



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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from The Mini Page © 2011 Universal Uclick

Super Bowl XLV is Feb. 6

Calling the Game

Will you be watching the Super Bowl next week? Aside from the funny ads and dazzling halftime show, the football game wouldn't be the same without the people who help us keep up with what's happening on the field.

The TV and radio journalists who broadcast reports of sporting events are called sportscasters. For almost a century, they've helped people who couldn't be at the game enjoy the action, either on radio or television.

This week, The Mini Page talked with a veteran sportscaster to find out more about this fascinating job.

It all started with radio

In the early 1920s, radio broadcasts of sporting events took off. The first radio program of a baseball game took place in August 1921. The game was between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Philadelphia Phillies. The announcer was Harold Arlin.



Harold Arlin

photo courtesy Library of American Broadcasting, University of Maryland

Arlin thought baseball would be "too boring" on the radio. But audiences loved it.



Jim Nantz, left, and Phil Simms prepare for their broadcast of an NFL game.

Nantz is a play-by-play announcer. Analyst Simms played football for the New York Giants.

photo courtesy CBS Sports

Adding pictures

The first broadcast of a sports event on television took place 72 years ago. The game was a baseball match between Columbia and Princeton universities.



A camera catches the action at the 1939 Columbia-Princeton game. The announcer was Bill Stern.

An important job

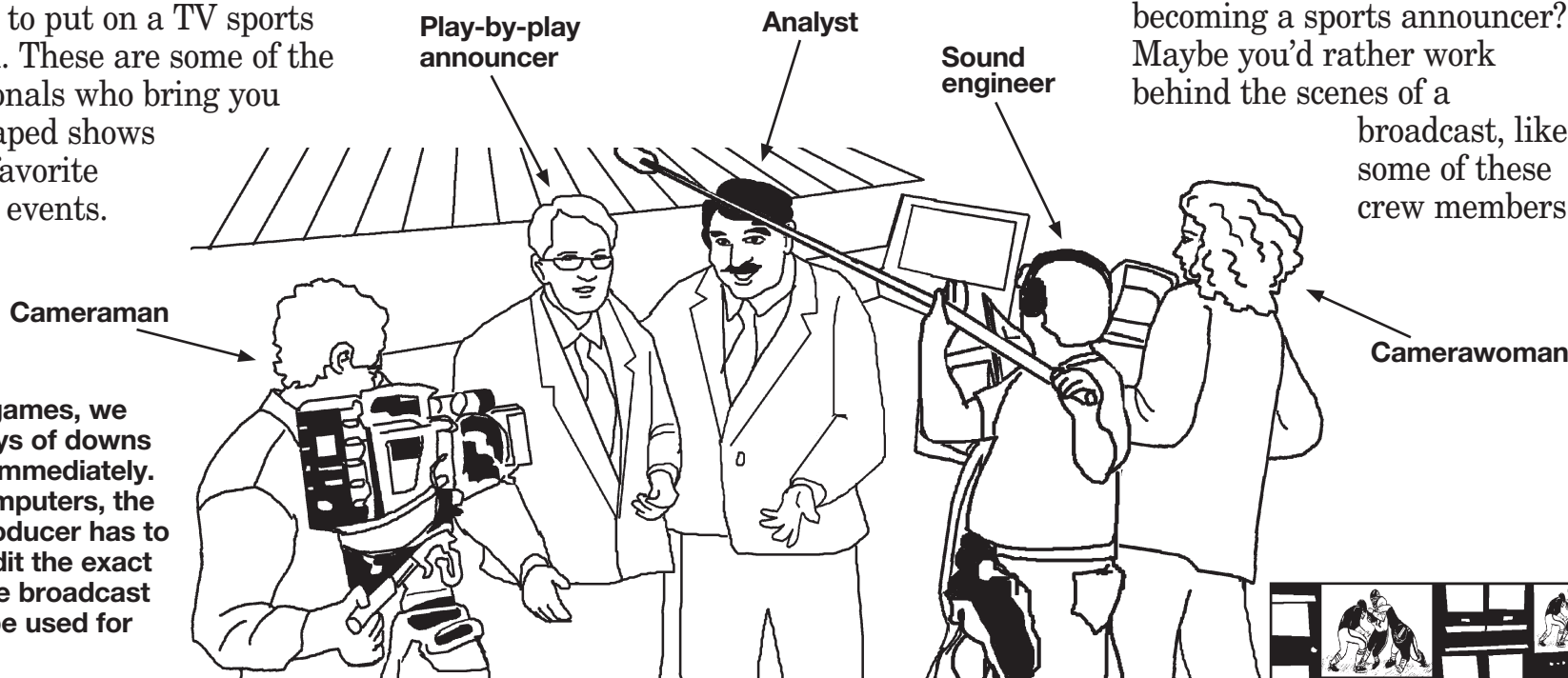
You might think a viewer wouldn't need an announcer while watching a game on TV. But sports announcers help us understand the rules and details of the sport.

