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Season Pass: Southern Miss Sports Report

Mackenzie Hamilton

The University of Southern Mississippi

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Season Pass: Southern Miss Sports Report

by

Mackenzie Hamilton

A Thesis
Submitted to the Honors College of
The University of Southern Mississippi
in Partial Fulfillment
of Honors Requirements

May 2021

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsey Maxwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lindsey Maxwell, Ph.D., Thesis Advisor,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edgar Simpson". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

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School of Communication

Ellen Weinauer, Ph.D., Dean
Honors College

ABSTRACT

Season Pass: Southern Miss Sports Report is a creative activity investigating the process of producing and releasing a weekly sports report. The series is composed of twenty-four two-to-three-minute episodes that recap the highlights, scores, and performances of Southern Miss Athletic teams. In addition to the sports reports, the show includes feature stories that provide insight into the lives of Southern Miss Athletes and Athletic Staff outside of the sports world.

Season Pass aired weekly on Southern Miss Athletics' Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts from the beginning of September 2020 through mid-March 2021. In this manuscript, I detail the pre-production, production, and post-production of the show. Additionally, all episodes are housed and available to view on the YouTube channel "Southern Miss Season Pass."

In having the opportunity to produce a weekly sports report, I greatly enhanced my writing, reporting, interviewing, and editing skills. Furthermore, my knowledge of sports and athletic terminology grew, I learned how to meet quick deadlines, and I became more comfortable on camera. Altogether, the experience allowed me to significantly improve as a sports multi-media journalist.

Keywords: Sports Report, Athletics, Social Media, Journalism, Production, Broadcast

DEDICATION

To Mom and Dad,

“Someone has to do it, so why not you?”

I turn back to this advice daily. Thank you for always supporting me in chasing after my dreams, no matter how big and no matter what the circumstance. I love you both so much.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There are a great number of people who deserve recognition for their assistance in contributing to this project as well as my growth as a sports journalist.

Foremost, thank you to Dr. Lindsey Maxwell for supporting my vision of doing a creative activity. Without your openness to advising an untraditional thesis project, I would have been too hesitant to perform a weekly sports report. Additionally, thank you for pouring into me over the past four years. I could not have asked for a better academic nor thesis advisor.

Thank you to David Cohen and the Southern Miss Athletic Department for providing me with the opportunity and freedom to create content for the Golden Eagles. *Season Pass* would not be possible without your help. From providing highlights and photos, to granting access to Southern Miss athletes and athletic staff, to overseeing the release of each episode and writing captions, David has been the cornerstone of the series.

Thank you to the Honors College for both the permission to perform a creative activity and for the monetary backing of the project. The Discovery Scholar Research Grant funded all equipment used to produce *Season Pass*. In being able to purchase proficient equipment, I was able to create a show of professional caliber.

Thank you to Patrick Stewart, Emmy James, Kate Mattox, Blake Roberts, Todd McCall, and Kendell Mindnich for allowing me to share your stories. You each have such inspiring and entertaining lives that deserve recognition.

Finally, thank you to the Southern Miss community for their support of *Season Pass*. From watching the show, to kind comments, to a simple favorite or retweet, your

support encouraged me weekly and motivated me to make each episode better than the last.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Atlantic Coast Conference
AD	Athletic Director
CBS	Columbia Broadcasting System
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CITI	Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
ESPN	Entertainment and Sports Programing Network
FBS	Football Bowl Subdivision
IRB	Institutional Review Board
MAC	Mid-American Conference
MCJ	Mass Communications and Journalism
MLB	Major League Baseball
NBC	National Broadcasting Company
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association
PAC-12	Pacific Coast Conference
PR	Public Relations
USM	The University of Southern Mississippi
SBR	Scientifically Based Research
SEC	Southeastern Conference
TCU	Texas Christian University

CHAPTER I: PRE-PRODUCTION

Preface

Ever since I can remember, my life has been consumed with sports. I was born into a family that is not only fanatical about sports but also makes a livelihood out of them. My grandfather Carl Hamilton is the pioneer of using film in baseball. In the 90s, he was hired by the Texas Rangers to serve as their Video Coordinator Coach and had the duties of recording all MLB (Major League Baseball) games for scouting and analysis purposes. After spending ten years with the Rangers, he then moved to Washington and worked for the Seattle Mariners for an additional twenty-one years.

Following in his footsteps, my father Mike Hamilton worked for the Colorado Rockies as the team's video coordinator in the days after his career as a professional baseball player. After heading the Rockies Video Coaching Department for ten years, my dad transitioned into a professional scouting role for the organization.

So, as you can imagine, sports have and continue to hold a considerable amount of importance in my family. Starting at the age of 3, my brother and I were enrolled in every kind of sport possible. To this day we are still both playing sports, now competing at the collegiate level. I can't count how many nights we spent at Coors Field. Every spring we lived in Scottsdale, Arizona for Spring Training. The radio in the car is always tuned into sports talk shows such as *The Ticket*. The television is always on ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network) or Fox Sports. The topic of conversation at dinner is always surrounding recent trades, upcoming games, and workout plans. And I wouldn't want my life to be any other way.

I can't pinpoint the exact moment I gained my passion for sports broadcasting, probably because I have been constantly surrounded by it, but I do know that I have had aspirations to be a sports reporter for over ten years now. The job is a perfect fit for me – watch games and talk sports. It's nothing outside of a normal day of mine.

My love and knowledge of broadcasting have developed throughout my education. In middle school, I enrolled in video production as my elective class for the semester. The following year I auditioned and made the school's announcements team. Transitioning into high school, I selected a graduation plan with an endorsement in video production and accordingly spent four years involved in the school's broadcast news team. During my senior year, I served as the head sports producer and anchor. Continuing in a similar fashion, as I applied to colleges my senior year, I solely looked at universities that offered a broadcast journalism degree or the like.

During my first year at the University of Southern Mississippi, my Mass Communication and Journalism professors religiously spoke on the importance of building our demo reels throughout our time in college. At the conclusion of each of my MCJ (Mass Communication and Journalism) courses, we were required to create or add onto our own personal website that served as the base for all of our material. Our professors explained to us that when we neared graduation and started applying for jobs in the news industry, our news articles, videos, and demo reels would be the most important component in our job application. Throughout my time in college, this piece of advice has continued to be solidified by numerous professionals I have met in the broadcasting industry through various internships and organizations.

In the news media industry, demo reels are the equivalent of an athlete's highlight tape or an actor's audition film. A demo reel is an accumulation of reports, stand-ups, and material that showcase a journalist's best work. News organizations want to see a journalist's talent as well as his or her experience, which are both showcased in a demo reel.

After my time is complete at the University of Southern Mississippi, I hope to be hired by a news organization, a local news station, a sports team, or obtain a graduate position with the communications department of an athletics program. Therefore, I feel that my time is best spent creating material, such as sports reports and interviews, for my demo reel in my last year at USM (The University of Southern Mississippi).

Project Overview

To meet the requirements of my Honors Thesis Research Project, I constructed a creative project that investigated the process of producing and releasing a weekly sports report. My creative project is entitled *Season Pass: Southern Miss Sports Report*. The series aired weekly and was broadcast on Southern Miss Athletics' social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. In total, my creative project is composed of two portions: (1) a written paper describing the pre-production, production, and post-production of the project and (2) the series itself composed of the sports report videos. All of the videos are stored and accumulated on a YouTube channel.

Season Pass is a two to three-minute social media segment that recaps the highlights and the scores of the games, matches, and tournaments of Southern Miss sports teams. Additionally, the series released a handful of feature interviews that highlighted the duties and lives of USM athletes and athletic personnel.

Research

My idea to produce a weekly sports report was inspired by the work of various universities' athletic departments. Many communication and media departments within collegiate athletic programs release content that highlights the games of their teams. I relied heavily on these other sports reports while planning the production of my own, consistently watching them and referring back to specific shows to grasp an idea of what I like and did not like within a sports report. Out of countless series and reports I watched, three universities produced sports reports that contained elements I desired to incorporate in *Season Pass*: Texas Christian University, Kansas State University, and the University of Tennessee.

The series I drew the most inspiration from was Kansas State University's *Power Cat Preview* (K-State Athletics, 2019). *The Power Cat Preview* is a one-minute social media report that gives information on a Kansas State athletic team's upcoming game. A segment is released before each football, volleyball, soccer, basketball, and baseball competition. Although I recapped the results of USM athletic events instead of previewing them, I am fond of the setup of the *Power Cat Preview*.

The episodes open with the show's graphics and then transition into a close-up shot of a reporter with their nameplate in the lower third of the screen. The location of the reporter changes for each episode and he/she are positioned in front of natural scenery, such as a field or a location within the athletic department's facilities. After a quick introduction, highlights from previous matches are played and voiced over. Then, following the conclusion of the highlights, the video returns to the reporter. Often

graphics are displayed on the right or left of the reporter presenting information about the next game, such as Kansas' opponent, competition time, and the location of the game.

Season Pass has a similar show layout. I, the reporter, am placed in front of natural scenery that pertains to the show's content, such as a field or athletic department facility. I varied the shot for each episode so that the background was never the same. Additionally, I incorporated quick graphics for the show at the beginning and end of each episode. I also had final result graphics on the side of the screen and lower-third nameplates. I am also a fan of the short timestamp of each episode. Consequently, the series consists of two to three minutes long shows, so people are more apt to watch on social media.

Another athletic department's sports report that I watched frequently for the preparation of *Season Pass* was Texas Christian University's *Horned Frogs Nation* (Fox Sports Southwest, 2019). The fifteen-minute segment is aired on Fox Sports Southwest and features highlights from all of TCU (Texas Christian University) athletics teams from the week. Additionally, the reporter interviews an in-season athlete at the conclusion of each show. The interview itself is about ten minutes long with the highlights taking up the first five minutes of the show.

I enjoy that TCU's sports report incorporates all of its athletics results from the week into one segment. I too focus on all of the highlights and scores from one week to endorse all of Southern Miss's sports teams and athletes. Ultimately, my desire for *Season Pass* was to be a series that Golden Eagle fans watch each week to get up to date on all USM's sports seasons.

Finally, I referred to The University of Tennessee's *Fall Practice Report* (Tennessee Football, 2020). The series was produced this fall to highlight UT's football team as they prepared for the 2020 season. Each episode was one to two minutes long, starting and ending with a reporter standup on location at the practice field. In addition to highlights and voiceovers, the report also included interviews with players and coaches.

I really like Tennessee's incorporation of player and coach audio within the report. The interviews add more content and created a good mixture with the reporter's narration. Additionally, fans tend to enjoy hearing from the players and coaches themselves.

I also integrated segments of player and coach interviews within each episode of *Season Pass*. At the end of each football, basketball, and baseball game, the athletic department hosts a press conference for media to ask the head coach and a few players questions about the competition. I used some snippets of their interviews within my game recaps.

In addition to reviewing sports reports from other universities, I also examined research concerning social media engagement. Researchers at Sprout Social, a social media software management company, released a handful of articles about their investigation into social media algorithms and social media users' interactions.

In their article, *The Best Time to Post on Social Media in 2020*, writer Elizabeth Arens shared that across media platforms, mainly Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, data showed that posts receive the most interaction on Wednesdays (Arens, 2020).

Specifically, Facebook has the most user interaction at 11 a.m. and between 1 and 2 p.m., Instagram at 11 a.m., and Twitter at 9 a.m.

The study also broke the data down into subcategories of the types of posts people interact with, analyzing engagement with posts that fall into the categories of consumer goods, media, education, nonprofits, tech, healthcare, finances, and recreation. A sports report would fall under the media category, therefore I read about that analysis. Arens (2020) shares that media posts receive the most engagements Tuesday through Friday from 8 to 9 a.m. Ideal posting times on Instagram are Wednesday at 11 a.m. or Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. Lastly, Twitter has the most exchanges Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

With all of this in mind, I aimed to release *Season Pass* on various social media platforms during these high engagement times. Ideally, Tuesday is a great day to release the sports reports. Not only is it an ideal posting time, but it also allows me to cover results from the weekend and Monday's competitions.

Sprout Social also published the article *Everything You Need to Know About Social Media Algorithms* that provides several tips on how to maximize the appearance of your posts on your follower's feed (Barnhart, 2019). Author Brent Barnhart examines the algorithms of Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. He advises asking questions that encourage comments, tagging other accounts, and tacking on hashtags to categorize the content. Additionally, when publishing videos, he suggests uploading native video, which means to upload the video straight to the social media site and to not use a link to an additional site. I planned on utilizing all of these tips when posting my sports report.

