



The Department of Sport Management

Nick Taylor, Alum, Spring Commencement Speaker



Nick Taylor, who graduated from both the undergraduate program (2005) and the graduate sport management program (2007), will be the commencement speaker at the spring 2009 graduation ceremonies for the

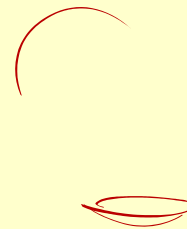
College of Education. Nick is an accomplished paralympic tennis player and won gold medals in 2004 (Athens) and 2008 (Beijing) in tennis doubles.

Nick works with the WSU Tennis team in their Coleman Tennis facility and has remained active with the Sport Management department. He has guest presented in numerous Sport Management classes and was the recipient of the Sport Management student of the year award presented in spring of 2006.

Recently, Nick has been working with local businesses as a community speaker and has a Youtube.com video clip with almost 80,000 views.

The College of Education graduation ceremonies are May 16th at 11:00 a.m. in Koch arena.

Baseball Cookout to Cap Great Year



The Sport Management Student Association (SMSA) will play host to the annual baseball cookout April 15 at 5:30 p.m. on the north side of the Heskett Center. The cookout will precede the WSU baseball game against Kansas State that evening at 7 p.m.

As in the past, members of the Sport Management Alumni Association, program lecturers, members of the Advisory Council and other university faculty and staff will join SMSA members for the event. The menu will feature hamburgers, chips, drinks and cookies. The cookout has become an annual tradition, marking the end of SMSA activities for the academic year.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Nick Taylor, Alum, Spring Commencement Speaker	1
Baseball Cookout to Cap Great Year	1
A New Day in Sport Management	2
SMSA Holds Career Fair	3
SMSA Officer Nominations Being Accepted	3
Alumni Update	4

A New Day in Sport Management

2. Netw

“We’ve never seen anything like this and I pray that we never see anything like this again.”

That’s how one prominent executive described the current business climate facing sport managers at last week’s IMG World Congress of Sports. The sport industry has fared relatively well in previous and certainly less severe economic downturns, but that’s not the case this time.

How drastic is the situation? One major professional league, the Arena Football League, has suspended its 2009 season. The NBA, NFL, MLB.com and NASCAR have all laid off staff. Some long-established franchises (e.g., Indiana Pacers) appear to be in serious financial trouble. Sponsors such as Anheuser-Busch are cutting back. Attendance in college basketball was down last season. Bally Fitness recently filed for bankruptcy.

As a result, an already competitive job market in sport management has become hyper-competitive as more candidates, many with significant professional experience, vie for fewer job opportunities.

Sport management students must prepare themselves accordingly, so here are five tips that may enhance their prospects for competing successfully.

1. **Secure relevant experience any way you can.** It’s not just full-time jobs that are harder to get. Competition for the best internships is intense. To get those positions, you need relevant experience—paid or volunteer—specific to the positions for which you are applying.



