007 run, they blasted through the normal season, getting into the National League Division Series and Championships. They first won the NLDS against the Philadelphia Phillies, and then won the NLCS against the Arizona Diamondbacks. The days between the NLCS and the World Series against the Red Sox were exciting for fans.

And then, the World Series was at hand, they were going to go

against the Red Sox. And it was bad, to say the least. They lost the World series 4-0 to the Red Sox, and Rocktober was over.

The insane run of the 2007 Rockies run was amazing, even if they didn't win the World Series, they still got to it, and made history in Colorado baseball. Their run will always remind loyal Rockies fans of better times.

All in all, the Rockies were an amazing team in 2007, and they were a beacon of hope for the loyal Rockies fans, both old and new. And we can only hope that they will accomplish this level of greatness again one day. Until then, go Rockies!

MIKE PIAZZA: FROM 1390TH PICK TO COOPERSTOWN

BY: NOAH

It's July 24, 2016, the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame inductees are about to be announced. Ken Griffey Jr. and... Mike Piazza! But wait, how did we get here? Rewind back to September 4, 1968 when Michael Joseph Piazza was born to very rich parents in Norristown, Pennsylvania. His dad was a self-made millionaire and the son of an Italian immigrant. Mike says he got his work ethic from his father. His father also knew legendary Dodgers manager, Tommy Lasorda. Which will come into play later.

Piazza always had a passion for baseball, as he practiced for hours each day. He started out his college career attending The University of Miami, getting little playing time. So he transferred to Miami-Dade North Community College, where he played as a starter.

Piazza was never on anybody's list so when time came for the 1988 MLB Draft, no one even knew who he was. Besides one person, Tommy Lasorda. Lasorda recommended the Dodgers draft Piazza as a favor to Piazza's dad. The Dodgers took their sweet time waiting to draft Piazza. Until the 1390th pick, when Piazza was finally drafted.

He spent 4 years in the Minor Leagues before making it to The Show, which is another term for the Major Leagues. When he started his MLB career in 1993, he had a breakout rookie season, slashing .319/.370/.561* and hitting 112 RBIs. Not to mention crushing 35 homers too, becoming an All Star and unanimously winning the National League Rookie of the Year award. He also won the Silver Slugger Award, setting off a ten year streak. In 1996, he won the All-Star Game MVP after hitting a homerun and a double.

On September 21, 1997, Piazza had one of the most legendary plays at Dodger Stadium. Against the Colorado Rockies, he demolished a ball off of pitcher Frank Castillo, hitting the pavilion and going out of the stadium. It was ruled to be a whopping 478 feet, which is very hard to do at such a low altitude.

In 1998, after spending 7 years with the Los Angeles Dodgers, he was traded to the Florida (Now Miami) Marlins. Shortly after being traded to the Marlins, he was traded to the New York Mets. In his first full season with the Mets he slashed .303/.361/.575* and matching two career highs with 40 homers and 124 RBIs.

In 2000, he led the Mets to a World Series against their biggest rivals, the Yankees. In Game 2, tensions boiled over when Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens threw a piece of Piazza's broken bat back at him and they got into a huge fight. Earlier in the year, tensions were already high when Clemens beaned Piazza in the head with a fastball giving Piazza a minor concussion. Even though Piazza hit 2 home runs in the series, the Yankees still finished them off in 5 games, leaving Piazza ringless.

In the first Mets game in New York, after the 9/11 attacks, Piazza blasted a go-ahead homer in

the 8th inning to lead the Mets to a symbolic win. This may not seem important but it helped the people of New York have something to cheer about in a hard time of their lives.

In May 5, 2004, he broke the record for most home runs as a catcher with 352 home runs, surpassing Carlton Fisk's record of 351 home runs. This put him in the MLB history books.

He also represented Team Italy in the 2006 World Baseball Classic. The World Baseball Classic is a tournament where the best baseball countries square off against each other. Although Piazza wasn't born in Italy, he has roots there and even is a citizen. He currently lives there part-time.

Piazza retired in 2007 after short one season stints with the San Diego Padres and then the Oakland Athletics. He finished his career with 427 home runs and 1,335 RBIs, getting his number retired by the Mets in 2016.

He is known as one of the best catchers and players of all time. Which is why he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2016.

If other players were in Mike Piazza's situation as a draftee they would probably accept that they will not make it to the MLB and quit. But Mike Piazza kept working hard, was disciplined, and made it to the MLB Hall of Fame.

"Never let your dreams go away" - Mike Piazza

*batting average/on base percentage/slugging percentage

MARCH MADNESS, NOT JUST CINDERELLA STORIES AND BUZZER BEATERS

BY: JOHN

It is March, and you are plopped on your couch on Selection Sunday with the TV on. You have your computer in hand. You are completely ready to fill out your bracket. And then, the first matchup is revealed.