Cancellation of Sports and the Effects of COVID-19

After terminating all collegiate sports seasons in the spring of 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic has continued to rattle college athletics in the fall. The NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division I council released a return-to-play six-week practice schedule for fall sports on June 17 allowing athletes to return to campus for training in the summer (Hale, 2020). After several schools started to experience outbreaks within their athletic departments, the Ivy League became the first conference to announce the postponement of fall sports to the spring (Hale, 2020). Following the Ivy League's announcement on July 8, the Big Ten, PAC-12 (Pacific Coast Conference), ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference), and SEC (Southeastern College) announced that their teams will only be participating in conference games (Hale, 2020). On July 13, the Patriot League also canceled their fall sports seasons (Hale, 2020).

The rest of the month of July brought reports on health concerns for athletes as well as the decision of many football players to opt-out of the 2020 season. In August, the MAC (Mid-American Conference) became the next conference and the first FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision) league to scratch their fall sports seasons (Hale, 2020). Days later on August 11, the Big Ten and Pac-12 called off their seasons as well (Hale, 2020).

Despite playing football in the fall, Conference USA decided to forgo the 2020 fall season for team sports, which included soccer, and volleyball (Conference USA, 2020). The competitions were moved to the spring of 2021. Due to the cancellation of a majority of fall sporting events for athletic teams at Southern Miss, a member of Conference USA, I have had to make changes to my thesis plan.

The Southern Miss Football season started on Thursday, September 3, with the Golden Eagles hosting the South Alabama Jaguars for the first FBS matchup of the year. Their twelve-game schedule was the primary content of each *Season Pass* episode.

On Friday, September 4, the first episode of *Season Pass* premiered and recapped Southern Miss's matchup against South Alabama. Due to football being the sole team sport in play during the fall, *Season Pass* extensively recapped its highlights from the game. An episode was released the day following each of Southern Miss's games.

In order to promote other sports, who are still training and practicing despite the postponement of their seasons, I released feature interviews every two weeks. The interviews were created in a TV package style format with a mixture of b-roll and voiceovers supplementing the interview.

Cross-country and men's and women's golf had several meets and tournaments this fall. Additionally, men's and women's basketball were able to compete on-time in the winter. I included content from these competitions in *Season Pass* as well. In the spring, with a plethora of sports playing, I resumed my original plan of covering the results of all USM athletic events.

IRB Approval

Although my creative activity is not considered research, the University of Southern Mississippi's Office of Research Integrity has advised me to obtain CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) certificates for both the Common Course and the Human Subjects Research Course due to interacting and interviewing athletes and athletic faculty during my project. In the spring of 2020, I completed the courses and obtained my CITI certificate, Human Subject Research certificate, and SBR

(Scientifically Based Research) certificate. In the summer of 2020, I started the process of submitting my project for IRB (Institutional Review Board) approval.

After submitting the project in July, it was reopened and returned with concerns regarding the anonymity of my participants. Due to the interviews being published on social media, my participants, aka my interviewees, were identified. In total, the reviewers had concerns that my project did not fall under the category research. As a result, my advisor Dr. Lindsey Maxwell and I decided to pull the IRB submission. Furthermore, Dr. Maxwell requested a letter from Sam Bruton to confirm that my project did not need IRB approval.

Collaboration with Southern Miss Athletic Department

On August 27, I had a meeting with David Cohen, the Director of Communications at Southern Miss, concerning *Season Pass*. Since May of that summer, I had been in communication with David regarding interning with the communications department. For the past three years, I have been a reporter for the athletic department, hosting several social media segments, covering games on the sidelines, calling play-by-play for Southern Miss Softball, and helping with the live stream of games. With this experience, David reached out to me to discuss how I could get involved with media and communications for Southern Miss Athletics this semester.

I talked with David about my idea for *Season Pass* and after receiving approval from Brad Smith, the Senior Associate AD (Athletic Director) for External Operations, the series was approved. David was my main source of communication regarding the show and each episode's approval. I sent him each episode to review and publish on social media. I also discussed ideas for interviews with him. Additionally, I worked with

the graduate assistants in the communications department, Grant Keith and Cody Goldman, when covering women's basketball, cross country, track, and softball.

Materials, Equipment, and Software

In order to produce a weekly sports report, I needed recording equipment, editing software, and film access. The list of equipment follows and is then trailed followed by a rundown of the production process.

- Adobe Cloud Subscription: Photoshop, Audition, Premiere
- MacBook Pro
- Canon EOS M50 Mirrorless Camera
- Rode Microphones Interview GO Handheld Adapter for Wireless GO
- Rode Microphones Wireless GO Compact Microphone System
- Video Camera Tripod
- Portable Green Screen
- Bi-Color Led Video Lights
- LaCie Rugged Mini 1TB External Hard Drive
- SD Cards

The equipment, excluding the laptop and editing software, was funded by the Honors College. I am a Discovery Scholar and was given a Discovery Thesis Research Grant upon my admission into the school.

The first step in creating an episode of *Season Pass* is writing the script. Using my MacBook Pro and Microsoft Word, I write out my script for the show. I refer to the footage from the game, which I download off of Conference USA's video box. I received access and the password to this website from David Cohen. I also reference the official

stats from each game when writing the script. I use USM.StatBroadcast.com for a thorough rundown on all the stats from the game. Lastly, I watch Southern Miss's post-game press conference. David sends me the zoom video in Dropbox through email.

Using Adobe Premiere, I edit the highlights from the game, selecting and cutting the clips I want to use. I also drop in my introduction, conclusion, score, and lower-third graphics.

Next, I go on location to record my standups as well as my voiceovers, using my camera, tripod, and Wireless GO Compact Microphone System. I record both the standups and voiceovers so that the audio in my introduction and conclusion match the audio in the middle of the report.

Returning home, I download the recordings from the SD card onto my laptop. I first export the voiceover recording as an MP3 using Adobe Premiere. I then open Adobe Audition to edit the recording, adjusting the volume, editing out breaths and awkward pauses, and choosing my favorite takes. Once the recording is edited, I export it and drop it into my project in Premiere.

Finally, I complete the edit mixing the standups, graphics, highlights, press conference clips, voiceovers, and music together. When the export is complete, I use OneDrive to share the video with David. I also upload the video to *Season Pass's* YouTube Channel. Moreover, I store all of the videos and elements on my hard drive, the most important piece of equipment I own.

For the feature interviews, the process is very similar. All of the videos, including the interview and b-roll, are recorded. I then write a script and edit the video together on Adobe Premiere.

Elements of the Series

A goal I had for *Season Pass* was to keep the elements of the show consistent. Each episode has the same introduction, conclusion, score, and lower-third graphics. Additionally, all sports reports have the same background music, and each feature interview has the same introduction and conclusion music.

I used YouTube Studio to select and download my desired background music. For the sports reports, I use the song “12:00 AM” by Ramzoid. For feature interviews, I use the introduction and conclusion to the song “A Simple Feeling” by Alge.

One of the first tasks I completed this summer for my thesis was creating the show’s logo. Using Adobe Photoshop, I used the Southern Miss eagle head logo and the official Southern Miss font, NCAA Southern Miss 1, to make the logo. I also created a second logo to use that differed in style in case I needed a smaller logo.

Figure 1

Season Pass Main Logo



Note: Logo created by Mackenzie Hamilton

Figure 2

Season Pass Secondary Logo



Note: Logo created by Mackenzie Hamilton

Using the logo as well as the Southern Miss eagle head logo, I then made the introduction and conclusion graphics. With my subscription to Motion Array, I selected and downloaded my desired templates. Utilizing Adobe Premiere, I then edited and exported both the introduction and conclusion graphics.

I also used a combination of Adobe Premiere and Photoshop to create lower-thirds, score, schedule, and results graphics. For the lower-thirds nameplates, I kept the style simple, using a gold or grey background and the NCAA Southern Miss 1 font. I also kept the score graphics simple, using the logos for each of the schools and text to display the score.

Figure 3

Lower-Third Name Template



Note: Created by Mackenzie Hamilton. Used to designate person on camera.

Figure 4

Lower-Third Host Name Plate



Note: Created by Mackenzie Hamilton. Used to designate host of show.

Figure 5

Score Graphic



Note: Example of a score graphic used to designate the final score of a competition.

Figure 6

Schedule Graphic



Note: Example of a schedule graphic used to detail an upcoming athletic event.

Figure 7

Lower-Third Result Graphic



Note: Example of a score graphic designed to be used with footage or a picture.

Figure 8

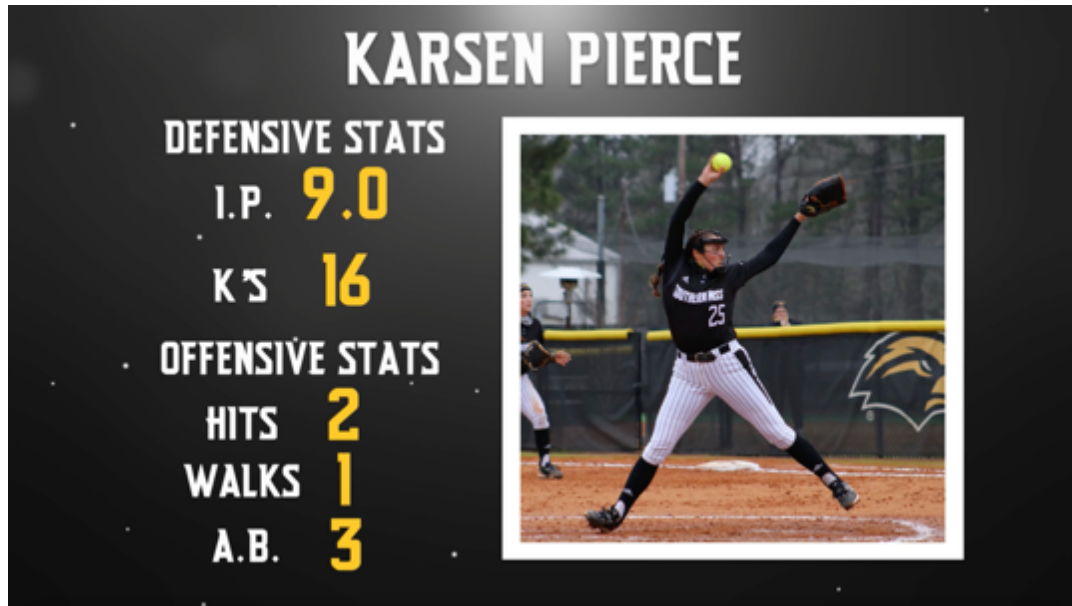
Results Graphic



Note: Graphic used for Track and Field, Tennis, and Beach Volleyball results.

Figure 9

Player Spotlight Graphic



Note: An example of a graphic used to highlight stats from a specific player.

Organization

In total, Southern Miss Athletics has 6 men's teams and 9 women's teams. While the Southern Miss football team was the primary squad in action in the fall of 2020, the remaining 14 teams were all in-season for the spring of 2021. As a result, the average weekly schedule consisted of roughly 26 Southern Miss competitions. In order to stay organized and on top of all these games, I created a mass calendar of all Southern Miss Athletic events.

Figure 10

Calendar

February

2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		5pm Volleyball	3pm Soccer		4pm W.Basketball 7pm M.Basketball 2pm W. Tennis	6pm W.Basketball 4pm M.Basketball 10am M. Tennis
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2pm Volleyball 10am M. Tennis 10am W. Tennis Track	W. Golf 8pm Volleyball	W. Golf			12pm Soccer 4pm W.Basketball Track 7pm M.Basketball 5pm Softball	4pm W.Basketball Track 4pm M.Basketball 11am M. Tennis W. Tennis 12pm Softball
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1pm Soccer 2pm Volleyball M. Golf 1pm W. Tennis 2pm Softball	2pm Volleyball M. Golf	M. Golf 2pm M. Tennis 2pm W. Tennis 4pm Softball		2pm W. Tennis 2pm Softball	6pm Soccer 6pm W.Basketball W. Golf 7pm M.Basketball 2pm M. Tennis 4pm Softball 4pm Baseball	4pm W.Basketball Track W. Golf 4pm M.Basketball 1pm Softball 2pm Baseball
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Track W. Golf 2pm Volleyball 3pm Softball 1pm Baseball	2pm Volleyball	4pm Softball Baseball			6pm Soccer 4pm W.Basketball 7pm M.Basketball 6pm Softball 4pm Baseball	1pm W.Basketball 4pm M.Basketball 1pm M. Tennis 11am W. Tennis B. Volleyball 1pm Softball 2pm Baseball
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
12pm M. Tennis B. Volleyball 11am Baseball						

5

Note: A month from the composite calendar of Southern Miss Athletic events.

Additionally, I developed a system of notetaking throughout the week to aid me in writing the scripts for *Season Pass*. After watching the competitions or reading the game recaps, I jotted down the scores and results, significant plays, statistical leaders, and any other noteworthy information. These notes proved to be extremely helpful when I was creating a report on a Monday and needed to talk about a competition from the past Thursday.

