



Rian Richards

Hometown: Hope, ND

School: Mayville State University

Internship: Hillsboro Banner

Over the past semester I have had the privilege of working with the Hillsboro Banner, a weekly newspaper published by Sub-Zero Press in Hillsboro, N.D.

The Banner is the oldest weekly newspaper in North Dakota and is the official newspaper of the city of Hillsboro. The Banner was recently awarded the official county paper title this past fall.

Having no prior experience in the field of sports journalism, my expectations for this opportunity were to gain valuable knowledge related to the newspaper field, in particular sports journalism, which is where my interests lie.

The staff at the Banner gave me that option and guided me through the first steps of my writing career. My goals in completing this internship were gaining

insight into how the world of newspaper publishing works, as well as the creation and distribution of written media.

The role within my internship with the Banner began by covering the MayPort-CG High School girls volleyball team through its fall season.

My responsibilities in this role were to write and report on sporting events over the course of the volleyball season under the supervision of editor Cole Short.

These contributions through this internship taught me to provide supplemental coverage in sports journalism and to do that by attending sporting events, recording statistics and related media, and interviewing coaches following each event.

These duties allowed me to develop my researching skills to create the best possible story each week.

Following the end of the initial 10-week internship, I expressed my interest in continuing to work with the Banner and was happy to be granted that option.

I currently cover the MPCG girls basketball team and have recently expanded my skill set into photography with support from the Banner staff.

They have been incredibly helpful, supportive and accommodating in ensuring I learn as many aspects of the newspaper publishing domain as possible to become a well-rounded writer and photographer.

My overall experience with the Banner has exceeded my expectations in allowing me to build a solid background in beginning my writing career.

I have learned valuable information from the Banner staff on many fronts and hope to continue my work with them through the remainder of my college career.

What I have learned with the help is transferrable toward many important aspects of life, including my academic career.