

# High school journalists gain knowledge at special Stars Media day — Duncanville Panther Prints

Taylor Harris

High School journalist from around the area were given the opportunity to participate in a Dallas Stars Media Day. Panther Prints Editors Julio Munoz and Taylor Harris were on hand to get a close up look at practice. (Julio Munoz photo)

Stars should be used to the media, and the Dallas Stars hockey team is no exception. One by one, each Star piled into the practice arena Feb. 28 for an ordinary day of practice. Except the arena was filled with more than dedicated fans or daily drop by visitors.

It was the Media. High school media equipped with their fancy camera equipment, high quality video projectors, and handy dandy notebooks, they were right on point observing the Stars. However, something was different about this media. They were a tad bit shorter, pimply face, and a little less wrinkly than your average Media.

Of course, these amateurs on the scenes were teenage students from high schools all across North Texas participating in the National High school Media day hosted by the stars.

Starting off the press conference was Ralph Strangis, the Stars' play by play commenter, who was the comedic moderator for the day. Strangis demonstrated the toughness of being in the business by revealing he was operating on only three hours of sleep from the night before.

"It can be hard at times. You have to love what you do." Strangis said. "You have to pursue this career with a passion."

Strangis continued explaining and exposing more about being in the media as he guided the remainder of the conference. Another personality present was Gina Miller KTXA/Channel 21's sports anchor reporter. The 5'11 sportscaster also encouraged the aspiring press, specifically in the area of developing their own style as a journalist. Miller gave her story and how she broke into the media business, admitting not being able to find work in the United States at first and working in Guam. However, Miller also gave the female students a woman's perspective on being in the media as a sports anchor.

"People are going to be more skeptical about you because women do not predominately cover sports." Miller said.

Still Miller has consistently been covering sports for more than fifteen years, not letting others opinions keep her from doing her job or helping young ladies start theirs.

"If you want to be successful you have to start now," Miller said. "Start or set up your own blog. The earlier you get started the better."

Sitting right next to miller was none other than the John Rhadigan, who has been faithfully covering the Rangers for the past ten years and recently became the Rangers play by play announcer. Rhadigan started off telling students something they most likely weren't thinking about doing after graduation.

"If you want to be a play by play guy you have to do your homework in this business," Rhadigan said.

Even for those who didn't actually want to steer into the journalism field, Rhadigan still had an encouraging message

"That's fine if you don't have a passion for this business you can do something else." Rhadigan said. "If you like it than you can do it for a living."



Stars player Adam Burish spoke to student reporters from a players point of view. He explained that it isn't all fun and games, especially dealing with being traded. Smiling and laughing along with Strangis, Burish seemed comfortable with the media as he always is.

"I remember when I was reading magazines, I always wanted to see what was going on," Burish said. "Whenever I saw something from a player I didn't want to hear anything general or vague, so I try to give good quotes out there for other players out their reading."

It was obvious Burish was a better speaker than his teammate, Nick Grossman. However, Grossman's shyness didn't stop him from being a chatter bug. Being a Sweden native, English is Grossman's second language. Still Grossman was able to give an impressive insight about being an NHL player in the media today especially one from a foreign country. After Burish spoke, Stars Head Coach Marc Crawford took the mic to speak to journalists. Crawford talked about how he deals with the media, more importantly after the games.

"Seeing how professional the interviewers are has made me come to appreciate the media a lot more." Crawford said. "Everyone wants to deal with the media when you're winning. It's when you're losing that you've got to remember to say what's right."

As the time went on, a few students asked questions as the panel of players, and reporters eagerly answered them. Soon, 3:00 came, and the press conference was over. Students were now on their way back to their school. Lewisville junior Corey Briscoe said that the knowledge gained throughout the day will help the young journalist with their future.

"They gave pretty good advice today," Briscoe said. "Plus, the fact that they are in the media talking to kids that want to be in the media actually did help and I learned a lot."

See full gallery of Sports Editor Julio Munoz moments from the Stars practice [here](#)