Each year, millions and millions of March Madness brackets are filled out. For example, in 2025 there was a record of 24.4 million men's brackets submitted across multiple websites. Everyone always thinks that this is the year that they make history with a perfect bracket. However, this is before lots of people's brackets get busted in the first game, that's just how unpredictable the tournament is. Justin Adams, CBS News anchor, put it perfectly. "And you realize three games in that you're not winning anything."

According to the NCAA, the odds of having a perfect bracket are roughly 1 in 9.2 quintillion, a miracle. But you can do some things to help improve your prediction skills. You might think, "Predicting 63 games isn't that hard!" And this is 100 percent a false statement. Anything can happen in March Madness in any given game. For example, in 2000 only three of the 32, or 9 percent, of first round matchups involved the lower seed winning, but then there's the other side of the coin. In 2010, 10 of the 32, or 31 percent, of the first round matchups were upsets. Then, it became more interesting in the rest of the tournament. In the second round in 2000, a whopping 56 percent of the games involved upsets while in 2010 that number was only 43 percent!

"There's the Dukes with Cooper Flagg, but there's also the other teams that have their moments," former WNBA player Abby Waner said.

But those are just the stats. Odds are if you turn on your TV there will be a close game. That's part of the March Madness allure.

"It's just non-stop action," Denver Nuggets announcer Chris Dempsey said.

With multiple games on at once, at least one usually has an ex-

citing finish. Then, you have the Cinderella stories.
"This may be the only time they play under the national lights," Adams said.

Yes, it really might be. And I bet these lesser known players will try their hardest to make the most of this opportunity.

With star mid-major players usually leaving to a Power 4 school after a tournament run, the Cinderella story, which has been the brand of March Madness for years, is slowly dying. In 2025, there was not a single double digit seed in the Sweet Sixteen. It's crazy to think that just a few years ago fans were watching Oral Roberts and Saint Peters make runs to the Sweet 16 and Elite 8.

One example of how quickly March Madness changes is the 15 seeds and their recent success. In 2021, 2022, and 2023, 15 seeds pulled off upsets over 2 seeds. But, just as it was becoming a trend, in 2024 no teams got close and in 2025 Robert Morris couldn't close the deal, even in a tight game against Alabama. This is very interesting, that sometimes big upsets almost happen but the lower seed just can't close the deal against the juggernaut that they are facing, and then the underdog falls apart.

"You talk about numbers and analytics, but they're humans too," Bill Scmidt, Rockies General Manager, said when asked about why sports are unpredictable.

This adds to the thought that if you have a bad day, like every human does sometimes, you could put your team in danger.

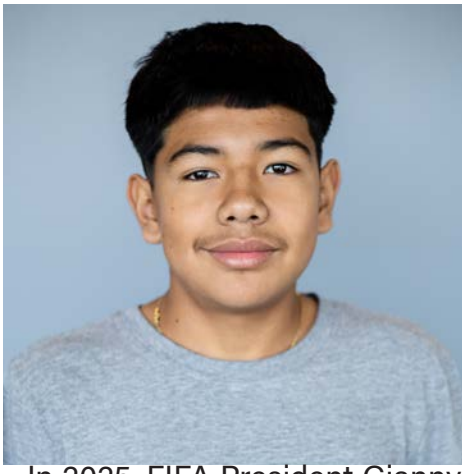
According to the Smithsonian, people have been attempting to create the perfect bracket since 1977, when 88 people filled out brackets in a Staten Island Bar. No one has even gotten even within a few games of a perfect bracket. The closest anyone has ever gotten on an online bracket challenge is Greg Nigl in 2019, with 49 games of the 63 predicted correctly. He finally got a game wrong when the Purdue Boilermakers beat the Tennessee Volunteers in the Sweet Sixteen. In a paper bracket, teenager Sam Holtz got 56 games correct before he got one wrong.
If you have a perfect bracket but an 8 vs 9 is coming up, you are definitely worried. Since 1985, the 9 seeds have won 52 percent of games, making it nearly impossible to predict. Some of the other interesting matchups are that the 7 seeds win 61 percent of the time against the 10 seeds, the 6 seeds win 61 percent of the time against the 11 seeds, and the 5 seeds win 64 percent of the time against the 12 seeds.
Then there's the 1 seed beating the 16 seed, which happens a full 99 percent of the time. That is the one game that bracket pickers spend no thought on. At least if the 1 seed loses, almost no one would've predicted it to happen.

Overall, March Madness is very unpredictable. There are some matchups that are coin flips and some players who know this might be their only chance to impress. Then there's the fact that all humans make mistakes and in March Madness, if you lose one game, your whole team's season is over, just like that. These factors all contribute to how hard sports are to predict, but especially March Madness. There are underdog stories that fuel teams, and then the big name schools knowing that there's always next year.

March Madness is super unpredictable, and a perfect bracket may never happen. However, there are trends that you can utilize to get your bracket to the best that it can be. May the 1 in 9.2 quintillion odds be ever in your favor.

