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Chapter7: Sports writing

Who doesn't love sports? Okay, not everyone's a fan, but somehow, it's the most talked about topic amongst the majority of individuals including those who 'aren't really a fan.' Chapter 7 explains the role of a sportswriter as well as all that they take into consideration to make the story interesting enough to hold the attention of fans and catch the attention of non-fans. The sports section of the newspaper doesn't only highlight features of famous sports games such as the NBA or the NFL, there are highlights from College sports games as well as sports that seem under-appreciated like ice skating and hockey. "Sports writing is about sports, yes, but it's also about good reporting and good writing, about observing and describing, about seeing what's really going on and transmitting it to the reader" (p. 78). Writing in general is more than that of the basic pen to a paper method. What's being written, what's the purpose of the writing, and who's to be captured by the story, are all to be considered when taking any information and turning it into a story. Like every story, sports stories are broken into different categories such as: advances, game stories, profiles, scoring and note taking, sports features, sports new stories and sports column. Per usual, it's important that each story is written with uniqueness, but with sports, gaining substance from a professional's way of things isn't wrong.

The stories of each category explained in the chapter all have only one thing in common, their coverage on a sports related topic. Other than sports being the topics, each category serves its own purpose and it's imperative to know the difference. Advance stories are pretty self-explanatory, they highlight upcoming sports events and games. Advance stories can mistakenly

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be written very basically. The writer can simply write simple details of an upcoming game which would only include the team names, date, time and maybe location. Instead, it's better to be juicy, a good lede perhaps. For example, bringing up a past win that may have excited or upset certain fans, or as the text states "typically include background on rivalry between teams and quotes from coaches and key players about what they expect" (p. 78). This can be taken into consideration when writing about famous television sports or college sports. Exploring sources such as students, coaches and players would benefit the approach of the story. The sports section of the newspaper is frequently visited by nearly everyone. It gets the most attention especially during the appropriate sports season. For example, during football season, almost everyone is keeping up with the runner up teams because that's how they'll know who's playing for the super bowl. When someone is reading about the sports upcoming victory celebration, they're reading a sports story in the advance story's category

Game stories, on the other hand, "are the bread and butter of the sports section" (p. 78). These stories highlight the games from actions to scoring all in a short time period because it's famous for appearing in the everyday paper. For example, when the Yankees won the subway series, it appeared on the front page of the Daily News. Of course, people may wonder how is that possible, but the reality is the sportswriter in charge of that is professional enough to master the scoring, note taking and summarizing of the game so to write the story for the paper. It's unknowingly a very crucial category because it's more than the scores and highlights from the announcer, there's information fans may want to know such as: who was hurt during the process? Who scored the most points? And who scored the point that led to the win? A ton of

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information, at least enough to fit a page, has to be taken, written, submitted, edited, resubmitted and printed. Profile stories in sports are like profile stories in college newspapers, stories that highlight a particular individual. For example, a sports profile story can be a highlight of LeBron James, a famous NBA basketball player who's overcome a ton of obstacles as a high-profile player with a good number of rings under his name. The main details of the players information that relates to their career will be found in the profile stories category. Now of course with sports comes injuries, finding out about LeBron James's hundredth injury would be in the sports feature's category. Those stories give what's called the juice of the sports. It adds extra excitement for people who are already die-hard fans of either teams or players.

Lastly, sports news stories don't only have to cover team sports, famous sports players or daily sports. There are a few underrated sports that can be great stories when highlighted which can help their fan base. When only dealing with regular sports in a newspaper story, the topic becomes basic after a while and there are people who wonder what about other sports such as ice skating or derby. Overall, writing is about exploring, properly analyzing and catching the attention of the audience the stories are meant for.