CHAPTER II: PRODUCTION

Episode Overview

Table 1

Season One

Release Date	Episode	Episode Number
9/4/20	Football Recap	1
9/11/20	Patrick Stewart	2
9/20/20	Football Recap	3
9/23/20	Emmy James	4
9/27/20	Overtime* Football Recap	-
10/1/20	Kate Mattox	5
10/4/20	Sports Report	6
10/16/20	Blake Roberts	7
10/18/20	Sports Report	8
10/25/20	Sports Report	9
10/29/20	Todd McCall	10
11/2/20	Cross Country Recap	11
11/8/20	Football Recap	12
11/12/20	Kendell Mindnich Feature	13
11/22/20	Football Recap	14
12/3/20	M. Basketball Recap	15
12/13/20	Sports Report	16

* Overtime episode was exclusively published on *Season Pass* YouTube channel

Table 2

Season Two

Release Date	Episode	Episode Number
1/16/21	Sports Report	1
1/25/21	Sports Report	2
2/1/21	Sports Report	3
2/8/21	Sports Report	4
2/16/21	Sports Report	5
2/23/21	Sports Report	6
3/3/21	Sports Report	7
3/10/21	Sports Report	8

Scripts and Questions

Football Recap: 09/04/2020

Script:

Welcome to the first edition of Season Pass, the Southern Miss Sports Report. I'm Mackenzie Hamilton here with your football recap.

Intro Graphic

The Rock was the place to be last night, as Southern Miss hosted South Alabama for the very first Division 1 Football matchup of the year.

South Alabama was the first to score with two long drives producing a 13-0 lead in the opening quarter.

In the second quarter, Southern Miss outscored South Alabama 10-0 with Tyler Barnes making an interception to send in the Golden Eagle offense.

Jack Abraham capitalized on the newfound possession and connected with Tim Jones for a 39-yard reception into the red zone. Don Ragsdale was then able to find the paydirt for USM's first TD of the game.

On the night, Abraham went 22 for 32 and Tim Jones had six catches for 139-yards.

The Golden Eagle's second touchdown came with just less than six minutes left in the game, as Naricuss Driver laid it out for a 4th-and-short TD. He then found Luke Baker to turn a two-point conversion.

South Alabama's Jalen Tolbert and Jalen Wayne proved to be just too dangerous of a duo for Southern Miss, each receiving for over 100-yards and propelling South Alabama to a 32 to 21 victory over the Golden Eagles.

The Golden Eagles will be back in action in two weeks, hosting Louisiana Tech on Saturday, the 19th.

Coach Hopson shared that the team will be looking to shake off the dust as they prepare for their next game.

press conference interview

This has been Mackenzie Hamilton with your Season Pass Southern Miss Sports Report.

Patrick Stewart: 09/11/2020

Questions:

How many years have you worked at Southern Miss?

What is your favorite memory that you have made here?

How has your job been impacted by the pandemic?

What does a typical day look like for you?

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Does it bother you that a lot of your work goes uncredited?

Script:

Uniforms, cleats, nets... they are all essential elements of sports that we often take for granted.

But have you ever stopped and wondered who is responsible for outfitting our athletes and our equipping sports complexes?

The answer is Patrick Stewart, the Assistant Athletic Director of Equipment Operations here at USM.

“I’m a big behind the scenes guy”

Pat oversees all of the inner workings of outfitting Southern Miss athletes and staff. His daily responsibilities include managing the university’s Adidas contract, working with teams to design apparel, placing orders, embellishing gear, and meeting with administrators.

“It’s a lot that goes unnoticed which is fine”

Now entering into his 25th year at USM, Pat has seen a lot.

He’s overseen four changes of apparel companies.

“I’ve been very fortunate to deal with the big three”

He’s lived through the crazy conspiracies of the year 2000.

“Our admin made us stay in Memphis that night”

And he’s experienced countless bowl games and championship competitions, such as the 1997 Liberty Bowl.

“the atmosphere was fantastic”

And now, Pat can say he’s even been a part of the revival of sports through a pandemic – a time that has brought about new responsibilities to his role.

“Sanitation and helping where need be”

But change is something Pat is no stranger to. In fact, he finds similarities between this year and 2001.

“Reminds me of 9/11”

When asked to pick one favorite memory from his time at USM, Pat shares that it’s the collection of them all.

“There’s a lot I remember and cherish”

For Season Pass, this is Mackenzie Hamilton.

Football Recap: 09/20/2020

Script:

Hey Golden Eagle Fans, welcome back to Season Pass, The Southern Miss Sports Report. I'm Mackenzie Hamilton here with your football recap.

Introduction Graphic

The Golden Eagles returned to the Rock last night opening up conference play against the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs.

The rivalry game also marked the debut for Interim Head Coach Scotty Walden, who brought a new energy to the team.

Walden Interview

Following a touchdown from LA Tech in the first quarter, Southern Miss's Kevin Perkins was the first Golden Eagle to find the endzone last night.

Jack Abraham and Tim Jones then found their rhythm and connected for a 74-yard reception to give Southern Miss a 13-10 lead heading into the second half.

Santrell Latham kept the Golden Eagle's momentum alive with an interception early in the third quarter. Latham and Malik Shorts led the defense with 14 tackles for the night.

Jones once again found paydirt for his second TD of the game. He would go on to lead the Golden Eagles with 8 receptions for 160 yards.

Jason Brownlee also got in on the action reaching the endzone to increase USM's lead to 27 and 10.

Late in the third quarter, the Bulldogs rallied to overcome a 17-point deficit, eventually overtaking the Golden Eagles with a controversial touchdown pass in the last 14 seconds of the game.

The final score, LA Tech 31 – Southern Miss 30.

Walden Interview

The Golden Eagles turn their attention to the Tulane Green Wave in hoping to take back the Bell next Saturday in Hattiesburg for a 1:30 matchup at the Rock.

Emmy James: 09/23/2020

Questions:

What inspired you to start this foundation?

What is the goal of The Home Foundation?

How did you come up with your slogan?

What kind of service projects did you perform?

Is this something you see yourself continuing in Hattiesburg or later in your life?

Script:

“I mean it out of the kindness of my heart, I genuinely like to make people feel better, that’s something I just like to do.”

Entering into her freshman year at Southern Miss as well as her first season with the Golden Eagle Women’s Basketball team, Em-re-ell James brings with her a number of titles. She’s a State Champion, a Central Florida All-Star, and the founder of a non-profit foundation.

“My inspiration came from my surroundings, seeing many homeless people and drug abuse in my family, I wanted to try and make a difference.”

In July of 2019, James established The Home Foundation, an outreach organization for the homeless in Orlando.

Her idea started with a saying...

“My mom was feeling down one day, and I said “---” so she got shirts made and then people wanted to start buying the shirts.”

With the profits from the shirts, James created supply bags to hand out to those in need around the city.

“When I gave the person the bag, he was so happy and when he rolled over, he had a kid next to him and he was someone I saw that still used it. You never know how you can impact someone else’s life.”

For James, her passion for helping others stems from personal experience of having several family members struggle with impoverishment and narcotics.

“Being in my position, a woman of color, a women or child that came from a lot of trauma, you either let it break you or develop you as an individual.”

“I feel like my job is to simply show them an example of what it is like to persevere and not become what people think you should be.”

In the future, James envisions herself running nonprofits.

And for the time being, she is pursuing a marketing degree at USM with the goal of learning how to grow her foundation.

“Right now, I am working on my networking and meet more people in the business world so I can go back into it full-throttle.”

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I’m Mackenzie Hamilton.

Football Recap *Overtime*: 09/27/2020

Script:

What's up Golden Eagle Fans?! Welcome to Season Pass, The Southern Miss Sports Report. I'm Mackenzie Hamilton here to take a look back at yesterday's Battle for the Bell.

Intro Graphic

For their third consecutive home game this season, the Southern Miss Golden Eagles were at The Rock yesterday afternoon facing off against the Tulane Green Wave.

Southern Miss started off hot with back-to-back TD's.

In the first four minutes of the game, Kevin Perkins found paydirt to grab an early lead for the Golden Eagles.

Keeping their momentum alive, Jason Brownlee and Jack Abraham connected for an 88-yard reception in just their second possession of the game.

In the second quarter, USM regained their lead with Armon Driver receiving for 61-yards into the endzone.

Briggs Bourgeoisie would be the next Golden Eagle to get on the scoreboard with a career-high 49-yard-long field goal.

On the other side of the ball for Southern Miss, Hayes Maples led the defense with 15 tackles for the game.

In the second half of the game, the Golden Eagles weren't able to contain the Green Wave's rushing game, dropping the rivalry 66 to 24.

The Golden Eagles will hit the road next weekend, traveling to North Texas for a 6:30 competition against the UNT Mean Green on Saturday.

Kate Mattox: 10/01/2020

Questions:

How is your ankle doing?

Talk about your injury and the process you went through to get back.

What was the most challenging obstacle for you?

Looking back now, what have you gained from the experience?

What are your goals for this next season?

What does your training schedule look like?

What was your motivation behind running for Miss Hospitality?

What are your responsibilities now?

What volunteer activities have you done for the town?

Script:

Kate Mattox was born to run.

In her fourth year at Southern Miss, she has numerous achievements to her name, such as a 5k school record and a Conference-USA Freshman of the Year title.

And now, after battling a foot injury for over a year and a half, Mattox is back on the track to compete this season.

“Just to be able to run physically pain free, I forgot how freeing it is and how much I love it.”

Although she couldn't race this past spring due to her recovery and ultimately the pandemic, Mattox was still running but this time in a different kind of competition... the Mississippi Miss Hospitality pageant.

“Sports is my comfort zone. I’ve always enjoyed playing sports. Being able to tap into my girly side and represent Starkville in a different way than running is so cool. It definitely gets me out of my comfort zone.”

This past March, Mattox was crowned Starkville’s Miss Hospitality, a role in which she heads philanthropy projects and endorsements for her hometown.

“I do everything I could to promote Starkville. During the pandemic it was a lot about promoting restaurants and small businesses.”

It’s no surprise that Starkville holds a special place in Mattox’s heart...

“There will always be a sense of Starkville is home for me.”

...but the Miss Hospitality position itself is also extremely meaningful to her.

“One of my really good friends Lake had run for Miss Hospitality and didn’t get to finish running state-wide for it so I really wanted to do it in honor of her as well.”

Maddox’s close friend and former Starkville’s Miss Hospitality Lake Little tragically passed away in the summer of 2019.

When asked to take the position the following spring, the opportunity to succeed her friend turned into a way for Mattox to commemorate her memory as well.

“At the same time, she is there in spirit. I know she would be really excited. It’s tough but it’s an honor.”

Mattox will hold the position until this coming March and has been asked to return for the following term. However, she states that she does not think another soul can represent Starkville the way Lake did.

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I’m Mackenzie Hamilton.

Sports Report: 10/04/2020

Script:

What's up Golden Eagle fans?! Welcome back to Season Pass. I'm Mackenzie Hamilton here to take a look back at this week's athletic events.

Intro Graphic

The Southern Miss Football team traveled to the Lone Star State yesterday to face the North Texas Mean Green for their first road contest of the season.

The game would be a night of many firsts for the Golden Eagles.

Demarcus Jones was the initial Golden Eagle to put USM on the scoreboard, receiving 22-yards for his first career touchdown.

On their next offensive possession, Frank Gore Jr. dashed into paydirt for his first TD as a Golden Eagle. The freshman would go on to rush for 130-yards in the game.

In the first half, the defense regained possession for the Golden Eagles a total of three times.

Ky'el Hembey capped the half off denying UNT's field goal attempt to send Southern Miss into the locker room with a 20-10 lead.

USM kept their momentum rolling in the second half with Jack Abraham finding Jason Brownlee for a 68-yard reception.

Darius Mayberry then located the endzone twice in the fourth quarter to secure Southern Miss's lead and also produce his first career touchdown.

The Golden Eagles return to Hattiesburg with a 41-31 victory - their first triumph of the year as well as Scotty Walden's first career win as Southern Miss's skipper.

The Southern Miss Cross Country team opened up their season at the Florida State Invitational on Friday.

The team placed fifth overall with a key seventh-place finish from freshman Cassidy Teuscher. (too-sure)

The Golden Eagles will hit the road again on October 16, traveling to Hoover, Alabama for the Blazer Invitational.

Ending Graphic

With Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Blake Roberts: 10/26/2020

Questions:

What was the commitment process for you like?

Why did you choose Southern Miss?

How do you hope to build off of your dad's athletic legacy?

Did you ever play football?

Did you come to Southern Miss sporting events growing up?

What are some long-term goals you have for both the program and yourself?

Script:

A year into the Jay Ladner era, the Southern Miss Basketball team has quite a bit of new faces for the 2020/2021 season.

One of the nine newcomers is freshman Blake Roberts, a hometown kid from Hattiesburg.

"Some people who grew up in Hattiesburg and went to Oak Grove wanted to get out, but this is home to me and I wanted to stay."

Home – both locationally and symbolically. For Roberts, being a Golden Eagle is in his blood.