CLUB WORLD CUP CLASH

BY: EDGAR



In 2025, FIFA President Gianny Infantino re-introduced the Club World Cup, which features 32 teams from 16 different countries. This gives the best clubs in the world a chance to compete to see who's the best.

The Club World Cup existed from 1960-2004, but came back this year with a new format. Some of the best clubs in the world, like European Champions Paris Saint Germaine, Chelsea, and Bayern Munich, qualified. Unfortunately, fan favorite teams like big European giants F.C. Barcelona, Liverpool, Napoli and Arsenal did not qualify even though they are seen as powerhouses. So why didn't they make it?

The qualification process works by being able to perform their best for 4 consecutive years in your country. Two teams from every country participate in the FIFA Club World Cup. When teams have won their respective national championship, they have a chance to move onto the World Cup. Teams must have a high ranking within their confederation over the past four seasons. The global event will bring together the most successful club sides from each of the six FIFA international confederations. European teams were decided using existing qualification measures, like the club coefficient system.

Though Real Madrid are considered the best in the world, they only made it to the semifinals before getting knocked out. Their fire was put out by an astonishing French side PSG who were also able to get far in the tournament, but lost in the final to Chelsea, which was a big surprise. Fluminense knocked out Al-Hilal coming out of the round of 16, beating English side Manchester City. Palmeiras had a shocking and exciting run but fell short 2-1 against the champions themselves. The final match was between Chelsea and PSG. Other strong contenders like Manchester City, from UEFA, also performed well in the tournament, according to FIFA.com.

Chelsea qualified for the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup by winning the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League. The tournament was structured with a group stage followed by a knockout phase. The Club World Cup featured two distinct phases, with a round-robin group stage format dominating the first half of the tournament, followed by a traditional knockout draw. Teams were drawn into eight groups of four clubs each, with the top two progressing into the knockout stages with the round of 16. Chelsea was able to rip through all these barriers and top their group, helping them through the next rounds. Cole Palmer played a crucial role, scoring two goals in the final and showcasing strong performances throughout the tournament.

The 2025 FIFA Club World Cup final, held on July 13, saw Chelsea defeat Paris Saint-Germain with a score of 3-0. The match took place at MetLife stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Cole Palmer scored twice and João Pedro added a third goal, securing Chelsea's second Club World Cup title, Cole Palmer struck twice in the opening half before recent summer signing João Pedro scored his third of the tournament to stun PSG the reigning European champions. The first Club World Cup was considered a success I believe it was unsuccessful because of the unreasonable pause to the tournament in the early 2000. Next time the Club World Cup should only have the best teams in the world participating. The next Club World Cup is in 2029 and based on performance right now I got Barcelona all the way. The teams definitely care about the tournaments because they get money to make their team better and stay financially stable.

Teams have four more years to prepare for this anticipated event to find out which team will be crowned world champions.

MORE THAN JUST PLAYERS: SPORTS TEAM RESTRUCTURING

BY: TEDDY

Have you ever felt like your favorite sports team is falling apart? Have you thought you can do better than the players or even the coaches? When teams fall apart the officials of the team may have to make changes to the team, this process is called restructuring. Sometimes, restructuring can include the hiring and firing of players, reviewing finances, and improvement strategies. Restructuring is caused by many things including unsuccessful seasons, the team can be in debt as well as leadership changes and business changes. Restructuring usually takes place every 5-7 years, unless the team is experiencing a sustained period of success.

An example of restructure would be the Colorado Rockies. The Rockies are a sports team that has just changed their team and lineup. Before the restructure, the Rockies were a notoriously unsuccessful team but since then, they have restructured their team and are looking forward to the next season to see what they can improve on. The Nuggets are another team that recently restructured. The Nuggets just changed their head coach (David Adelmen) as well as trading former Nuggets player Michael Porter Jr. due to him slowing down on the team and also because they owed Porter more money than they could give. There's also news that former Nuggets player Bruce Brown is coming back to play with them once more. The Portland Timbers are a soccer team that has also recently restructured. The Portland Timbers redesigned their training facilities with talks of expanding their stadium.

In order for a restructure to succeed you need to exhibit these skills: strong leadership, player development and good drafts, patience and confidence. Owners, general managers, and coaches can rebuild the team as well as make changes. Coaches can focus on teaching and learning from new players on the team. Restructure usually won't happen quickly. You have to believe and keep confidence to succeed.

A perfect example of a successful restructure was with the Seattle Seahawks in 2010. The Seattle Seahawks hired coach Pete Carroll and successfully drafted good players like Richard Sherman and Russell Wilson, which were the first steps to winning a Super Bowl in 2014. When the season started, the Seahawks soon were a running powerhouse that charged through the playoffs so fast it was like they were lightning. Soon they qualified for the 2014 NFL Championship and won it. This team showed that a good strong leadership and good strategic player drafting can lead to a successful season.