Their words can add drama, too, especially on a radio show. Instead of just saying, "The quarterback throws the ball, and it's caught on the 42-yard line," the announcer might add detail to make the play more interesting: "The quarterback drops back in the pocket and launches a high spiral. The receiver makes a leaping sideline catch and falls into the opposing bench."

Who's Who in TV Sports

Many people have to work together to put on a TV sports program. These are some of the professionals who bring you live or taped shows of your favorite sporting events.

Are you interested in becoming a sports announcer? Maybe you'd rather work behind the scenes of a broadcast, like some of these crew members.



In many games, we see replays of downs or shots immediately. Using computers, the replay producer has to quickly edit the exact part of the broadcast that will be used for replay.



The director works in a control room, which is sometimes in a mobile truck. He or she closely watches many different screens with each camera's view and decides which shots to use. The director also decides where each camera will be placed.

The producer also sits in a control room and helps decide when to put in commercials and graphics.



Ready Resources



The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- www.americansportscastersonline.com
- www.museum.tv/publicationssection.php?page=520

At the library:

- "Behind the Scenes at the TV News Studio" by Marilyn Miller
- "Sports Broadcasting" by Michael Teitelbaum



Sports Commentators TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of sports broadcasting are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: ANALYST, ANNOUNCER, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, BOWL, BROADCAST, CAMERA, DIRECTOR, DRAMA, FOOTBALL, GAME, GRAPHICS, JOURNALIST, MICROPHONE, PRODUCER, RADIO, REPLAY, TELEVISION.

E N O H P O R C I M O I D A R
 F W D K B T E L E V I S I O N
 O B R O A D C A S T B E M A G
 O O A J S D N R O T C E R I D
 T W M R E C U D O R P V Y L A
 B L A Q B J O U R N A L I S T
 A R E M A C N S C I H P A R G
 L T S Y L A N A X R E P L A Y
 L R N P L L A B T E K S A B Z

Mini Spy . . .



Mini Spy and Basset Brown are presenting a sports show! See if you can find:

- jack-o'-lantern
- man in the moon
- puppy face
- bird
- letter A
- pencil
- number 2
- snail
- word MINI
- carrot
- letter E
- candle
- banana
- mushroom
- shark
- book
- letter T
- letter V
- peanut
- number 7
- squirrel
- flashlight
- kite
- sailboat
- hammer



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Brown Rice With Fruit

You'll need:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 small apple, peeled and chopped
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup brown rice



What to do:

1. Melt butter in saucepan. Stir in onion, apple, cranberries and garlic powder.
2. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes until apple and onion are tender.
3. Add chicken broth and rice. Bring to a boil.
4. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 to 25 minutes (follow package directions) until all of the liquid is absorbed.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Bari Koral



photo by Megan Maloy

Bari Koral is a folk and pop singer with a new CD for families, "Rock and Roll Garden."

She had been touring and singing only for adults. She began performing at a children's museum on Long Island, N.Y., and decided to write her own children's songs. The museum helped her pay for a band to perform these songs with her.

Bari teaches early childhood music and movement classes at a university. She also teaches yoga. She created a program to ease stress for JetBlue pilots and flight attendants, and another program to ease stress for business employees. She has also made a yoga music video for families.

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NEW! The Mini Page® Book of States

The Mini Page's popular series of issues about each state is collected here in a 156-page softcover book. Conveniently spiral-bound for ease of use, this invaluable resource contains A-to-Z facts about each state, along with the District of Columbia. Illustrated with colorful photographs and art, and complete with updated information, The Mini Page Book of States will be a favorite in classrooms and homes for years to come.

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City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

Especially for kids and their families

The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBHAM

The Bluegrass State Kentucky From A to Z

Bluegrass, Kentucky's famous grass, is so good that it's the state's symbol. Horse and cattle farms in rich bluegrass pastures.

Horse breeding and racing have made Kentucky famous. Coal mining is one of the most important industries. Manufacturing of transportation equipment, industrial machinery, electronic equipment and metal products is important.

The English and French both explored the area as early as the 1600s. In the 1700s it was part of Virginia, becoming a separate state in 1792. Because Kentucky was right between the North and South regions of the U.S., it was torn apart during the Civil War.

It is a surprising fact that both the Union president, Abraham Lincoln, and the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, were born there. Today it is the 26th most-populated state, with more than 4 million people.

Agriculture is important. The state is one of the top growers of corn, hay, tobacco, water wheat and soybeans.

Bluegrass music, with its roots in the folk music of the area, is usually played with stringed instruments such as fiddle, mandolin, guitar and banjo.

The Cardinal is the state bird.

It is the third-largest Coal-producing state. Oil, natural gas and limestone are also important.

The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green is near the only factory in the world where this famous sports car is made.

Daniel Boone's role in settling the wilderness is celebrated at Fort Boonborough State Park near Richmond.

The Earliest residents include the Cherokee, Delaware, Chickasaw, Iroquois and Shawnee peoples. The Cherokee Indians gave the state its name, from words meaning "great medicine".

