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NESN Next Producer

Sarah DeNisco

Sacred Heart University, deniscos30@mail.sacredheart.edu

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DeNisco, Sarah, "NESN Next Producer" (2017). *Academic Festival*. 64.
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New England Sports Network Next Producer Contest

Sarah E. DeNisco, BA 2017



Abstract

The New England Sports Network (NESN) Next Producer contest allows students from New England to showcase their skills and talents through sports filmmaking and video production assignments. The reality show is in its second season and features the filmmakers' journeys.

The winner of the contest gets a \$20,000 cash prize and a job opportunity to be a producer at NESN.



Introduction

I entered NESN Next Producer in October 2016. The contest was two-fold. First, students had to create a four minute documentary on an athlete or any sports related topic. Students who progressed to the second round of the contest then had to create a one minute promotional vignette on the Boston Red Sox upcoming baseball season.

With 24 original film submissions from students across Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, my film allowed me to become one of the top three finalists.

Background

- **Field of study**
 - Major: Media Arts, Film and Television Production
 - Minor: Political Science, Honors
- **Fieldwork and Internships**
 - News 12 Connecticut
 - Greenwich International Film Festival
 - Vision Project
- **Equipment Used**
 - Canon EOS C100 Mark II; Nikon Coolpix L340



Film # 1: Worth the Fight

Worth the Fight tells the story of Noemie Dos Santos, a native of France and a Muay Thai Kickboxer. Coming from a background of modeling and bodybuilding physique contests, she found strength and a rawness in Muay Thai that she had never experienced before. As a nurse in Bridgeport, CT, Noemie shows how a healer can also be a fighter – but a fighter for peace, power and solitude.

Episode 2 Saturday, Feb. 11th 4:00pm Immediately after Bruins postgame
Featured Films: *Worth the Fight* and *Catching Up*



Film # 2: We Are Ready

The top three finalists were asked by Boston Red Sox Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, Adam Grossman, to create a one minute vignette that highlighted the excitement of the team's youth, the nostalgia of designated hitter David Ortiz, and the Boston community as a whole. My film focused on paralleling the Red Sox during their spring training to all Bostonians and capturing the iconic essence of the team.

Episode 7 Saturday, March 25th 4:00pm Immediately after Sox-Phillies Spring Training game
Featured Films: Season Finale



Results

- 2nd place prize of full-time job at NESN
- Featured on three televised episodes
- Feedback provided from Hollywood producer Brad Falchuck (*Scream Queens*, *Glee*, *American Horror Story*) and Red Sox owner Tom Werner
- Participated in four on-camera interviews with NESN producers
- Interviewed by Sacred Heart University's Marketing Department



February: Media Arts Student is Semi-Finalist in Video Competition | Sacred Heart University Connecticut
TV competition, airing now on NESN, a Boston-based sports network. The winner, to be declared next month, will receive a large cash prize and a job at the network.
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Significance

- Completed senior project with real world media experience
- Added professional work to resume and creative portfolio
- Networked with several people in the industry and other film students across the tri-state area
- Attained new camera, marketing, and public relations skills
- Gained insight into the benefits of working with a skilled team
- Helped to decide future career plans
- Motivated me to begin my own freelance film company