"We're going to compete like crazy," head coach Pete Carroll said in his introductory press conference. "Maybe like you've never seen. And I hope that will be the theme that will rise to us and that will be the most important part of it, because we are in the most competitive world that you can be in the NFL."

Carroll, in this quote when hired showed a new feeling of confidence and energy to the team.

Restructuring can be scary but it is proven to be beneficial not just for sports teams but also for the organization. The Seattle Seahawks are not the only sports team that has had a successful restructure. Many other teams in the NHL, MLS, NBA, MLB, LALIGA, Champions League, and more have also had a successful restructure as well. Teams will need to remain open to the possibility of restructuring in hopes of a successful season for players, coaches, and fans.

IT'S A CYCLE!

BY: BEN

It's stage 9 of the biggest cycling race in the world, the Tour de France. The main group of the race, the peloton, is riding through the town of Chateauroux to cheering crowds.

Mathieu Van Der Poel is just a little ways up the road, riding as hard as he can with a kilometer left in the stage, the peloton breathing down his neck. He pumps his legs with all the energy he can muster, but with 850 meters to go, he's caught. Disappointment floods his face as he disappears into the back of the race and the sprinters take over.

Green jersey rider (meaning he is the leader of the sprint points classification) Jonathan Milan hops to the front of the peloton and takes off. Fellow sprinter Tim Merlier barely manages to take his wheel – the cycling term for being on another rider's heels – with only 200 meters left, everyone else left in the dust. Milan and Merlier lock into a merciless battle for the line, Milan managing to maintain his lead until the last second, when Merlier throws his bike forwards and takes the stage victory.

This is the true thrill of cycling.

Stage cycling is, to put it simply, one long race sliced up into smaller portions. The riders' cumulative times over the race build up, and the person with the lowest combined time over the course of the race wins. Like any good competition, there's far more complexity to this amazing sport.

Stage cycling is also a team sport. This may seem weird, since everyone is timed separately, but teams work together to try to get their specialists at any one thing – such as mountains or sprinting – to victory. They have riders of all shapes, sizes, skill levels, and specialties.

There are four different classifications that a rider can win in stage cycling, each represented by a different colored jersey (the color depends on the race). First and foremost is the general classification (GC for short), which is just who has the lowest time over all the stages combined. There's also the young rider, which is the best rider at or under the age of 25.

The other two jerseys represent the riders with the highest number of sprint and climb points. In every stage, there is one intermediate sprint, where players gain sprint points for being between the first and fifteenth rider to make it through the checkpoint. The amount of points gained varies with placement, i.e. 20 points for first, 17 for second, and so on. Most stages also have categorized climbs, which are big hills and mountains. These range from category four, the shortest and easiest climbs, through category one and up to HC (hors categorie, "beyond classification" in French), which means that the climb is probably

a whole mountain and over 10 miles long. Climbs work similarly to the sprints, the first few people to make it through earn points. However, the harder the climb, the more points that are handed out.

Not all cyclists are created equal. While cycling may not have official positions like most team sports, typical cyclists usually fall into one of these categories:

First off is the sprinters. They are the biggest and most powerful riders (though in cycling, "biggest" usually means around 6 '0 and 160 pounds) and the ones who typically do the best on flat stages as their size allows them to generate absurd amounts of power. However, their size also prevents them from contending for the general classification (GC) as they can't get up the mountains fast enough.

Next up are the exact opposite of the sprinters, the climbers. They are small, light riders (rarely more than 5 '5, 130 pounds) and excel at climbing up ridiculously high mountains at ridicu-

lously fast speeds, while breathing ridiculously thin air into their lungs. These guys are true forces of nature, but usually fall short in the GC as they can't generate enough speed on flat stages or going downhill.

The all-rounders... where to start? These guys are... interesting. Somehow they do both sprinting and climbing really well, just not as well as the specialists in each. They're big, but not too big, and excel at hilly stages and taking early leads only to graciously bow out once the mountains get really high. They can sometimes show up in the GC, but typically they are held back by a lack of prowess on the huge mountains.

The teammates are just along for the ride. The "filler" guys, if you will, are usually in charge of delivering water and snacks from the team car – a car that contains the team's coaches, delivers supplies, and monitors the race – to the other riders, and breaking the wind for their better teammates. They're never in contention for the GC.

Finally, we have the GC guys. The stars of the show, the most widely known riders, the quarterbacks of cycling. They need not only amazing power, but climbing prowess, skill in solo riding for time trials, and the ability to react super quickly to almost any situation. Lance Armstrong, before he was discovered to use steroids, was a famous GC cyclist.

Stages, like cyclists, come in all geographical shapes and sizes. However, there are only three official types of stages. First, flat stages. They have no major mountains or climbs (some even have none at all), and are usually won by the sprinters.

Second are hilly stages. They typically have many lower category (3 or 4) climbs, but nothing above that. The all-rounders excel at these, but it can go down to the sprinters sometimes too.

