James Best

Prof. Fink

Internship Program I

Week of April 22nd 2016

P’ville’s Westchester Table Tennis Center Venue for New TV Pilot

I’ve always wanted to be a Sports Journalist. In my initial interview with Martin Wilbur from the Examiner I stated that I wanted to cover sports stories with the examiner and that my goal was to one-day work as a sports columnist for a newspaper. Over the past 3 months I have been interning at the examiner I have worked on a variety of stories on many different topics, however I have never gotten the opportunity to actually cover a sports event until last Monday April 25th 2016

And of all sports I was assigned to cover a new television show Pong Court that was being film at the Westchester Table Tennis Center only a couple miles away from Pace University on Tompkins Ave. The center was owned by Will Shortz who also writes crossword for the New York Times. I was excited to cover a sport finally. I got the chance to interview Kai Zhang one of the top table tennis players in the country. I love being one of the only media professionals at events because connecting with the Communications coordinator is so easy. The person literally blesses you with interviews with most important people. Interviewing Zhang brought me back to my Writing in the Print Media class and what Professor Kevin Czerwinski told me. Zhang was originally from Beijing China and came over to the United States to play table tennis. Zhang’s English wasn’t all that great which is understandable. I had to do something very unique focus on writing what Zhang said rather than just recording it. Czerwinski used to tell me that sometimes recordings fail when you’re dealing with different people who can’t speak English. After a while a journalist has to pick up on body movements and language in order to get valuable quotes.

In my past I haven’t always been able to cover sports that I know a lot about and I have gotten to learn Sports like Volleyball and Basketball over my past working for the Pace Chronicle. This work was very similar to what I was going through in my early years as a College sports writer for the Pace Chronicle. I was studying the game through other people, the players, the fans in the stands in order to gain a true understanding of the value of table tennis. In essence the event was simple as the production team screen a television show. I tried my best not to get in the shot because I have this underlying pressure to sometimes want to be become the news rather than report on the news. I resisted my urge and took in the greatness of the sport of table tennis. Kai Zhang was a truly amazing specimen as he gave the audience a taste of the competitiveness of professional table tennis. Somethings were obviously confusing. Two comedians played roles and I actually had to go and ask them if the character’s they played were real just so I could distinguish the two. Entertainment Journalism was also something that was new to me and I was learning. Most important of all was capturing the magic that happened that Monday night right here in Pleasantville. I feel like it’s something even more special when something great happens and its around you I would have never known how amazing things are in this town if I hadn’t had the opportunity. I connected with Will Shortz who said he might want to host a College night at the table tennis center and have the students from Pace come out a play table tennis all night. I told him I would keep in touch in case. As much as I am a journalist I am still a student and people know that so the chance to do my job and still make connections that’s what’s most valuable and that’s what I’m best at doing making connections with other people and getting good information.