"As long as I can remember I've been coming to football, baseball, and basketball games."

Blake is the son of M-Club Hall of Famer Lee Roberts, the three-year starting quarterback for Southern Miss who led the Golden Eagles to Conference Titles in 1996 and 97.

So naturally, the chance for Blake to follow in his dad's footsteps and represent Southern Miss athletically was a fantasy fulfilled for the whole Roberts family.

"When Coach Ladner came by the house and visited, we were ecstatic."

"I told Coach Ladner I'd think about it and a day later I was like I want to come here. It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. Southern Miss is my dream school, especially playing basketball here."

With his entire collegiate career ahead of him, Blake hopes to add onto his father's successes...

"My dad left a great legacy and I want to continue what he's left for me and keep the Robert's name alive."

And also has the goal of blazing his own path, in his own sport, with his new team.

"Before I graduate, I want to win a conference championship, bring Southern Miss back to a national power as it used to be."

For Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Sports Report: 10/18/2020

Script:

This week three Southern Miss teams were in action.

I'm Mackenzie Hamilton here to recap those events on this episode of Season Pass.

Intro

On Monday and Tuesday, both the Southern Miss men's and women's golf teams were on the road.

To kick off their season, the Women's golf team traveled to Jonesboro, Arkansas for the Lady Red Wolves Classic.

In her collegiate debut, freshman Merche Cobacho led the team with a 16th place finish.

Overall, the team placed twelfth.

For their second tournament of the season, the men's golf team concluded the Intercollegiate at the Grove in the fifth-place spot.

Brice Wilkinson paced the team, finishing in a 14th-place tie. Brian Richards tied for 19th, and Matt Lorenz drew for 29th.

Friday the Southern Miss Cross Country Team returned to Hattiesburg with a seventh-place finish at the Blazer Invitational.

In her first 6k of her college career, Cassidy Teuscher clenched the 12th place spot to lead the Golden Eagles.

Kate Mattox followed with a 21st place finish and Sarah McMillion came in at 25th.

In total, the team ran a 22:19 average.

The squad's next and final race will be on October 30th at the Conference USA championships in Hoover, Alabama.

Once again, the Southern Miss golf teams will be representing the black and gold on the road this upcoming week.

Tomorrow, the men's golf team will travel to Arkansas for the First Tee Little Rock Invitational - their final tournament of the fall.

The women's golf team will venture upstate to West Point to participate in The Ally, a three-day event kicking off tomorrow.

Additionally, the Southern Miss football team is scheduled to play Liberty on Saturday for a noon away game.

For Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Sports Report: 10/25/2020

Script:

We're talking Golf, Tennis, Volleyball, and Football on this week's Season Pass Sports Report.

Intro Graphic

The Southern Miss men's golf team wrapped up their fall season on Tuesday, placing 7th at the First Tee/Little Rock Invitational.

Brice Wilkinson paced the team tying for the 13th place spot.

Brian Richards and Hunter Atkins followed with 24th and 28th place draws.

The women's golf team continued their fall season at The Ally in West Point.

After the three-day tournament stretching from Monday to Wednesday, the ladies finished in 15th place against an all-SEC field.

The Southern Miss Football team took the gridiron for the first time in two weeks yesterday, traveling to Lynchburg, Virginia for a road contest against the Liberty University Flames.

After a tough first half, the Golden Eagles rallied in the third quarter to narrow the score deficit by 21 points.

In his fourth career start for Southern Miss, Tate Whatley recorded 4 rushing touchdowns and one passing TD, throwing for a total of 188 yards and rushing for 52 in the game.

The Flames preserved their lead though, tacking on three more touchdowns in the second half to take the game 56 to 35.

Golden Eagle football will return to the Rock this Saturday, as the team squares off against Rice for a 2:00 conference competition.

While the football and golf teams represented USM on the road this week, the Southern Miss volleyball and men's tennis teams hosted competitions at home in Hattiesburg this weekend.

In preparation for their spring season, the volleyball team faced the LA Tech Bulldogs for a doubleheader yesterday.

The Golden Eagles won both matches in four sets against the Lady Techsters.

Dequesne Moratzka headed the Southern Miss offense with 31 kills for the day and

Madison Lawler led the defense logging 39 digs in the two contests.

Starting Friday, the men's Tennis team put on their annual Southern Miss Fall Invitational, a three-day event of doubles and singles matches.

Alex Gima, AN-TWON AN-DREIAN, Christopher Cahour, and Michael Koscinski represented the black and gold on the courts against Chattanooga, Middle Tennessee, and South Alabama.

For Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Todd McCall: 10/29/2020

Questions:

Can you give a summary of all of your responsibilities as an athletic trainer?

Out of all of your responsibilities, if you could pick just one to do, what would it be?

What made you want to pursue a career as an athletic trainer?

How did being a college athlete, lead you to athletic training and Southern Miss?

Do you enjoy building relationships with your athletic training students as well?

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

Script:

“People a lot of times will sit there and ask ‘What’s Special about Southern Miss?’ and I always tell people you’ve got everything here that you could ever ask for, especially if you’re in my shoes.”

As Todd McCall, the Assistant Athletic Director of Sports Medicine, approaches his 19th year at Southern Miss, he reflects on the journey that brought him to Hattiesburg.

A collegiate athlete himself, McCall underwent surgical rehab after suffering a shoulder injury in baseball.

“Getting to know an athletic trainer who actually oversaw my rehab and return to play was what actually got my interest sparked.”

McCall earned his Master’s in sports administration here at The University of Southern Mississippi to then return five years later to oversee Golden Eagle Athletic Training.

“Outside of the care I’m the liaison of all our physicians. I have administration duties, budgets, insurance. Everything from vacuuming the floors to you name it. We

handle a lot of things, but everything is centered around the healthcare of the student athlete.”

When asked which responsibility he enjoys the most, the choice for McCall is easy...

“Rehab, by far.”

“Spending six months with someone and then seeing them go back and play again is really where we get to see the fruits of our labors.”

For McCall, his favorite component of being an athletic trainer comes down to one thing – relationships.

The connections he gets to build with student athletes.

“When you invest a lot of time in people. You get to have those relationships, you get to know the person, what makes them tick, their family, their background”

As well as the relationships he forms with athletic training students and the USM athletic training staff.

“Family of alumni here has been very special to be a part of.”

And altogether, after 19 years of caring for athletes and teaching students, relationships are the foundation of his favorite memories at USM.

“I could list off a hundred names of people I’ve taken care of and that’s the best experience of it all.”

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I’m Mackenzie Hamilton.

Cross Country Recap: 11/02/2020

Script:

Welcome back to Season Pass. I'm Mackenzie Hamilton here to recap the Cross-Country Team's performance at Conference.

Intro

Concluding their 2020 season, The Southern Miss Cross Country Team traveled to Hoover Alabama for the Conference USA Championships on Saturday.

At the meet, the team captured some hardware to add to their trophy case placing third overall – their best finish all season.

Cassidy Tuescher led the team with a 6th place finish, claiming the Freshman of the Meet title as well as a First team All-Conference Selection.

The squad and Coach Kindt look forward to Cassidy's future as a Golden Eagle.

Kate Mattox also earned honors finishing in 15th and being selected for 3rd team All-Conference.

After undergoing surgery this past spring, the senior battled her way back to compete this fall.

Sarah McMillon, Savannah McMillon, and Carlin Beal placed 28th, 29th, and 30th to contribute to the team's bronze medal.

All seven Golden Eagles placed in the top 50 with freshman Sarah Parnell and Hannah Martin finishing in 41st and 48th.

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton

Football Recap: 11/08/2020

Script:

Yesterday the Southern Miss Football team earned their first home victory of the season. The rundown on that game is the focus on this episode of Season Pass.

Intro Graphic

The Southern Miss Golden Eagles welcomed the North Alabama Lions to the Rock on Saturday for the first meeting of the two teams in program history.

After North Alabama grabbed an early lead in the first minutes of the competition, the Golden Eagle defense silenced the Lion's attack, ultimately keeping Southern Miss in the game.

Santrell Latham and Hayes Maples led the Nasty bunch with 10 tackles each.

Halfway into the second quarter, Trey Lowe, in his first career start as a Golden Eagle, handed it off to Kevin Perkins who darted into the paydirt for Southern Miss's first TD of the game.

And then this looks familiar, Perkins once again found the endzone, taking the lead for the Golden Eagles in the fourth quarter.

Not satisfied yet, Perkins pushed through the Lion's defense to snatch his third touchdown of the game and his fifth TD of the season.

With the 24 to 13 triumph over North Alabama, the Golden Eagles improve their conference record to 2-5 and earn their first win under interim head coach Tim Billings.

**Billings Interview* (5:08-5:31)*

Bowling Green will be the setting of Southern Miss's next competition. The Golden Eagles will face off against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers at 2:30 on Saturday.

For Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Kendell Mindnich: 11/12/2020

Questions:

Why does the Alzheimer's Organization hold such a special place in your heart?

What did it mean to you when the soccer team put on an Alzheimer's awareness game?

Can you describe the timeline and journey of your dad's diagnosis?

How did being a caregiver impact your choice of major?

When did you found YMAA and what does that organization do on campus?

What do you hope to do in the future after graduation?

What is a favorite memory you have of your dad?

Script:

Despite having their season postponed to the spring, the Southern Miss Soccer team is making the most of their offseason.

Putting on series of inter-squad scrimmages this fall, the program designated one match as a purple game to raise awareness for Alzheimer's disease – an illness that has impacted many members of the team including senior Kendell Mindnich.

"It meant so much to me. The coaches and teammates have been so supportive."

Mindnich's father Paul was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2008.

"I basically grew up being a caregiver to my dad. Growing up he would tell me the same story 50 times a week, but I cherish those memories and wish I could hear them again. I wouldn't change having him as a father for anything."

Following her father's passing in the summer of 2019, Mindnich decided to start a branch of the Youth Movement Against Alzheimer's at USM.

“There are so many platforms to raise awareness and be an advocate. I wanted to raise more awareness on campus and in this community.”

Additionally, her personal experience of being a caregiver has led her to pursue a degree in public health and has formed a desire in her to assist the elderly after graduation.

“My dream would be able to work in the Alz organization. I adore them... We wouldn't be where we are today without their work and sacrifice.”

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Football Recap: 11/22/2020

Script:

It's Sunday so you know what that means... it's time to take a look back at yesterday's football game.

Intro Graphic

Before taking the field for their ninth competition of the 2020 season... The Southern Miss Football team honored fifteen of their veterans in a Senior Day celebration.

Seniors... Khalique Washington... Josh Perry... Kevin Perkins... Rachuan Mitchell... Eriq Kitchen... Tim Jones... Justin Hulett... Ky'el Hemby... Tanner Hawthorne... Bryce Foxworth... Arvin Fletcher... De'Mikal Chesser... Swayze Bozeman... Tyler Barnes... and Barrett Barham... were recognized.

Following the ceremony ... the Golden Eagles turned their attention to the UTSA Roadrunners.

Briggs Bourgeois kicked things off for Southern Miss with a 37-yard field goal to put the Golden Eagles up 3 to 0 in the first quarter.

After the Roadrunners etched themselves onto the scoreboard with a safety and touchdown in the second quarter... Tate Whatley located Tim Jones in the endzone for a 13-yard reception... sending the Golden Eagles into the second half with a 10-9 lead.

Following two TDs from UTSA... the Golden Eagles refused to go out without a fight.

The Nasty Bunch was headed by Hayes Maples, who had 7 solo and 11 total tackles on the night. Malik Shorts and Swayze Bozeman each added on 9 total tackles as well.

The Golden Eagle offense was led by Tate Whatley with 272 yards passing, Tim Jones with 65 yards receiving, and Frank Gore Jr with 57 yards receiving and 70 yards rushing.

With ten left on the clock, Gore capped off a productive night with a 51-yard dash into the paydirt for the final score of the game.

In the end, the Roadrunners outlasted the Golden Eagles 23-20.

Next up... The Southern Miss Football team will take the gridiron against the UAB Blazers at 11:30 a.m. on Friday.

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Basketball Recap: 12/03/2020

Script:

It's time for some basketball! I'm Mackenzie Hamilton with this week's episode of Season Pass.

Intro Graphic

With a new court, new lights, and 9 new faces, the Southern Miss Men's Basketball team looked to capture their first win of the 2020-21 season in their home opener last night.

Hosting cross-town competitors, the William Carey Crusaders, the Golden Eagles did just that with both veteran players and newcomers making an impact.

Shooting 11 for 13, Tyler Stevenson tied a career-high 27-points.

Atur Konontsuk recorded 13 points for the night and was followed by Tyler Morman and Tae Hardy who each added ten points as well.

Den-jay Harris led the squad with ten rebounds.

Southern Miss forced a total of 22 turnovers which translated into 35 points for the team.

The Golden Eagles walked away with the 80 to 53 win over William Carey.