Last are the mountain stages. They are chock full of high-category climbs – if the race has more than one category 2 or a category 1 or HC the stage is automatically mountain – and are typically the most fun to watch, as well as the most consequential for the GC. These are usually won by GC guys and occasionally climbers.

To wrap things up, let's talk about the huge amount of variety that cycling has to offer. It's a year-round sport with everything from huge, three-week races like the Tour de France, to single-stage thrillers like the Paris-Roubaix, to tiny five-day tours like the Tour AlUla and the Tour of Oman, and everything in between. There's always a cycling race to watch, at almost any time of the year.

Cycling is an amazing sport. Thrilling, simple yet so complex, easy to pick up, what's not to love? If cyclists got the appreciation they deserved, we would recognize a whole new class of internationally known athletes.

KNOCK OUT THE KING

BY: CHESLEY

Chessboxing is a lesser known sport that started in the 70s and later popularized in the early 90s by the Wu Tang Clan. Chessboxing combines the mental aspect of Chess and the physical side of Boxing. Together, these two sports create a challenging game testing mental and physical abilities.

In chessboxing, there are 11 rounds: 6 rounds of chess, 5 rounds of boxing, alternating between the two. Each round of chess lasts 4 minutes, followed by 3 minutes for boxing, with a minute break in between rounds. You win the chess match by checkmate, which is when you or your opponent's King has no safe moves or can't defend it with another piece, whichever comes first. Running out of time on the chess timer is another way chessboxers can lose a match.

If the final chess round results in a draw, known as a stalemate, there is an extra round of boxing. If no one wins in the extra round, the points of boxing are counted. If that is a tie then the black piec-

es win because in chess, white always goes first so black has a disadvantage.
If a referee determines a player is intentionally stalling to avoid losing in their weaker sport, they will issue a warning and a ten second ultimatum to make a move in the time if you don't it would result in disqualified. There are other ways to get disqualified like breaking the rules of boxing, or repeated intentional fouling such as headbutting, low blows, rabbit punches, biting.

A player can also resign in the chess or boxing portion. If fighters are so beat up or tired and are about to lose in an embarrassing way in chess, or going to lose the boxing match, you may just want to resign.

Just like in traditional boxing, there are weight classes. Chess boxing has distinct weight classes for both men and women, similar to traditional boxing. For men and women, the weight classes are Lightweight (men's 154.3 lbs / women's 121.3 lbs), Middleweight (men's 176.4 lbs / women's 143.3 lbs), Light Heavyweight (men's 198.4 lbs / women's 165.3 lbs), and Heavyweight (men's 198.4 lbs / women's 165.3 lbs).

The first chessboxing event was put on by Dutch performance artist, Lepe Rubingh. Rubingh's idea to create a new sport combining the physical game of boxing and the mental game of chess originates from the 1992 comic Froid Équateur, written by French comic book artist, Enki Bilal. Rubingh wanted to make the first chessboxing world championship.

An earlier version of combining chess and boxing took place in a boxing club outside London in the late 1970s. The Robinson brothers were in the habit of playing a round of chess against one another after a training session at their boxing club. The concept of chessboxing was first coined in the 1979 kung fu film, Mystery of Chessboxing made by Joseph Kuo. In this film, it referred to the Chinese variant of chess, xiangqi. In homage to the film of the same name, the rap group Wu-Tang Clan made it more popular in 1993, when they released the song "Da Mystery of Chessboxin."

Chessboxing is characterized by the unique blend of mental and physical games and demands the best of the best to play. The structure of alternating chess and boxing rounds creates constant tension and requires athletes to quickly adapt between intense physical activity and calm strategic thinking.
The alternating rounds are good because you have to play chess after getting beat up. It is hard to stay focused after you get punched in the face, or if you're too locked into chess you couldn't box well. Fighters have to train how to change their mindset in one minute. There is so much tension in the air when they're playing chess, and so much excitement with the moves and the punches. When both players push each other both physically and mentally, there is a great dynamic.

If you feel like you are mentally strong enough to play chess, and physically strong enough to take on a boxing match, then you should try chessboxing!

THE GREAT RIVALRY - REAL MADRID VS BARCELONA

BY: LEO

If no one wins in the extra round, the points of boxing are counted. If that is a tie then the black pieces win because in chess, white always goes first so black has a disadvantage.

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FOOTBALL EXPLAINED SIMPLE

BY: VALENTINA

Do you have a family member watching football, getting mad, but all you see is a group of people on top of each other? Not to worry, in this article I will explain football for people who don't understand the game or want to learn to play the sport.
To Explain the Piles of People...
A joke I heard was that Football was like a bunch of steaks trying to turn into a cow again. It really looks like chaos but, each steak is going after a specific steak so they can make a gap for the quarterback to go through. The quarterback (also known as the QB) is given the ball by the center (See: Positions down). The QB can go through the gap that the offensive line might have made, make a pass (most of the time to the wide receiver), or a hand off where the quarterback hands the ball to a teammate.

