

# MICHAEL WOJTYCHIW

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## EXPERIENCE

### February 2021 – Present

#### Communications Specialist at Chicago Public Schools Athletics, Chicago, Illinois

- Write, edit and take photos of high school sporting events throughout the Chicago Public League, the sporting association of the Chicago Public Schools.
- I write feature stories as well focusing on the student-athletes and coaches of the 80+ public high schools in the Chicago Public Schools system, as well as 300+ elementary schools.
- Edit and post all stories, written by myself or other reporters, for our website in a timely fashion
- Work with coaches, Athletic Directors and other school administrators on the promotion of our student-athletes.
- Provide live coverage, including social media posting and photography for all sports, including lacrosse, football, basketball, baseball, softball, water polo, soccer, volleyball and flag football.
- Developed new featured content for the website, such as season preview capsules, for each sport.
- Work on branding and game operations initiatives at events, such as planning week-long events attended by over 5,000 people and every sport championship to help promote not only the student-athletes but the schools as well.
- Worked with the IHSA in helping plan and run playoff events hosted by the Chicago Public Schools.
- Developed a relationship with high school journalism programs and worked with many of them to help get their students exposure in photography and journalism, giving numerous students the opportunity to showcase their skills on the CPL Athletics website.
- Have taken on the role of public address announcer, announcing over 100 games over the past two years at our stadiums and high schools, as well as the baseball city championship game at Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs and the CPL-CCL Baseball All-Star Game at Guaranteed Rate Field, home of the Chicago White Sox.

### December 2024 – Present

#### Gameday Operations Specialist at New Trier High School

- Public address announce multiple sports at New Trier home athletic contests
- Help with scoreboard operations when needed

### October 1, 2021 – Present

#### Content Coordinator at Best Version Media, Chicago, Illinois

- Develop and launch the inaugural issue of the Edison Park Neighbors magazine in October 2021 (delivered monthly to 3,000+ households). For each monthly magazine:
  - Interview business owners, local families, community leaders, and other story subjects
  - Author 2+ feature stories about local businesses and families
  - Research and compose calendars of community events and athletics
  - Photograph places and people around the community, edit photos for publication
  - Copyedit all other editorial content and magazine proofs
- Authored 1-2 high school athletics stories per month for Northbrook Living magazine (5,000+ households), Glenview Living magazine (3,900+ households) and Northfield Neighbors (2,700+ households) magazine

**September 20, 2021 – August, 2022**

**Freelance Journalist at Patch.com**

- Attended and photographed high school football, soccer, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse games
- Interviewed student-athletes, coaches, school administrators
- Authored 4 high school athletics stories per month
- Researched and pitched feature story ideas

**March 31, 2020 – Present**

**Freelance Journalist at Chicagoland Soccer**

- Attend 2+ Chicago area high school soccer games per week and author stories
- Interview student-athletes, coaches, and school administrators

**June 26, 2016 – March 30, 2020**

**Sports Editor at 22nd Century Media, Northbrook, Illinois**

- Recipient of the National Newspaper Association's Best Sports Story Award in June 2017
- People Management
  - Hired and managed team of 6 freelance sports reporters
  - Edited stories and features to ensure timely daily releases
- Publication Support for Wilmette Beacon, Winnetka Current, and Glencoe Anchor newspapers
  - Authored 300-400 high school sports stories per year
  - Authored and published 2-3 non-sports feature stories on local business owners and other community figures
  - Assisted with editing of layout of newspapers using Adobe InDesign and InCopy
  - Hired as first sports editor in the company's history in 2016
  - Interviewed student-athletes, coaches, school administrators, business owners, and community leaders
  - Promoted the newspapers and increased online engagement by crafting and posting social media content for Facebook and Twitter (3,000+ followers)
  - Co-hosted The Varsity North Shore podcast, discussing local sports games and other topics (100+ subscribers)

**October 10, 2008 – May 20, 2016**

**Contributing Writer and Copy Editor at Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago, Illinois**

- Wrote feature articles on assigned topics
- Authored, edited, and published over 125 features and Chicago area high school sports stories
- Edited and posted time-sensitive articles and photographs of over 300 high school sporting games on the Chicago Sun-Time website
- Interviewed 3+ sources per story

**May 21, 2014 – February 16, 2016**

**Application Production Assistant at 120 Sports, Chicago, Illinois**

- Mastered in-house digital television technologies
- Developed and wrote on-screen content in a deadline-oriented environment for digital television shows, such as social media posts, highlight reels, and photographs
- Collaborated with inhouse application team to provide the most current content for mobile users
- Edited photographs using Adobe Photoshop

**September 8, 2011 – May 20, 2014**

**Social Media Specialist at Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, Chicago, Illinois**

- Developed strategies to enhance, maintain, and optimize Facebook with fresh and relevant copy and photos, successfully increasing follower count by 200%
- Edited up to 5 daily written communications for grammar, clarity, and impact, including annual report,

press releases, and letters to organizations soliciting financial support

- Engaged in public relations and local events to increase public awareness, including Ukrainian Days with 2000+ attendees
- Authored daily social media and website posts informing the public of products and services, deals, upcoming events, trends, and community outreach efforts

## **EDUCATION**

**September 2008 - May 2010** Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois *Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Journalism*

**August 2003 - May 2008**

University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri  
*Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Sociology*

## **JOB-RELATED TRAINING**

Public Communications – Public Relations Management – Web Content and Social Media Strategy – Brand Strategy – Community Engagement – Integrated Marketing – Press Releases – AP Style Handbook and Chicago Manual of Style – Photography – Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and InCopy – Microsoft Suite

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Danny Did Foundation**

*Associate Board Member, February 2017 – Present*

### **Southeastern Conference (SEC) Alumni Association**

*Chicago Chapter Board Member, July 2014 – Present*

*Chicago Chapter President, July 2014 – July 2017, 2023-Present*

### **University of Missouri Alumni Association**

*Chicago Chapter Board Member, July 2010 – Present Chicago Chapter President, July 2012 – July 2016*