The team is set to play Tulane next Wednesday at 7 p.m. in New Orleans.

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton

Sports Report: 12/12/2020

Script:

In their highest-scoring game of the year... the Southern Miss Football team took down the defending Conference USA champs for their final contest of the season. That game's highlights and lots more on this episode of Season Pass.

Intro Graphic

The 2020 football season for the Golden Eagles may not have gone as planned... but it was a Fall full of tenacity, perseverance, and growth from the players and coaches.

The team's hard work and endurance accumulated into a pinnacle performance Thursday night for Southern Miss's season finale against the Florida Atlantic Owls.

Six Golden Eagles got on the scoreboard... Trey Lowe threw for over 200 yards... and the squad rushed for over 300 to produce the team's first game with more than over 500-yards total offense this season.

The Golden Eagle's attack was launched by Frank Gore Jr. who sliced through the Owls defense for a 73-yard touchdown.

In the second quarter... Lowe took it home for his first career touchdown in the Black and Gold.

Lowe also threw for two TDs, connecting with Tim Jones and Jason Brownlee.

Expanding the score gap... Cameron Harrel produced a 100-yard kickoff return in the third quarter.

And then to seal the deal... Kevin Perkins claimed his seventh touchdown of the season with a plunge into the endzone.

Southern Miss's 45-to-31-win marks the team's last game under interim head coach Tim Billings and sends the program into the Will Hall era.

Will Hall was officially introduced as the new Head Coach for the Southern Miss Football Team on Monday. As he prepares for the 2021 season... Hall has added Cody Kennedy and Jordy Joseph as assistant coaches to his staff.

The Men's Basketball team was also in action this week.

After suffering a loss to Tulane on Wednesday... the squad turned around and welcomed South Alabama to Reed Green yesterday afternoon.

In his first career start... Freshman Jaron Pierre Jr. drained 6 three-pointers... scored a total of 25 points... and led the team with 10 rebounds in what Coach Ladner described as his "coming out party".

With that performance... Pierre has the most points by a Freshman since 2007.

Senior Ladavius Draine was another impact player for Southern Miss... contributing 19 points and going 5 for 11 from outside the arc.

In what was an extremely close-knit and hard-fought rivalry matchup... the Jaguars hit a three-point buzzer-beater to overtake the Golden Eagles 76 to 75.

The squad now looks to Tuesday as they head to Beaumont, Texas for a road contest against Lamar at 7 p.m.

The Women's basketball team will also be in action next week. For their season opener... the team hosts Nicholls on Friday at 6.

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics... I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Sports Report: 01/16/2021

Script:

What's up Southern Miss Fans?! I'm Mackenzie Hamilton here with Season Pass, back for an action-packed spring and we're starting off with this weekend's athletic events.

Intro Graphic (short version) (new intro song)

Shooting 11 for 23 from the arc... minimizing their turnovers to just 5... and producing 16 assists... the Southern Miss Men's Basketball team secured the win over the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders in an 84 to 54 romp Friday night.

Heading into the locker room off of a three-point buzzer-beater from Artur Konontsuk, the Golden Eagles lead 38 to 22 at the break.

In the second half... the squad continued to shoot for 50% and held the Blue Raiders to under 30 percent from the field.

Jaron Pierre Jr scored the team-high of 24 points and garnered 10 rebounds to earn his second double-double of the season.

Building off of the momentum of Friday night's historic... Southern Miss once again out beat Middle Tennessee in rebounds and shooting percentage to overtake the Blue Raiders 64 to 59 and earn the series sweep on Saturday.

Tae Hardy and Tyler Stevenson each produced big performances and added on 18 points apiece to contribute to the victory.

While the men were taking care of business at home, the Lady Eagle Basketball team was on the road in Murfreesboro, Tennessee battling it out versus the nationally ranked Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders.

Coming off of a 78 to 58 loss Friday... the Lady Eagles took the court on Saturday seeking vengeance.

In a back-and-forth competition... the Black and Gold found themselves down by 5 headed into the final quarter.

The Golden Eagle defense silenced the Blue Raider's attack and Rose Warren put up three treys to regain the lead.

In the end... the Lady Eagle Basketball team notched their first conference win of the season, edging Middle Tennessee 69 to 61.

Now the basketball teams weren't the only Golden Eagles capturing victories this weekend. The Southern Miss track and field team opened up their indoor season at the Vulcan Invite in Birmingham on Saturday, where numerous Golden Eagles took home some hardware.

In the 60-meter dash Elijah Miller placed second.

Trey Johnson earned silver in the 400m race.

Corvell Todd was the tournament's high jump champion.

And Lance Williams and PJ Edwards each earned second in the Long Jump and Triple Jump, respectively.

On the women's side...

In the Mile Savannah McMillon placed first and Kate Mattox second.

Jasmine Griffin earned second in the 60m Hurdles.

In long jump and triple jump... Patricia Johnson and Marquasha (Mar-Kesha) Myers each claimed second.

And Isabella Simonelli (C-Mole-Neli) captured bronze in the weight throw event.

Southern Miss athletics is set to have another eventful weekend as the Track and Field team as well as the volleyball... soccer... and men's and women's basketball teams are all scheduled to compete this week.

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Sports Report: 01/24/2021

Script:

With the Golden Eagle track and field... volleyball... and men's and women's basketball teams all repping the black and gold this week... there is a lot to unpack on this episode of Season Pass.

Introduction

The Southern Miss Track and Field team kicked off this weekend's rivalries at the Samford Invite in Birmingham on Friday. In total...15 Golden Eagles found themselves on the podium.

Trey Johnson captured gold in the 400-meter dash with the time of 48.04 - a new meet record.

Corvell Todd also set a meet record with his first-place finish in high jump.

The 4x400 relay team composed of Landon Chalden... Trey Johnson... Kacey Spinks... and DJ Butler took home first as well.

In the half-mile Dylan Evans placed second.

Lance Williams received silver in Long Jump.

And PJ Edwards concluded the Triple Jump event in the third-place spot.

Savannah McMillon seized another silver medal for Southern Miss in the mile run.

In Long Jump Ashlee Osaji placed second and was followed by Patricia Johnson in third.

And lastly... Trinity Benson... Savi'a Varnell... Jasmine Griffin... and Marquahsa Myers all took home bronze.

The Southern Miss Volleyball team improved their record to 3-1 this weekend. The crew set their spring season in motion hosting the Tulane Green Wave on Friday and the New Orleans Privateers Saturday for their opening contests of 2021.

On Friday the Golden Eagles fell to the Green Wave in three straight matches but turned around on Saturday to shake off the dust and sweep the Privateers.

On the weekend... Kinsley Hanback headed the team with a total of 20 kills, and Duquesne Moratzka collected 4 aces and 21 digs overall.

Across from the Wellness Center at Reed Green, the Lady Eagle Basketball team was also at home Friday and Saturday taking on the UTSA Roadrunners.

For the first meeting of the two-game series... Southern Miss produced a season-high number of points to overtake UTSA 88 to 64.

The team shot for over 64 percent from the field and two Lady Eagles etched records into their career stats books. Kelsey Jones contributed 21 points on the scoreboard for the match and Destiny Smith collected a total of 11 rebounds.

Building off of the previous night's momentum, three Golden Eagles fashioned double-figure performances on Saturday. Kahia Warmsley shot for 25 points, a career-high for the freshman, Brikayla Gray made 14, and Kelsey Jones 10.

In combination with a strong defensive outing... Southern Miss took the game 73 to 66... boosting their season record to 5-5.

For the Southern Miss Men's Basketball team, the weekend didn't go as they'd hoped as the men head home from San Antonio with two tough losses.

In Friday's matchup the Golden Eagles narrowed the Road Runner's advantage to just two points with less than a minute left on the clock... but UTSA made four from the charity line to close the game 70 to 64.

On Saturday, Southern Miss held UTSA to just 39 percent shooting, but couldn't surpass the Road Runner's lead, despite several runs, resulting in a 78 to 72 defeat.

In both games Tyler Stevenson had double-double performances, advancing him to three for the season.

Up next... the team welcomes Louisiana Tech to Hattiesburg for competitions on Thursday night and Saturday afternoon.

Lady Eagle basketball as well as volleyball and women's tennis will also be in action this coming week.

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Sports Report: 02/01/2021

Script:

It's an exciting time to be a Golden Eagle with six games taking place this past week. As usual... we've got you covered with those highlights and scores as well as a look at this week's lineup of athletic events.

Intro

Men's and women's basketball got the ball rolling on Thursday with game one of their Louisiana Tech series.

Starting off with the men's team...

...the Golden Eagles were back at home Thursday night.

The 37 to 37 tie at the break was the perfect way to describe the competitive first half as both teams battled back and forth wrestling to gain control of the game.

It wasn't until halfway through the second half that the Bulldogs went on a 14-point run to create a gap that the Golden Eagles couldn't diminish resulting in a 76 to 63 LA Tech victory.

On Saturday the Golden Eagles arrived in Ruston looking to improve on Thursday's frustrations.

With 44 seconds left on the clock, a layup and three-point play from Tae Hardy brought Southern Miss within a point on La Tech.

Despite the rally, the Bulldogs threw up three more points to win 65 to 62.

Tyler Stevenson once again headed the Golden Eagle attack with 20 points on Saturday... totaling 35 for the series.

Coming off of two road wins... the women's basketball team looked to prolong their streak at the Thomas Assembly Center for the initial game of their LA Tech series.

The Lady Eagles struggled to retain the Lady Techsters' offense in Thursday night's matchup though... ultimately resulting in a 77 to 60 defeat.

The story was much different on Saturday though, as Southern Miss produced their best defensive performance of the season holding LA Tech at 28 percent shooting and forcing a total of 19 turnovers.

In addition to a strong defensive outing, the Black and Gold offense was on fire with Kelsey Jones, Jalise Smallwood, and Daishai Almond all shooting in double figures.

The 20-point show from Jones was coupled along with 13 rebounds to generate her first double-double of the season.

A 57 to 44 triumph for the Lady Eagles improves their season record to 6 and 6.

Rematch wins seemed to be a theme for the Golden Eagles this weekend.

In a doubleheader versus Southeastern Louisiana on Friday the Southern Miss volleyball team lost the first match in four sets to the Lions.

The Golden Eagles found themselves down two sets in the second match of the day but hungry for redemption... Southern Miss persevered to win the final three sets and clinch the comeback victory.

On the leader's board for the Lady Eagles... Duquesne Moratzka had a career-high 18 kills in the second match equaling 33 for the day.

Kenzie Smith produced 49 assists between the two matches and Madison Lawler tallied 46 digs overall.

To kick off the month of February... Southern Miss athletic events are scattered throughout the week.

The soccer team and men's tennis team will open their seasons.

Additionally... volleyball, women's tennis, and men's and women's basketball and track and field teams will all continue along in their spring schedules.

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics... I'm Mackenzie Hamilton

Sports Report: 02/08/2021

Script:

While the Superbowl was this weekend's cardinal event, there was lots happening in Southern Miss Athletics as well. The volleyball, soccer, and women's tennis teams all recorded wins. Highlights on those victories and more coming up.

Intro Graphic

Wrapping up non-conference play the Southern Miss Volleyball team finds itself with a 5 and 2 record following its mid-week match against Nicholls State.

The Golden Eagles swept the Colonels in a dominating performance at the Wellness Center on Tuesday.

The team posted a 406 hitting percentage and personally Kinsley Hanback logged a 714 accuracy with 15 kills and no errors – the program's highest individual percentage since 2014.

Squaring off against Nicholls State on the Colonel's home turf, the Southern Miss Soccer team ventured to Thibodaux for their season opener.

After a scoreless first half, Ariel Diaz knocked in two goals to lead the Golden Eagles to a 2 and 0 win. Kendell Mindnich and Sarah Preston split the shutout in goal.

Men's Basketball suffered two losses this weekend to Rice, dropping Friday's game 88 to 62 and Saturday's 76 to 68.

Although the weekend didn't consist of the results they had hoped for, Tyler Stevenson showed out in game two of the series tallying 29 points – a career-high for the junior forward.

After almost a month since their first spring game, the Women's Tennis team notched its first win of the year handing Florida A&M the 6 to 1 defeat.

Sarah Medik (MED_EEK), Ebru Yazgan (YAZ_GAN), Stephanie Booth, Caroline Hudson and Julia Barden won their singles matches and all three doubles took victories as well. The triumph marked Head Coach Steve Schram's 100th career win.

In Birmingham for the Jaguar Invitational, the Southern Miss Track and Field team captured two first-place finishes, three in second, and four in third.

Taking home gold for the Golden Eagles was Patricia Johnson with a meet record of a 19'5" long jump as well as the 4X400 m men's relay team.

Elijah Miller, Corvell Todd and the 4x400m women's relay team finished in the second place slot. And Marquasha (MAR-KECHA) Myers, Trinity Benson, Cassidy Tuescher (TOO-SURE), and Vivette Green earned bronze.