The Goal and the Physical Goals
When explaining quarterback and the options they have to get the ball across the field, it must be asked "Why does the quarterback need to get the ball across?" Well, for the points! Players can score points by getting the ball into the end zone, or kicking the ball through a goal post.

The Player Positions
(WARNING: THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH MAY CAUSE SLEEPYNESS, COFFEE IS ADVISED) Note: I will summarize

the following positions.

Offensive Positions:

- QB: We already discussed this position, if you SOMEHOW managed to skip the FIRST PARAGRAPH, Then go up.

- Offensive lineman: there are five offensive lineman, the left and right guards, the right and left tackles and the center. They are the pile of people mentioned earlier.

- Running Back: The main task of this position is to take the ball from the quarterback and sprint with it during rushing plays.

- Full Back: a fullback is a hybrid between an offensive lineman and a running back, normally behind the QB.

- Tight End: The tight end, aka TE, lines up behind the offensive lineman. The TE's job is half of an offensive lineman and half a wide receiver.

- Wide Receiver: They position themselves near the line of scrimmage, which is roughly a little more than a quarter of the field. Like the name suggests, they catch the ball, and they're VERY good at it, with help from their sticky gloves.

Defensive Positions:

- Defensive Lineman: They are positioned at the line of scrimmage.
- Linebacker: The linebacker is located behind the defensive line
- Cornerback: Cornerbacks have to block the offense's greatest receivers.

- Safety: Safeties are the last defense. They are at the back. There are two safeties - strong and free safeties.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Special teams are players who are not offense or defense.

- Kicker
- Punter
- Kick returner
- Punt returner
- Long snapper

And That is Football Explained Simple.

BEYOND THE STATS: FROM ONE LOCKER ROOM TO ANOTHER

BY: TJ

Are you interested in professional sports? If so, you might want to stick around for this! In the NFL (National Football League) and NBA (National Basketball Association) Teams can be rearranged, meaning that some players are cut or even traded. These terms mean that a player on one team can be switched to another team for another player. Being cut means that your (the player's) contract has expired meaning that they are no longer on a team at the moment. When you become a free agent, any team can sign you to their team if they offer you a contract. For most players getting traded isn't something they take lightly. But for some other players they request to trade to different teams willingly.

Professional players should always think major things like this through or they may change their own life and not for the better. Teams will trade players to enhance their roster to have a better shot at the championships in their sport. Even with these players moving around all the time, it doesn't just change the life of the player changing teams, sometimes affects the team as a whole. Sometimes, there are players on the team that have a lot of chemistry with that specific player but when they are gone it feels like part of them is gone too. All of this connects back to one of the most important aspects in sports... Stats. Depending on a player's stats makes them stand out towards other teams. When a player stands out to a team, they are drafted.
When someone gets drafted they are on the roster of the team they got drafted to. Believe it or not,

trading a player on your team for a better player with better stats may not always be the best course of action. Some players on teams (if not all) have a brotherly relationship and it can hurt to see them go; therefore, it can throw certain players off in an important moment of their career. It may be possible to also try to "walk on" to a team as well.

Trading plays a crucial part in almost every sport as well as stats. Without trading and cutting players it is most likely that if one team played the other they would have the same outcome over and over due to the same players without a strategy. If all the teams had the same players all the time, the sport would not change. It would always stay the same.

Sports have more suspense and tension when people move around (team-wise). Sports bring people together that have never met before and all team up to cheer for the team they wish to win. Sports are a never ending community event that will always be exciting, entertaining, and best of all, never ending.

THE NUGGETS FROM BAD TO GOOD

BY: DANTE

You get to your seat at Ball Arena. Fans are cheering for their favorite team. The players are moving across the court. The Nuggets are an NBA team that have been around for 58 years. In the past the Nuggets have not always been a good team. In 2015, however, that began to change thanks to a few adjustments.

One move that had a huge impact was when Nikola Jokic was drafted in the second round of the 2014 NBA draft. In his second season with the Nuggets, they were the most improved offensive team in the league, scoring 7.3 more points per 100 possessions than the year before. Before the 16-17 season, the Nuggets also drafted Jamal Murray in the first round at 7th overall.

The Nuggets drafted Michael Porter Jr. by selecting him with the 14th overall pick in the 2018 NBA draft. Porter was a key offensive player, especially as a shooter, and contributed to the team's 2023 championship run.

The head coach of the Nuggets was Michael Malone, who developed Jokic, Murray and Porter into champions. Malone was hired in 2015, which is when things started to go uphill.

"The Nuggets improved by trading more players and getting a new coach and switching things around," Altitude TV broadcaster Chris Dempsey said.

Jokic's playmaking and scoring, Murray's clutch performances and scoring, and Porter Jr.'s three-point shooting got the Nuggets to the NBA Finals, where they beat the Miami Heat, four games to one to win the championship.

