

mhs ESPN

Self appointed broadcasters live stream games, gain attention

With an ESPN banner and empty coffee mugs set on their courtside table, sophomore Jake Smith, junior John Marrs and senior Aaron Ross dressed in suit jackets, khaki pants and headsets for every home district basketball game. No, they weren't reporting for the real ESPN, but it was their own version. MHS-ESPN.

The idea to start MHS-ESPN came when John and Aaron went to a basketball game after an NHS ceremony.

"We started MHS-ESPN just because we wanted to do something memorable," Aaron said. "We were all dressed up and there was a basketball game right after so we went to the basketball game looking all sharp and nice. During the basketball game we just got to talking and MHS-ESPN just came about."

Along with sideline commentary, the MHS-ESPN crew provided pre-game and post game interviews from players and coaches.

"Post game interviews were a lot of fun," Aaron said. "I loved hearing from coach Watson and the players but the most memorable moment would be when the McKinney Courier Gazette wrote an article about us and we were front and center on the newspaper."

After receiving shout outs from Twitter accounts including SportsDayHS, the boys gained a following.

"A Twitter page called Friday Night Glory offered to give us the equipment and during the last game they actually did," Aaron said. "They had a representative come and give us the equipment, and it was pretty cool. We had about 25-30 live viewers."

The boys had to be more serious once they began live streaming.

"Sometimes scouts that can't go to the games will actually watch the games so we really did have to be serious for that reason, but we still had some fun," Aaron said. "When it's just us on the sidelines and we aren't live-streaming we joke around, talk smack to the other team and can be very biased to our McKinney Lions."

Next year there will be a sports broadcasting class.

"It (live streaming) made us really enjoy broadcasting and made us kind of want to go out and do it later on as a profession," Jake said. "I never knew how fun it was until I started doing MHS-ESPN so it was very fun and I learned a lot. The players they loved it. I know if I was a player that I would love it I just think it's super cool. All the players couldn't get enough of it, they all wanted to be interviewed. It's cool that we got to do this for the players."

When it started, Aaron didn't plan for it to get this big.

"I never thought it would catch on like this," Aaron said. "We were just having fun and people seemed to catch on to it and like it. I hope it continues next year."

by Nicole Stuessy

sports broadcasting:

REPORT At the basketball game against McKinney North, junior Devin Field records the game for their live stream. Interested in pursuing a career in this field, Devin enjoyed learning more about sports broadcasting as she practices it. "We're doing this for the sports that don't get as much recognition," Devin said. "I think it's important they know that we care."



Ulises Velez

new beginnings

During a basketball game, junior Maddy Cox helps turn the camera as the players run down the court. This being the first year of the program Maddy feels confident and excited for the new experience. "At first it was like trailing wind but then we got the hang of it," Maddy said. "We wanted to bring live streaming to a bigger audience to watch the game and see our work."



Ulises Velez

on the side

At the Frisco High game, junior John Marrs interviews head athletic director, Jeff Smith. In an unexpected turn of events, this was how MHS-ESPN started. "I was just coming from an NHS meeting so I was dressed nicely," John said. "Then I thought it would be real fun just to enjoy and bring out students."



David Funes

keep in step

At the front row in her position, junior Alena Horvath and the Marquettes perform at the half time of the varsity game against North. "We could've practiced more," Alena said. "But for the first time we ever performed it, I think we did great."



Ulises Velez



Michael Gutierrez

small gone big

Sitting alongside juniors Aaron Ross and John Marrs, sophomore Jake Smith formed the MHS ESPN panel at the game against Lovejoy. They gained recognition from local newspapers for their post game interviews from players on Twitter. "At first we just wanted to have fun in the student section," Jake said. "But then big sports accounts gave us shout outs, and we became more serious."

huddle up

While in the huddle before the game, Junior Audrey Fry prepares for the night. After playing North in a close game previously, "We just tried to forget about the crowd and the Crosstown Showdown part," Audrey said. "We did the best we could."