As we speak, women's golf is kicking off their spring schedule at the FAU Paradise Invitational in Boca Raton. The 54-hole tournament will conclude tomorrow afternoon.

Lady Eagle Basketball will travel to Denton for games on Friday and Saturday... while the men's team will be welcoming the UNT Mean Green to Hattiesburg for the weekend.

The Track and Field team will compete on Friday and Saturday. The Softball team will commence their season in the Black and Gold Invitational taking place Friday through Sunday.

Men's Tennis will start their spring season on Saturday... And the women's team will be on the road in Alabama on Saturday and Sunday. The Soccer team will return to

action on Saturday. The men's golf team will be in Mobile for a tournament starting on Sunday. And finally, volleyball will begin conference play on Sunday.

Oof... looks like we may need two episodes of Season Pass next week. I'll see you guys then.

With Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Sports Report: 02/16/2021

Script:

Although this week has been a cold and dreary one, multiple Southern Miss teams brought the heat with some impressive performances and victories. Hang tight for highlights from soccer, softball, and track and field's wins on this edition of Season Pass.

Intro Graphic

Rounding out their Indoor Season, roughly a dozen members Southern Miss Track and Field team competed in the Music City Challenge Friday and Saturday in preparation for the upcoming Conference USA Indoor Championships.

In total, four Golden Eagles found themselves atop of the podium.

Trey Johnson captured the 400-meter dash title, closely followed by his teammate DJ Butler who earned bronze.

Patricia Johnson placed second in the women's long jump event.

And Corvell Todd secured his third high jump championship of the season with 7-foot, 2 and a quarter inch vertical. Todd now sits as the NCAA's 6th best high jumper.

Back at home in the Burg, both the Southern Miss Softball and Soccer teams capitalized on their home-field advantages to clench some big wins this weekend.

To commence the 2021 schedule, Golden Eagle Softball hosted its annual Black and Gold Invitational.

The ladies had a hot start to their season with two wins on Saturday, taking down North Dakota 3 to 0 and Murray State 2 to 1. Kaylan Ladner and McKenna Pierce each earned a win and Morgan Leinstock was credited with two saves.

On Sunday, the Golden Eagles took the North Dakota Fighting Hawks into extra innings but dropped the contest 4 to 2. Despite the loss, the game marked a historic debut for freshman pitcher Karsen Pierce who tallied a total of 16 strikeouts on the mound for Southern Miss – the most K’s recorded at the Southern Miss Softball complex since its opening in 2002. AND get this, Pierce not only dominated on the mound, but also battled it out at the plate going 2 for 3.

Just a block down 4th street, Golden Eagle soccer hosted South Alabama for the team’s home opener.

In the final ten minutes of the first half of the match, Jenny Caracheo followed through on a rebound from a corner kick to sail the ball into the back of the Jaguar’s net.

This goal proved to be the difference-maker in Sunday’s game, elevating the Golden Eagles to a 1 and 0 win.

The Southern Miss Men’s and Women’s Basketball fell victim to the North Texas Mean Green this weekend. However, two Golden Eagle rookies had personal successes.

Lady Eagle freshman Melyia Grayson earned her first career double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds in Saturday’s game.

In game two of the men’s series, Justin Johnson posted 16 points – a career-high in the black and gold for the junior transfer.

A few notes before we go:

This morning the Golden Eagle Volleyball team was swept by Rice. With this win the Owls take the series 2 to 0.

The Southern Miss Golf team has started their spring season at the Mobile Bay Collegiate, which will conclude today.

For Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton. See you guys next week.

Sports Report: 02/23/2021

Script:

Big things are happening in the World of Southern Miss Athletics with the Women's Track and Field team making history at conference and Baseball collecting the series win in their opening weekend. Across the board, there is a ton to talk about on this week's Season Pass.

Intro Graphic

For the first time in school history, the Women of the Southern Miss Track and Field team are Conference USA Indoor Champions.

A total of 8 Lady Eagles stood atop of the podium in Birmingham on Saturday and Sunday and altogether the men and women of Southern Miss track and field collected 3 gold, 4 silver, and 4 bronze medals.

A few notable performances from the weekend include...

Corvell Todd being named CUSA high jump champion.

Vivette Green taking home the 200m dash title.

Trey Johnson capturing his third individual championship of the season.

And Cassidy Teuscher placing second in both the 5000m and 3000m races to earn Freshman of the Meet.

And finally, Coach Jon Stuart was named Conference USA Indoor Coach of the year.

History continued to be made this weekend, not only on the track, but also on the mound and in the circle for the Southern Miss baseball and softball teams.

Pitching was a crucial factor in Golden Eagle softball's four wins this weekend, and Kaylan Ladner capped off the dominating weekend with quite the performance during game five on Sunday.

In the squad's 6 to 1 win over Southern University, Ladner threw out a sum of 17 batters, smashing the record for most strikeouts collected at the Southern Miss Softball Stadium in a single game.

Defense was an asset for the Southern Miss Baseball team in their opening weekend against Northwestern State as well.

Hunter Stanley etched his name into the record books, throwing 13 strikeouts - the most in an opening day appearance since 2009. Stanley's spectacle earned him several honors, including being named Collegiate Baseball newspaper's National Player of the Week.

After splitting Sunday's doubleheader with the Demons, the Golden Eagles secured the series win on Monday with Reed Tremble producing two three-run home runs to seal the deal on the 10 and 0 shutout.

Reed Green Coliseum was full of celebrations on Saturday as the Lady Eagle Basketball team took the court for its final home game of the season. In their senior night, Allie Kennedy & Jalise Smallwood put on a show to propel the Lady Eagles to a 76 to 60 triumph over the FIU Panthers. And, I would be remorse if I didn't highlight Kennedy's half-court buzzer-beater.

The Men's Basketball team snapped their 8-game losing streak on the road in Miami overtaking the Panthers 85 to 72.

Tyler Stevenson accumulated 26 points and Tae Hardy contributed 19 in the second half alone.

Here are a few more score updates to end the show...

The Southern Miss soccer team dropped its final non-conference game of the season to the LSU Tigers in a 1 to 0 loss.

The Women's Tennis Team swept West Alabama on Sunday, taking all three doubles and six singles matches.

And Golden Eagle Volleyball swept LA Tech to earn their first conference series win.

For Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton

Sports Report: 03/03/2021

Script:

Basketball is wrapping up while Beach Volleyball and Men's Tennis are just getting started. Stay tuned for the rundown on all things Southern Miss Athletics.

Intro Graphic

The Golden Eagle and Lady Eagle Basketball teams completed their conference schedules facing off against the FAU Owls.

Both squads failed to find a win this weekend, but stellar performances from a few Golden Eagles have the potential to serve as building blocks for the programs as they head into tournament play.

In Boca Raton, the Lady Eagles found themselves with only 7 players available for Friday night's contest. The ladies rose to the occasion though and four players put up double figures.

The Men's team was at home for a senior day celebration honoring LaDavius Draine and Clay Weatherspoon. Ensuring that Southern Miss fans got bang for their buck, Tae Hardy posted a career-high 32 points.

For the first time in program history, the Southern Miss Baseball team welcomed the UCONN Huskies to Pete Taylor Park. The Golden Eagles won the contests on both Friday and Saturday to earn the series win.

In one-run games, the Eags went to work at the plate this weekend.

In the 8th inning of Friday's matchup, Gabe Montenegro shot one down the first-base line sending home two Golden Eagles to secure the 6-5 victory.

On Saturday, Christopher Sargant rounded the bases twice and contributed 5 RBIs to help Southern Miss edge UCONN 7-6.

Competing in a total of 7 games this past week, the Southern Miss Softball team went 5 and 2 to improve their overall record to 11 and 4.

To cap off the successful week, the Golden Eagles escaped with a 3-2 triumph over the Houston Baptist Huskies on Sunday night.

Senior Alyssa Davis blasted one out of the park to widen Southern Miss's score gap to three. The Huskies attempted to rally in the final inning but fell short finishing the game with the final score of 3-2.

Women's Tennis propelled their home match win streak to 20 after taking down South Alabama on Friday.

After dropping two doubles matches, the ladies came from behind to claim 4 singles matches and overtake the Jaguars 4-3.

Making this rivalry conquest even sweeter is the fact that the last time the Golden Eagles lost at home was to South Alabama in 2018.

After numerous postponements and cancelations, the men's tennis team is finally back on the courts.

The squad departed to Birmingham on Saturday and captured a 4-3 victory against the UAB Blazers to start the 2021 schedule on a high note.

The team returned to Hattiesburg the following day for its home opener versus Alabama A&M. The Golden Eagles brought their rackets and brooms, sweeping the Bulldogs 7 to 0.

The Southern Miss Beach Volleyball opened their season at the Seminole Beach Bash playing a tough lineup of 4 nationally ranked programs.

The Golden Eagles will be on the hunt for their first win of 2021 this weekend at the TCU Invitational.

And lastly, the Soccer team commenced conference play this weekend against UAB. The Blazers took the competition outscoring the Golden Eagles 2-1.

Reporting for Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

Sports Report: 03/10/2021

Script:

Soccer, Volleyball, Baseball, Tennis... the list of Southern Miss teams who earned victories this weekend goes on and on. With a total of 8 wins from the week, there is a lot to unpack on this episode of Season Pass.

Intro Graphic

Let's start things off with the home teams...

On Saturday, the Southern Miss Soccer team found their first conference win to remain undefeated at home.

The team attacked UTEP from the get-go, producing 22 shots and holding the Miners to just 4.

In the first half, Caitlyn Pierce volleyed the ball into the back of the net off of a corner from Alice Campos. Before the break, the Golden Eagles capitalized on another set-piece, but this time JoAnnie Ramos connected with Aubrey Olin.

In the second half, Campos weaved through the Miner's defense to send one in to solidify the 3-1 victory.

Following a 3-1 loss to the UAB Blazers on Sunday, the Southern Miss Volleyball team turned things around to claim game number two 3-1.

Duquesne Moratzka and Nyanuer Bidit energized the Golden Eagle attack with 12 kills apiece and Kinsley Hanback trailed close behind with 11.

Trouncing both Illinois State and Jacksonville State 4 to 3, the Men's Tennis team improves their perfect record to 4 and 0.

Now onto the Golden Eagles who were taking names and dubs on the road this weekend.

In the Lone Star State, Beach Volleyball captured their first win of the season at the TCU Horned Frog Classic against Central Arkansas.

Overall, four of the Golden Eagle duos defeated the Bears with triumphs on the number 1, 4, and 5 matchups as well as the extra court.

At the Auburn Invitational, the Softball team ended the tournament on a high note with a 4-3 walk-off victory over Troy.

In extra innings, Heather Hill drove one to left field to send Alyssa Davis home for the triumph.

In the circle, Karsen Pierce threw a complete game holding the Trojans to 3 runs in eight innings.

Head Coach Scott Berry led his team to a 6-0 landslide on Saturday to earn his 400th career win.

On Sunday the Golden Eagles beat the Jacksonville State Gamecocks 3 and 1 to take the series.

Reed Tremble lead the Southern Miss offense this weekend bosting a .462-batting average, 5 RBIs and 2 homers.

Defensively, Walker Powell notched 8 strikeouts and silenced the Gamecocks for seven innings in his appearance Saturday.

Women's Tennis is now 1 and 1 in conference play after losing to Western Kentucky 5 to 2 and surpassing Middle Tennessee 4 to 3.

Rounding off the week, the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams are currently in Frisco, Texas prepping for Conference Tournament play. The Men's team faces Rice at 7 pm tonight and the Lady Eagles battle FIU Wednesday morning at 11.

Both squads have representation on the All-Freshman Teams with Melyia Grayson and Jaron Pierre Jr. each earning a spot on the five-man rosters. Additionally, Grayson was voted Co-Freshman of the Year for Conference USA.

For Southern Miss Athletics, I'm Mackenzie Hamilton.

YouTube Channel

Seasons one and two of *Season Pass* are housed on Season Pass's YouTube Channel. The channel can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDboZHNLeanSTERb4nv7Xww>

Production Process and Skills

Season Pass afforded me the opportunity to get hands-on experience producing a weekly sports report, which, in my opinion, is the best way to grow as a multimedia journalist. Within the first month of releasing episodes, I quickly developed an order of steps for producing the reports. As the content of my reports changed, specifically in the spring semester, I made adjustments to the process of producing the episodes. However, the fundamental steps of writing, filming, and editing remained the same.

The first part of the production process is writing. Following each of the week's games, I created a list of facts from the competition, noting plays, statistics, scores, and historical background information. I then used these notes to write my script. Shifting through anywhere from two to four pages of information from the week's athletic events, I picked out the most newsworthy pieces of material to use for the show.