Now, two years later, things look a little bit different. Michael Porter Jr. was traded for Cameron Johnson. And head coach Michael Malone was fired and replaced by David Adelman.

The Nuggets' journey from bad to good has not been easy. Hard work for all of the players has taken a long time with lots of practice and hardship with each and everyone. This dedication to their sport pushed the limits and took the Denver Nuggets to new heights.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG ATHLETES AND HOW LEGAL AND ATHLETIC SYSTEMS HANDLE IT

BY: CICI

Many people suspect that most athletes are laid off charges for assault because their team needs them, because they have enough money to afford good lawyers, or the judges give unfair verdicts. This isn't fair to victims who have been put through so much, and their attacker just gets let off the hook and gets no jail time! There are a few famous cases where athletes got 0-3 months in jail for hurting someone.

The first case talks about The People vs. Floyd Mayweather Jr. Mayweather is an American boxer who had a few run-ins with domestic violence in his life, but the case that destroyed his career was against his now ex-girlfriend, Josie Harris. In 2002, according to Ranker.com he physically assaulted her after an argument they had, he twisted her arm and hit her, as their two children watched. Not only that, but Mayweather also threatened to make Harris "Disappear". When he was charged, he gained a plea deal that if he pleaded guilty, he'd get 90 days, and if his behavior was well, he'd get 17 days knocked off of his sentence. This is not a good thing for if he gets out and does it again. But if he wasn't an athlete he would have gotten the average 1-25 years according to Lawinfo.com depending on how bad the case was. In my opinion, I don't think the legal system handled this case very well because the sentencing wasn't appropriate because Josie could've been very injured and they just give him a month and a half, he should've paid for the hospital bill at least, he only got that sentence was because he was a famous boxer.

Now let me bring up the case of Nick Kyrgios vs. The People: Nick Kyrgios is an Australian tennis star who pleaded guilty to pushing his partner Chiara Passari in 2021. He avoided Criminal Conviction by apologizing, that's like a robber apologizing for putting a lady in the hospital and taking her purse in the action, and still not getting any consequences. According to Metro.Co.Uk it stated, "assault a woman, admit it and an employer like the BBC might just seemingly sweep it under the carpet if you're talented." The main reason why Kyrgios got off was because a psychiatrist deemed him as mentally ill, and was given no consequences. This is unfair to Chiara, who was injured with no justice. What if he just did something to Chiara and got away with it again? Would that be just? The legal and Athletics system did not handle this case well, or like they should have, he's still a human like the rest of us, so he should be punished like the rest of us.

My last case is multiple cases of Jim Brown vs. The People: Jim Brown was a legendary Cleveland Browns who passed away May 18th, 2023. At 84. Brown was found not guilty for battery and assault for beating and raping a 18-year-old girl in 1964. In 1968, he was found guilty for attempted murder of a girl, 22-year-old Eva Bohn-Chin. But those charges were dropped after Eva didn't identify Brown as her assailant and she has claimed she slipped off her balcony, According to The Guardian newspaper, it stated "The affair ended with Brown paying a 300$ fine-his penalty hitting a sheriff deputy investigating the incident". In 1978, Brown was charged guilty for beating and choking his golf mate Frank Snow but was only sentenced to one day in jail. In 1985, Brown was charged with rape and sexual battery but was let go because of inconsistent statements of the victim She claimed Brown punched her in the face, choked her nearly unconscious and threatened to break her ribs before sexually assaulting her, she was 33 years old.

And lastly in 1999, he was charged with throwing out terrorist threats. According to the LA Times, he threatened to kill his wife. He was also charged with vandalism because he bashed in his wife's windows of her car with a shovel, he was charged with misdemeanor vandalism and sentenced to probation.

In my opinion, even after all the crimes he committed, he altogether only had 1 day of jail, and probation. The legal system should've kept him in jail the first time, but he just kept and kept going, he wasn't put in jail for the crimes they caught him in!

To conclude, in my opinion, the Legal system gives unfair punishments. They shouldn't care if you're a famous athlete, movie star, or singer. Everyone deserves to be punished the same way based on what they did, not by social status.

HOW DOES ONE DECIDE TO STOP BEING AN ATHLETE?

BY: MANUEL

When players retire, how do they decide to retire? Players can retire because they get injuries, lose their skills, or decide to pursue other interests. It is a hard decision because you leave your fame behind, but every athlete has to make that decision at some point.

An athlete can get injured throughout their career. More specifically, a football athlete can get knee or shoulder injuries, such as fractures, dislocated shoulder, and concussions. Football players get fractures from impacts including tackles, falls, and repetitive stress. Players on the ground can get fractures. Overuse or repetitive movements can lead to stress fractures. The common fractures are arms and legs, ribs, and fingers. So if a player gets injured so badly and gets healed but does not heal right, they may have to retire.

