

Chambers Enterprise Story (FINAL)

Whenever you attend a sporting event whether that be football or basketball or even soccer or baseball there is a lot that goes into making sure the game even starts on time or has a smooth run. Most of the time that is that student managers making sure everything is good to go whether that's making sure the jerseys have been washed, the court is mopped up, the waters have been filled up. Essentially the student managers are the coaching staffs right hand man helping with whatever they need to during before, during and after practice or a game to make sure it goes as smooth as possible. It's almost as if they did their job good enough the fans at the game won't even notice them, but the people that do notice them their time and dedication don't go unnoticed.

"My senior year of high school we went 4-23, which wasn't good, and I knew I wasn't going to be playing college basketball, so when I came to school at Northwest, I emailed all the coaches within the first few weeks of being here asking if the team needed any help, I actually got rejected at first so that sucks so about 2 weeks later I got an email from one of the assistant coaches," says manager of the Men's basketball team Justin Dickerson

"I played basketball and soccer in high school and I just wasn't ready to walk away from the sport and being a manager giving the perfect balance between not playing and playing and being involved with a team," says manager of the Woman's Basketball team Katy Knudsen

When you're younger and your parents put you in sports you either like it for a little bit and then you grow out of it or you stick with it from a young age and never want to stop playing and you continue playing through high school and if you don't go to college to play sports, your other option is to be a manager of one of the teams. Or on the other hand you help out with the creative video side of things and that's exactly what Parker Schmitz of the football team did.

"Back in the junior year of high school I helped the football teams' instant replay and what not, and the game film. With that I kind of got a team to help me take control of that. Where they were doing the endzone and sidelines film and I was doing overall highlight reels," says Schmitz.

With COVID-19 being the main topic on everyone's brain for the past 9 months the woman's soccer team along with all the other teams on campus they are trying to change their team guidelines to go along with Northwest mitigation policy that they have in place for COVID-19.

"The team was already limited on practices due to COVID-19 coming into the year, and all the measures they put in place coming into the season still apply. For the most part, the biggest thing that's changed like any other job is the attention to how spacious I am with the players and coaches, and the mask-wearing," says Kyle Rock woman's soccer manager

Ross Davis talks about his favorite and least favorite thing about being the student manager of the baseball team and what his time with the team meant to him.

“My favorite thing about being a manager would have to be getting all the perks that the rest of the team does, but not having to do all the running, and getting yelled out during practice as bad as that might sound. Another thing is just getting to continue being around baseball longer because it’s a game I’ve loved forever and being with a great group of guys and coaches,” Davis says

There isn’t always a tab in the Northwest athletics website about applying to become one of the athletic student managers sometimes you just have to put yourself out there and email the coaches and be persistent and letting the coaches know that you have love the Opportunity to work under such great coaching staff and that’s what Dickerson believes he did in order to become a manager.

“Something I did was just being persistent and showing them, you want to be a part of the team. I know a lot of stuff is going on right now but letting them know you’re there if they never need your help. Just saying you want to help out and not worrying about the money at the time. If you end up getting on the team just show the team, you’re willing to give your all and going above and beyond to always helping the team out,” says Dickerson

Knudsen thinks that shadowing under coach Austin Meyer and his staff will help her out Tremendously in her future career in teaching.

“I’m majoring in Secondary education, so I want to teach high school and coach. Just being around this coaching staff has helped me out a lot because they are great teachers and are showing me already what it means to be a great coach,” says Knudsen

On the other side of being a manager is Schmitz doing all the creative videos that bearcat football posts on various social media sites. His role is different being he’s not filling up waters, setting up equipment for drills. He’s doing his own thing behind the camera.

“Practices usually start around 3-3:30 and I show up around 30 minutes before to get all my gear set up and my high hat, audio, and lens. Then once practice starts, I’m always moving around if there a big plan or 1 on 1’s I’m usually filming that but for drills ill usually get pictures because they tend to turn out better,” says Parker.

Kyle likes the atmosphere that the team gives off and it helps when his twin sister is also on the team, so he has good connections there and it makes it feel even more like than family than it already is.

“My Favorite thing about managing the team is getting to be around the game as much as I am and continuing to get to know the players and coaches. My least favorite thing is having COVID-19 take away their fall season and not being able to do as much as the team usually would during a regular, non-COVID-19 season,” says Rock

The student managers here at Northwest are some of the vital parts of the athletic department even if you don’t think of it right away because they are doing some of the work to take it off the

coaching staff's plate because managers want the coaches to worry about winning and getting the athletes to the best of their ability while they are on the team.