'Newsworthiness' is a term used in the media to aid journalists in their decision-making process of what to include or exclude in a story. According to Shoemaker's model, one of the original frameworks for determining the potential of a story, newsworthiness is defined by five elements: timeliness, proximity, impact, human interest, conflict, and sensationalism, prominence, and novelty (Shoemaker, 1987, p.3). When applying this model to sports, wins, career-high stats, program firsts, and significant plays are categorized as newsworthy. Additionally, the sports of football,

baseball, and basketball are extremely popular within the Southern Miss Athletics fan base, thus they are awarded a level of newsworthiness above other athletic teams.

From writing 18 scripts that covered 15 teams and 11 different sports this year, my writing skills significantly improved. Foremost, I learned the ins-and-outs of each of the 11 sports that were highlighted in *Season Pass* episodes. In order to accurately recap the teams' successes, I had to study the sport itself to understand the format, rules, and objectives of the competitions. For instance, when recapping a volleyball game, I needed to know which stats were the most important, kills, blocks, or aces, for I could not relay every single statistic recorded in a weekend. Furthermore, I had to understand what qualified as an above-average statistic as well as how to say the stat correctly. For example, when talking about kills, the correct way to report a player's hitting percentage is to read it as a three-figure number, such as "logged a seven-fourteen accuracy." One would not say "she hit point-seven-fourteen for the game."

Additionally, my sports terminology and vocabulary grew tremendously. To prevent one script from having the terms "win," "strikeout," or "touchdown" six or seven times, I had to broaden my bank of vocabulary and learn various ways to communicate the same word. For example, in place of saying a player "scored a touchdown," I also wrote "darted into the paydirt," "found the endzone," "converted six-points," or "snatched a TD" throughout the copy.

In the last few months of producing *Season Pass*, my writing also improved as I became more comfortable interjecting personality into the script. At the beginning and conclusion of the show, I had some fun with my reporting to make it more conversational and less rigid, and formal. For example, after reading an extensive upcoming schedule at

the end of one report, I stated “Whooo... we might need two reports next week.”

Furthermore, I learned to inject some commentary when recapping big plays from the week. After the Southern Miss baseball team had a highlight go viral on Twitter, my script read as follows...

Even if you weren't at Pete Taylor Park this weekend to witness some truly exciting baseball, then you still probably saw some of the Golden Eagles' highlights circulating around Twitter – specifically DJ Lynch's iconic trot and bat flip.

Now, a series of events lead up to this moment of swagger in Friday night's battle against Louisiana Lafayette.

In the second inning, Chris Sargent blasted a Grand Slam that was followed up by a solo home run from Reese Ewing.

Next, the Cajun's starter released a misguided pitch, and in response, Lynch let his bat do the talking by crushing a bomb to right-center field.

After taking game one 13-4, Southern Miss didn't let their fire die down. The Eags went on to overtake Louisiana Lafayette 1-0 on Saturday. And then Reed Tremble sent the Cajuns back to Lafayette with a grand slam in the 11th inning on Sunday.

I think it's safe to say Pete Taylor Park Magic is alive and doing well (Sports Report: 03/02/2021).

After the script is complete, the next step in the production process is filming.

Besides the occasional tennis match, the majority of games were filmed by Southern Miss Athletics Video Department, therefore I did not need to film highlights. However, each

episode I recorded my standups, which introduced each show and served as transitions from one sport to the next.

Throughout the year, my comfort and delivery on-camera developed. After sending episodes to professionals in the sports broadcasting field, such as Lauren Sisler, an ESPN correspondent, and Tai Takahashi, the news director for WJTV in Jackson, I received feedback to work on my voice and stance. As a result, I played with the pitch of my voice to make it deeper and smoother as I spoke and read. Additionally, I spoke to the camera like it was one person to make my delivery more comfortable and conversational. Lastly, I was able to nix my fidgeting. I had the bad habit of swaying back and forth on camera, but that disappeared by the spring.

The final and most timely task of production is editing. Compiling the standups, voiceovers, graphics, music, and game-highlights together, I created a three-to-four-minute episode. Each week, I became faster and more precise in my editing. The first episode took me roughly seven hours to edit. By March, I was editing episodes together in five hours.

Every episode of *Season Pass* included an introduction and closing graphic. Moreover, each episode has a combination of a schedule, player highlight, or results graphic. I personally created each of the graphics using Photoshop, Premiere Pro, and Motion Array. Prior to producing the series, I had very limited experience creating graphics, so I saw a lot of improvement in my graphics throughout the seven months of the show.

The production of the feature stories was very similar to the process of creating sports reports, however, the order was different. After researching the interviewee and

writing questions, the filming of the interview/s and b-roll followed. Then, the script was written, and the story was edited.

In getting the opportunity to share six different stories, I refined my interviewing skills throughout the year. Foremost, I learned how to make the interviewee comfortable. Before recording, I brought up a topic that we both had in common. I found this relaxed the subject and also allowed them to open up to me. Next, I was extremely complimentary of them. My goal in producing any story is to make the person feel good about themselves. Additionally, this showed the interviewee that I didn't have the motive of exploiting them nor unearthing a scandal. Finally, throughout the interview, I really listened to the subject. Although I came in with a list of questions, most of the time I learned how to work off of the responses of the interviewee to ask the next question. This was extremely beneficial in extracting information I did not know about and needed more explanation on. It also eliminated questions that would evoke an answer that was already stated earlier.

Altogether, the experience of producing *Season Pass* taught me how to meet fast deadlines. From the start, I had quick turnarounds on releasing the show. Episode 1 recapped the Southern Miss Football team's first game of the season on September 3. The contest kicked off at 8 p.m., concluded at 11:30 p.m., and the episode was released on September 4 at 1:30 p.m. In order to accomplish this, I stayed up through the night and woke up early to write, edit, and film. Although stressful, the need for fast turnarounds and timely releases of shows mirrors the sports broadcasting industry that I desire to work in after graduation.

The reasoning behind my choice in completing a creative activity to meet the requirements of my Honors Thesis Research Project was to generate material for my demo reel. As explained in the pre-production section of this manuscript, a demo reel is the essential element of an aspiring television journalist's application. Now on the other side of the process, I can conclude that *Season Pass* has awarded me with an abundant amount of material for my reel. Between the sports reports and interviews, I have an array of videos to choose from in the coming months as I assemble my demo reel.

CHAPTER III: POST-PRODUCTION

Initial Reflections

The opportunities, support, recognition, and overall outcome of *Season Pass* exceeded every expectation I set before embarking on this endeavor. In my original thesis plan, I outlined the production of 15 shows and five feature interviews total. After just the fall semester, I created a total of 10 sports reports and six feature interviews. To start off 2021 and the spring semester, I launched season two of *Season Pass* on January 17. Documentation of the project continued through March 10 and contains eight shows total for the spring semester. Altogether, *Season Pass* (through March 10) consists of 18 sports reports and six interviews.

In addition to the number of episodes surpassing my hopes for the creative activity, the amount of attention and the exposure that *Season Pass* has received has also pleasantly surprised me. In the very first month of *Season Pass* premiering, Emmy James' feature interview was published by NCAA Women's Basketball on their Twitter and Facebook accounts. The company's Twitter account alone has a following of over 566 thousand (NCAA, 2020).

Social Media Analysis

Every episode of *Season Pass* was released on Southern Miss Athletics' social media accounts. Southern Miss Athletics' Twitter account, @USMGoldenEagles, has 68,900 followers. After initially posting on Twitter, the Athletic Department would retweet the episodes on the individual accounts of each sports team that was highlighted. Furthermore, the majority of the series was released on Southern Miss Athletics'

Instagram account, @southernmissathletics, to 18,300 followers, and Southern Miss Athletics' Facebook page.

Table 3

Series Statistics

	Twitter Views	Facebook Views	Instagram Plays	Total Views	Duration	Time	Day
Episode 1	3500	4400	3691	11591	1:47	1:37pm	Friday
Episode 2	3000	2100	964	6064	2:40	11:00am	Friday
Episode 3	1500	2300	2295	6095	2:00	3:34pm	Sunday
Episode 4	3800	1800	774	6374	2:40	11:00am	Friday
Episode 5	675	816	769	2260	2:58	1:43pm	Thursday
Episode 6	888	-	-	888	1:50	5:00pm	Sunday
Episode 7	2100	1600	987	4687	2:16	9:30am	Friday
Episode 8	917	-	1472	2389	1:53	3:53pm	Sunday
Episode 9	1900	910	1248	4058	2:28	7:31pm	Sunday
Episode 10	1600	6800	784	9184	2:34	8:09pm	Thursday
Episode 11	1200	887	1183	3270	2:05	6:00pm	Monday
Episode 12	2200	1300	1002	4502	1:58	4:37pm	Sunday
Episode 13	1300	1300	571	3171	2:14	7:15pm	Thursday
Episode 14	4700	1300	-	6000	2:07	6:33pm	Sunday
Episode 15	1200	738	827	2765	1:34	8:33am	Friday
Episode 16	1600	903	864	3367	3:00	4:53pm	Sunday

Episode 1	1900	1300	1145	4345	2:50	7:06pm	Sunday
Episode 2	1100	829	952	2881	3:19	10:32am	Monday
Episode 3	1500	528	718	2746	3:13	6:30pm	Monday
Episode 4	1700	791	701	3192	3:14	7:06pm	Monday
Episode 5	1300	840	993	3133	3:06	8:20pm	Tuesday
Episode 6	914	1700	-	2614	3:29	8:14pm	Tuesday
Episode 7	501	618	498	1617	3:38	8:50am	Wednesday
Episode 8	852	668	670	2190	2:58	9:58am	Wednesday

Data recorded March 11, 2021

Table 4

Views Broken Down by Day of the Week

	Friday		Sunday		Monday	
	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average
Twitter Views	13600	2720	15605	1950.625	5500	1375
Facebook Views	10638	2127.6	8013	1335.5	3035	758.75
Instagram Plays	7243	1448.6	8026	1337.66667	3554	888.5
Total Views	31481	6296.2	31644	3955.5	12089	3022.25

	Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average
Twitter Views	2214	738	1350	675	3575	1191.66667
Facebook Views	2540	1270	1286	643	8916	2972
Instagram Plays	993	993	1168	584	2124	708
Total Views	5747	2873.5	3804	1902	14615	4871.66667

Shows were released every day of the week except Saturday. The release date was typically dictated by the calendar of athletic events. For example, In the fall, an episode of *Season Pass* would be released the day after a football game. In the spring, the release dates fluctuated to follow volleyball’s schedule which would often end on a Monday. Overall, five episodes were released on a Friday, eight on a Sunday, four on Mondays, three on Tuesday, two on a Wednesday, and three on a Thursday.

Table 5

Views Broken Down by Time of the Day

	8:00am – 11:59am		12:00pm – 4:59pm		5:00pm – 9:00pm	
	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average
Twitter	11350	1891.66667	10392	1732	20102	1675.16667
Facebook	7615	1269.16667	9719	1943.8	17094	1554
Instagram	4845	807.5	10093	1682.16667	8170	907.777778
Total	23810	3968.33333	30204	5034	45366	3780.5

The time of the release of each episode was dictated by David Cohen, Southern Miss Athletics' Director of Communications. Cohen approved each episode and scheduled the time of release within the social media calendar of Southern Miss Athletics.

Conclusions

On average, each sports report has 1,743.5 views on Twitter, 926.83 plays on Instagram, and 1,434.5 views on Facebook. In total, each episode received an average of 4,140.83 views. Out of the six feature interviews (episodes 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 13), each story has an average of 2,790.167 views on Twitter, 2,402.67 views on Facebook, and 808.167 plays on Instagram, averaging 5,290 views total. Of the 18 sports reports, each episode has an average of 1,631.61 views on Twitter, 1,111.78 views on Facebook, and 1,014.39 plays on Instagram for an average of 3,757.78 views across all platforms.

The *Season Pass* episode that has received the most cumulative views on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram was the first edition released on September 4 with 11,591 views. The episode that received the second-highest number of views is a feature story on the Southern Miss Athletic Trainer Todd McCall, which has received a sum of 9,184 views. Todd's interview has the most views on Facebook at 6,800. The episode with the most views on Twitter is Episode 14, a sports report covering Southern Miss Football's senior night game against UTSA, with 4,700 views. Additionally, the first episode of *Season Pass* has the largest number of plays on Instagram at 3,691.

Episode 6 of Season 1, a sports report covering Southern Miss Football's game against North Texas as well as Cross Country's performance at the Florida State Invitational, has the fewest number of views at 888. The episode was only posted on

Twitter though. The episode with the least number of views that was available on all platforms is Season 2 Episode 7, a sports report with only 1,617 views. This episode has received the lowest number of views on Twitter and Instagram alone as well. On Facebook, Season 2 Episode 3, a sports report, has the least number of views.

Shows with a release day of Friday have the highest average total number of views. This finding is consistent on Twitter and Instagram, however, episodes that were released on a Thursday have the largest number of views on Facebook at 2,972. Episodes published on Wednesday have the least number of views averaging 1,902 on all platforms.