An athlete can lose skills due to aging. Also, while players age, new, younger players are joining the league. Older players competing with younger players have a disadvantage physically. A player might become slower, might lose strength, and might get tired sooner. Lots of players get cut from their teams because their skills worsen. The players that don't have a team may have to retire.

An athlete can have other interests. After athletes retire they do other interests like broadcasting or social media or be a fan of the game that you used to play for or write a book about you in the game or coach or run a business.

The reason why this topic is interesting is because this was sad and every athlete has their good times but every athlete has to make the decision to stop playing.

CREATIVITY IN AMERICAN FOOTBALL

BY: RANDY

In Highmark Stadium, on Sunday, November 17, the Bills and the Chiefs were facing off in the fourth quarter with the Bills leading the Chiefs 30-21. The Chiefs were struggling on the defensive side, having allowed over 100 yards rushing. The Bills were still able to come out on top, winning 30-21 despite the Chiefs' last minute effort.

Fast-forward to January 26, 2025, the Bills and the Chiefs battled in a rematch for a spot in Super Bowl LIX. The Chiefs were undoubtedly ready to face the Bills and they both needed the win or else their season would be over. Nevertheless, the Kansas City Chiefs were able to knock the Bills out of the Conference championships, going to the Super Bowl.

The change in strategies of the Chiefs between the first game and the second helped them win the second game against the Bills.

In the Super Bowl, the Chiefs' strategies weren't useful against the Philadelphia Eagles because the strategies they used were too predictable in the field, so it made it easy for the Eagles to plan out a strategy to take down their formation. The Eagles won Super Bowl LIX 40-22.

The coaches use popular strategies not because they're popular but they're useful in some games and reliable. Coaches also have a plan B if their main strategies don't work out. A coach's job includes helping the players strategize, which means preferring some players over others.

Some important strategies in football are attacking, defending and balancing the two. Some offensive strategies are the spread offense, which is the most popular style of offense, and has been used for more than 50 years. A team can use a singleback offense to run and spread evenly against the defense horizontally. It typically uses a tight end, a tail back, and three wide receivers. A pro set offense is sometimes called splitbacks, and was a popular offense for 40 years in the NFL and is still used a lot. It features two running backs in order to keep defenses guessing.

Another popular scheme is zone running, where blockers block different players depending on what the defense does. Play-callers can use the outside zone combined with the inside zone to make it a variety that is tricky for defenders to predict. All these strategies are used in different teams even some of the strategies are used frequently by the same teams.

Sometimes having a unique player can unlock many strategies. Having a quarterback like Patrick Mahomes allows the Chiefs to run deep passing plays and expect the quarterback to create big plays.

Sometimes an intelligent coach

can win games with superior strategies. Bill Belichick coached the New England Patriots and showed many innovative schemes with management tactics. At one point, Belichick's offense was known for "dinking and dunking," with short, low-risk passes moving the ball down the field. Later, Belichick's offense beat opponents by going no-huddle and playing faster. Bill retired in January 11, 2024 after his 24 seasons and having 6 Super Bowl titles, but he returned to coaching recently to coach the University of North Carolina football team.

Coaching strategies can determine which players make the team. Linebacker Preston Smith was traded from the Green Bay Packers to the Pittsburgh Steelers because of a coaching change. The Packers' new defensive coordinator wanted bigger, stronger players to defend because the team changed its alignment. Smith did not fit the scheme, so unfortunately he was traded to the Steelers.

With so many different strategies

to decide on, football is a game that is interesting in many ways, with each team having their own unique style and unique play and many more creative ways of playing football.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SARA HERTWIG

INSTAGRAM: @SARASFOTOS *WEBSITE: https://www.sarahertwig.com/*

(PAGES 4–7, 9, 11, PAGES 16-20, PAGES 22-25, PAGES 27-33)

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THE DENVER POST
JOLLY GOOD


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IMPACT STATEMENTS

WHAT CAMPERS ARE SAYING...

"When reading or listening to someone, WoS taught me to pay attention to details" (Noah)

"The vibe of the camp made me feel like I belonged, made me feel like a new person" (Edgar)

"I never knew what collaboration was until I attended this camp" (Leo)

"The best thing I learned was how to research my topic" (Valentina)

"I've never stood up and spoke in front of a group before, WoS really helped my confidence" (Manuel)

"I greatly improved my grammar and learned how to conduct research" (Dante)

"The various sessions were great experiences, and I learned how to deal with other people" (Matthew)

"When I first showed up, I wasn't big on writing, now I am... in such a short period of time" (TJ)

"I feel like I'm a better communicator, and to my surprise, more creative" (Randy)

"WoS gave me confidence, especially in preparation and the process of writing a story" (Ben)

"WoS was inspiring for topics, I loved picking my own topic and researching to support my perspective" (CiCi)

"I now realize how writing my stories can impact those who are reading them" (John)

"WoS was a great experience, it made learning fun" (Teddy)

"The teachers were great, my confidence is so much improved" (Chesley)

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!