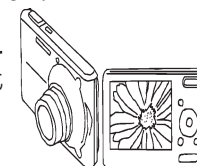
MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

from The Mini Page © 2011 Universal Uclick

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Cassie: What did the doctor say to the patient who swallowed a camera?

Charlie: "Let's just see what develops!"



Chase: What is the best way to borrow a camera?
Cecelia: When someone "lens" it to you!

Corey: What do you get when you cross a mirror and a camera?

Caesar: A camera that takes pictures of itself!



Behind the Microphone

During a sportscast, either on TV or radio, you will usually hear two broadcasters:

- The **play-by-play person** “calls” the game. In other words, he or she tells the listener what is happening on the field of play.

- The **analyst** gives deeper information. For example, the analyst might tell more about how the play was designed or something personal about a player that might be affecting his game, such as an earlier injury or his strengths as a player.

The Mini Page talked with a veteran play-by-play man, Kevin Harlan, to find out more about his job. Kevin calls NFL and college basketball games for CBS Sports, NBA for TNT, and does a radio broadcast of “Monday Night Football” for Westwood One.

An interest in broadcasting

Kevin’s high school in Green Bay, Wis., had a radio station run by students.

When he was just 15 years old, he auditioned to be a football play-by-play announcer. He got the job, and later in high school he started working for a commercial radio station, calling games around the area.

He went to the University of Kansas, where he did sideline reports and halftime and postgame broadcasting for KU football.



photo courtesy Kevin Harlan

Sports announcers Kevin Harlan, left, and Clark Kellogg talk about an upcoming basketball game.

In college, Kevin studied broadcast journalism. He felt it was important to learn how to construct a good story on paper.

Getting ready for the game

Kevin calls three games every week — two for television and one for radio. He said every week is like studying for three exams.

On Monday, he begins studying for that week’s games. Teams send out statistics and information about players to announcers ahead of time. The day before or day of the game, announcers may meet with coaches and players to ask questions.

TV or radio?

The Mini Page asked Kevin if he likes doing radio or TV better. He said: “I love parts of both. For TV, you’re trying to be an orchestrator of a symphony — managing the picture, the analyst, the graphics. You have to know when to be quiet.

“In radio, the play-by-play guy is the boss. All you have is words; you try to use the right words in describing a play. It’s fun!”

What if you’re also a fan?

Kevin said even when his favorite teams are playing, he just roots for a good game. “I really don’t care who wins. I care that we as a crew do a great job.”

‘Follow your dream’

Kevin said the worst thing about his job is being away from home and his family so much, especially during the fall and winter months. He spends a lot more time with them from late spring through summer.

The best thing, he said, is “realizing I’m doing something I really love to do. If you do that, you work harder, you get better, and you succeed. If you follow something you really enjoy, your life will be much more complete.”

The Mini Page thanks Kevin Harlan, announcer with CBS Sports, for help with this issue.

Next week, The Mini Page is about chocolate.

The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Founding Editor and Editor at Large Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor Lucy Lien - Associate Editor Wendy Daley - Artist

Read all about sports commentators



photo courtesy CBS Sports

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by Betty Debnam

Appearing in your
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(Note to Editor: Above is camera-ready, one column-by-3¹/₂-inch ad promoting Issue 5.)

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5-5 (11)

The Mini Page® Standards Spotlight: Calling the Game from The Mini Page © 2011 Universal Uclick

Mini Page activities meet many state and national educational standards. Each week we identify standards that relate to The Mini Page's content and offer activities that will help your students reach them.

This week's standard:

- Students understand how to communicate information and ideas using a variety of media and formats. (Technology)


Activities:

1. Paste four newspaper words or pictures about specific sports on a piece of paper. Write one sentence for each that would encourage people to watch that sport on television.
2. Find three people in the newspaper you think would make good sports commentators. Explain your choices.
3. Circle comments in newspaper sports stories that provide viewpoints on the game.
4. Who on the sports team has to know about (a) the rules of the game, (b) how players move on the field, and (c) putting pictures and words together?
5. Record 10 minutes of sports on TV. Write a script that a sports commentator could use about the event.

(standards by Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)

(Note to Editor: Above is the Standards for Issue 5.)

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 **Gus Goodsport's Report**

Supersport: Cam Newton

Height: 6-6 Weight: 250 Hometown: College Park, Ga.

"Unstoppable" is the name of a new movie. "Unstoppable" also could be the title of Cam Newton's football season.

Running relentlessly and passing accurately, he led the Auburn Tigers to a 13-0 record and into the Jan. 10 BCS National Championship Game against Oregon.

Big, strong and fast, the junior quarterback rushed for 1,409 yards and threw for 2,589 yards. He easily won the Heisman Trophy, the most prestigious individual award in college football.

Newton has football genes. His father, Cecil Sr., played for the Dallas Cowboys, and his brother, Cecil Jr., plays for Jacksonville's NFL Jaguars. And Cam is playing like a pro in college.

(Note to Editor: Above is copy block for Page 3, Issue 5, to be used in place of ad if desired.)