The release time of each episode varied but were analyzed between three blocks of time: before 12 p.m., between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m., and after 5 p.m. On average, shows that were released between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. have the highest number of views at 5,034. These results are consistent on Facebook and Instagram, but on Twitter, shows that were published before 12 p.m. have the highest number of views. Across all three platforms, shows published after 5 p.m. have the fewest number of views at 3,780.5.

Public Relations versus Journalism

Throughout the process of producing *Season Pass*, I was essentially working for the Southern Miss Athletic Department. Due to relying on them for game footage, utilizing their social media accounts to publish the episodes, and needing their permission to speak with athletes and staff members, I was at the will of the Communications and Marketing Departments on whether or not a game was highlighted. For instance, after a tough 66 to 24 loss to Tulane in September, the Senior Associate AD for External Operations put the kibosh on that week's episode. As a result, I published the episode on

my private YouTube account, but the episode was not shared on Southern Miss Athletic sites. From this moment on, an understanding was established between the Athletic Department and I - my reports were to focus on the positives of Southern Miss Athletic competitions and events. As a result, a total of three football games and two weekends of basketball were not covered on *Season Pass*, for there were not enough victories nor accomplishments to highlight.

This agreement taught me an important concept within communication: there is a significant difference between public relations and journalism. In fact, tension has historically existed between journalists and public relations managers due to their interrelationship.

As Julia Szambolics details in her article “Journalism versus PR: theoretical aspects regarding the information flows,” journalists have the fundamental role to report newsworthy events in a neutral manner (2012). She goes on to elaborate that journalists:

owe responsibility and commitment to their audience, and not political party or group. They cannot avoid controversial subjects, are not allowed to be biased in their lines or articles, they should enjoy constitutional and legal protection against the pressure exerted on them during their activity (2012, p. 46).

While journalists aim for impartiality, public relations corporations intend to filter the release of information regarding their clients. The article “The Continuing Convergence of Journalism and PR: New Insights for Ethics Practice from a three-country Study,” explains that “a major function of PR (Public Relations) is acting as organization ‘gatekeepers’ managing the flow of information on behalf of their employers” (Macnamara, 2016, p.119).

Traditionally, public relationists and journalists have worked together (Szambolics, 2012, p.51). PR representatives write press releases that detail the information of the company or person that he/she works for and sends the document to reporters. Reporters then utilize press releases, in combination with other sources, to manufacture a story, for press releases are known for being partial in nature (Szambolics, 2012, p.47).

Recently, there has been a convergence of these two fields, especially within sports communications. Charles M. Lambert argues in his paper “Losing pole position: Sports journalism and public relations,” that “sport has evolved to become more dependent on PR than news coverage” (2019, p.25).

Lambert backs this statement with his evaluation that social media has granted businesses of all categories access to communicate with the public directly, therefore, decreasing the need for journalists (2019, p.26). As a result of the breadth of social media, the majority of professional and collegiate sports teams now have large media teams that have taken over the role of both public relationists and journalists (Lambert, 2019, p. 27). The communication teams facilitate the information the club releases and produce content themselves. As a result, Lambert explains that “the lines have been blurred nowadays between marketing and news content” (2019, p.27).

I personally experienced this haziness between being an objective reporter while also representing an organization during this project. Foremost, being a student, athlete, and intern for The University of Southern Mississippi, I am already biased due to my connections with the school and athletic programs. Second, the athletic department viewed *Season Pass* as a proponent of Southern Miss Athletics, not a critique nor

evaluation. As a result, I often had to gloss over the losses I did a report on. Typically, I would shortly summarize the opponent's successes to explain why the loss happened but then focus on the victories that Southern Miss did have in the competition, such as individual successes or noteworthy statistics.

Adjustments and Changes

Throughout the seven months of releasing *Season Pass*, I made adjustments and changes to the show week to week. In the fall, when football was the primary Southern Miss sports team in season, I had to store up feature interviews in case the Athletic Department did not want to release a recap of the game. My goal was to have at least one episode per week, but the week of September 27, I did not have an episode to share after the Athletic Department decided not to publish the recap of the football team's 66 to 24 loss to Tulane. After this, I kept feature interviews on hand to release when the football team did not have a win or game and no other sporting events were taking place. For the remainder of the fall, I was successful in publishing a weekly episode up until Winter Break.

Following the fall semester of 2020, the University of Southern Mississippi had an eight-week break for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. The football team had one game within this break and the men's and women's basketball teams began their seasons on November 28 and December 18, respectively. I went home to Dallas, Texas for the majority of the break. As a result of the inconsistent sports schedule and my remote location, I only recorded two episodes of *Season Pass*. The first, released on December 3, 2020, covered Men's Basketball's first win of the year, and the second, published on December 13, 2020, recapped Southern Miss Football's final game of the

year, Men's Basketball game against South Alabama, and the hiring of Head Football Coach Will Hall.

Due to being in Dallas and unable to film at Southern Miss Athletic locations in Hattiesburg, I recorded the two December episodes in front of a green screen. I created a graphic that utilized *Season Pass's* logo to place behind me for each of the standups.

When I returned to Hattiesburg in January and started Season 2 of *Season Pass*, I first resumed location filming for the standups like I did in the fall. Every episode, I found a new location on the campus of Southern Miss to record my standups in front of. I also related my location to the content of the show. For instance, for football recaps, I filmed around The Rock, and for a Cross Country recap, I used the track as my backdrop.

Episode 1 of the new season featured Reed Green Coliseum as the backdrop to my standup and the second episode utilized Southern Miss Volleyball's Wellness Center as the setting. However, after gaining permission from the School of Communication and Dr. Maxwell to use the television studio, I changed my standup location to College Hall and utilized the green screen for the remainder of Season 2. The reasoning for this change was twofold: I wanted to give the show a more professional setup and the shows were covering so many Southern Miss Athletic Teams that the location was no longer connected to the content. In place of the green screen, I created a graphic with a brick wall and the *Season Pass* logo across it.

In addition to a location change, I also made a few other alterations for Season 2 of *Season Pass*. Foremost, I shortened the introduction to show just the *Season Pass* logo for about three seconds. I felt that the primary audience of the series was already familiar with the show and thus, a grand introduction was no longer necessary. Furthermore, the

shows in the spring had a ton of content to cover and I needed to save time. The second change I made was with music. For each of Season One's sports recaps, the song "12:00 AM" by Ramzoid served as the background music. Wanting to switch it up, I used "Meadows" by Ramzoid as the background music for each of Season Two's reports.

My primary timeline for the series included recording two feature interviews in the fall and three in the spring. I surpassed this goal with six interviews in the fall. However, in the spring I did not produce any feature stories. This was primarily due to a very chaotic and overwhelming spring semester of sports. In total, 14 Southern Miss Athletic teams competed in the spring for an average of 26 competitions each week. As a result, the production time of each show increased dramatically.

With sports events happening every single day of the week, shows in the spring no longer needed to be released on a particular day. The majority of games were played on the weekend, Friday through Sunday, and the volleyball team competed in a two-game series each week that took place on Sundays and Mondays. Consequently, I decided to release episodes on Tuesdays. This release day gave me enough time to plan and write the report and include volleyball highlights. However, on multiple occasions, the reports aired on Wednesday mornings due to scheduling conflicts.

Lastly, I made an adjustment in the formatting of the show. For two of the sports reports in the fall and the four initial episodes of Season 2, I concluded the show with the week's upcoming schedule of competitions. Due to many Covid-related postponements and schedule changes, I decided to get rid of the schedule-segment of the show.

Additionally, with anywhere from 20 to 30 events happening each week, the previews

were becoming too long and complicated. In getting rid of the preview, I also had more time to highlight each sport.

Successes

Every production of a *Season Pass* episode was a learning opportunity.

Throughout the seven months of writing, filming, and editing the series, I picked up a few tricks and stumbled upon a few production techniques that worked well.

The fundamental component of each episode was the writing. The script needed to flow well and transition smoothly from one sport to the next. In the spring, I had to get creative and come up with phrases to introduce the show and switch the conversation from one sport to another. As a result, my breadth of transitional vocabulary has expanded significantly.

After writing the script, I filmed the standups on location or in the studio. I learned that I needed to record the voiceovers at the location I was at in order for the whole narration to sound uniform. In having identical background noise for both the standups and voiceovers, it appeared as if I was talking in one, continuous conversation rather than in blocks.

While covering 14 teams in the spring semester, I had to become selective in my game coverage. Compared to the fall, when I could dedicate a whole episode to one football game, in the spring I had roughly three minutes for over a dozen teams. Foremost, I focused on the big storylines, such as the first and last games of the season, significant wins, or upsets. Providing the final score was a must, but I also wanted to give a little more content from noteworthy competitions. Consequently, I found that focusing

on big plays as well as individual highlights and accomplishments was sufficient in satisfying time restraints and in providing content that viewers enjoy.

In line with highlighting individual athletes, when covering baseball and softball, I found that concentrating on player statistics from the week worked the best. The Southern Miss Softball and Baseball teams each played a minimum of four games per week. Consequently, I did not have the time to cover each of these games. Instead, I highlighted the offensive leader and defensive leader of the week.

This method also allowed me to talk about losses in a positive light. For example, on a sports report in March, both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams lost their weekend series. However, the squads each had individual players who had phenomenal performances. Instead of just stating that the two teams had poor weekends, I was able to focus on the individual athletes. My script went as follows...

Both squads failed to find a win this weekend, but stellar performances from a few Golden Eagles have the potential to serve as building blocks for the programs as they head into tournament play.

In Boca Raton, the Lady Eagles found themselves with only 7 players available for Friday night's contest. The ladies rose to the occasion though and four players put up double figures.

The Men's team was at home for a senior day celebration honoring LaDavius Draine and Clay Weatherspoon. Ensuring that Southern Miss fans got bang for their buck, Tae Hardy posted a career-high 32 points (Sports Report: 03/02/2021).

Struggles and Future Changes

As I reflect on the overall production of *Season Pass*, there are certain elements of the show that I would change for future episodes and seasons. Foremost, while the use of sports terminology is necessary when rehashing games, on some occasions my inclusion of jargon was too excessive. In Nancy Reardon's manual *On Camera: How to Report, Anchor & Interview*, she interviews several beat reporters addressing the inclusion of field-specific terminology. NBC (National Broadcasting Company) Sports Reporter Len Berman warns against the extensive use of sports terminology. Berman states that "a football player doesn't walk around the locker room saying, 'look at me I'm toting my pigskin.' He isn't 'toting his pigskin' he is 'carrying the ball'" (Reardon, 2006, p. 118). CBS (Columbia Broadcasting System) News Correspondent Ray Brandy agrees, saying...

Always keep it simple English so the man on the street understands what you are saying. But you must report the facts accurately and comprehensively enough, so it satisfies the businessmen at the top who thinks: This correspondent knows what he is talking about. (Reardon, 2006, p. 162)

While writing the show's scripts, I was too often writing for the avid sports fan and not for the everyday viewer. The perfect median is to create a report that speaks to both the novice fan and the athlete who competed.

The workload of single-handily producing *Season Pass* was at times overwhelming. In the future, assembling a production team would be very beneficial. For example, students could be assigned individual sports to cover for the semester.

Additionally, team members could rotate roles with someone being responsible for the script, another for recording the standups and voiceover, and another for editing.

Taking teamwork, a step farther, the production of *Season Pass* could also be turned into a sports-reporting course for the School of Communication. Collaborating with the Southern Miss Athletic Department's Communication Office, the School of Communication could produce a weekly sports report following the procedures laid out in this manual.

APPENDIX A: EPISODE LINKS

Below is a link to the YouTube address of each individual episode of *Season*

Pass.

Season One

Episode 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEDYmpkHySg>

Episode 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3hkncAAzy0&t=1s>

Episode 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djVIOZEpXII>

Episode 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdvYpDT0jtc>

Episode 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TilU0dPyycE>

Episode 6: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TilU0dPyycE>

Episode 7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4tBkCW7hs>

Episode 8: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wV_2YKwbeGY

Episode 9: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRCZNUgvlw0>

Episode 10: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zstsCgFEU8g>

Episode 11: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cp4IKpknEzU>

Episode 12: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KEVXZ-e6_U

Episode 13: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtII-TPJ2D4>

Episode 14: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1czyGGcWK6I>

Episode 15: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8zTf9hcj1Q>

Episode 16: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEWPVm1-VN0>

Season Two

Episode 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6slsdXcgxbo>

Episode 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGJcbf0T1jA>

Episode 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyWf4S7Qmy0>

Episode 4: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_6VzIR0JfQ

Episode 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld-CaGz0ESA&t>

Episode 6: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73ctoQoNV3o>

Episode 7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KS4u-Jmvqq0>

Episode 8: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZI2Vzh--fw>

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