

Radtke joins Wolf Pack Radio

For the first time in 34 years, Nevada has a new play-by-play announcer calling its football and men's basketball games on the radio: Ryan Radtke, the new "Voice of the Wolf Pack."

Radtke came to Nevada after spending the last 10 years as part of the University of Arizona Radio Network. He has also spent the last six years as the play-by-play broadcaster and director of broadcasting for the Tucson Sidewinders, the Triple A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks, and was named the play-by-play voice of Reno's Triple A team.

Radtke recently took some time out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions about himself:

Where did you grow up and were sports a part of your life? "I grew up in Concord, Calif., and sports were always a big part of my life. I played baseball, football and basketball growing up, and I loved the A's, Raiders and Warriors."

When did you realize that you wanted to be a sports broadcaster? "My mom will tell you that I always wanted to be a sports broadcaster because I used to sit in front of the TV and try and describe the play-by-play even as a little kid. I think I really knew I wanted to go that way at age 15 or 16. I got a chance to sit in the Giants' broadcast booth one night at Candlestick Park, and Hank Greenwald and Ted Robinson were so welcoming and so good to me that I really got hooked. Those guys were proof that you could be at the top of your profession and still be a great person."

Who are some of your broadcasting heroes? Did you model your style after any broadcaster? "Bill King is my all-time favorite broadcaster. For my money, Bill is the greatest sports radio broadcaster ever. I grew up listening to him call the A's, Raiders and Warriors, and he was phenomenal. His descriptions and delivery were so accurate and so perfect that it was amazing. I think I've probably taken some things from him. Other guys that I've enjoyed listening to are Vin Scully, Hank Greenwald, Lon Simmons, Marty Brennaman, Kevin Harlan and Wayne Larrivee."

How did you get your start in broadcasting? "I actually got started as a senior at De La Salle high school. I got cut from the varsity basketball team, but the head coach and athletics director wanted to



Ryan Radtke

put some games on the school's TV station and they let me do the play-by-play. That was my first chance to do games for real, and I loved every second of it."

Do you have a favorite sport to call?

"It's tough to name a favorite because they all have their challenges. Baseball is without a doubt the most difficult because of the length of games and the amount of dead time you have to fill. Basketball challenges you to keep up with the game and accurately depict the important moves by players on and off the ball. Football falls somewhere in between.

Because of the complexity of the sport and the fact that so few of us have played it at a high level, I think football allows the color analyst to shine."

What are the best and hardest parts about your job? "The best part of broadcasting to me is the people. I love talking with players and coaches and trying to get inside their heads to see the game the way they see it and bring that to the broadcast. Preparation isn't hard, but it's the most time consuming and, at times, it's tedious. However, it's the key to every broadcast. Travel is probably the hardest part of the job and yet enjoyable because you get to see so many places in this beautiful country."

You often have to fill hours and hours of airtime and memorize information about hundreds of players. How do you prepare to call games? "Preparation is huge. I spend a lot of time reading and making notes on both teams. I try to talk with players and coaches on both sides to get their feelings heading into a particular game and I love going to practice. The practice field is where you can learn a lot just by observing what's going on."

What drew you to the University of Nevada, Reno? "Several things made Nevada an attractive job. First and foremost, in football and men's basketball, you have two programs that are consistently good. That doesn't happen at a lot of places. Second, the chance to move a little closer to home was very appealing to me."

What do you do when you are not calling games? "When I'm not calling games, I'm probably at home watching a game or going to the movies with my wife. I'm also always on the lookout for a pickup basketball game!"

—Rhonda Lundin is the director of the Athletics Media Services Department



Photo by John Byrne



Trisha Gibbons

(baseball) treasurer. Elections for the 2008-09 school year will be held in the fall.

Advisory committee gives student-athletes a voice

Student-athletes are directly affected by countless NCAA rules, regulations and issues, and through the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, they are given a voice at the campus, conference and national level.

The campus and conference sections of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee are the two most important resources student-athletes have to solve problems. The advisory committee allows student-athletes to give input on policies and lets their voices be heard.

There are three levels of the committee: campus, conference and national. At the campus level, the University of Nevada's advisory committee is made up of representatives from each sport. There are generally two to three representatives for the smaller sports, and at least three representatives for larger sports such as football and track and field. On the campus level, soccer player Trisha Gibbons served as the president last year, Kevin Porter (football) vice president, Bobbi Lee Reese (swimming) secretary and Dan Eastman

“Trisha has been an extraordinary addition to our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee,” said Lori Friel, Nevada’s director of academic services. “She is also a member of the national advisory committee and that experience allows her to bring many good ideas and information to the table here at Nevada. Her commitment to the success and welfare of the student-athlete, along with her diligent work with our athletic administration has increased participation and inspired contribution from Wolf Pack student-athletes.”

At the campus level, fall meetings focus on legislation, which is handed down from the national level to the conference, and then to the schools. Other duties include community service events and events for student-athletes. Starting this fall, the meetings will be held in the new Marguerite Wattis Petersen Athletic Academic Center.

“The legislation we get deals with topics like recruiting, text messaging, practice sessions, amateurism and things that relate to the student-athlete’s well-being,” Gibbons said.

Nevada’s advisory committee puts on two community services events per year, one in fall and one in spring. Last year, the advisory committee held a blood drive and organized reading at elementary schools. They also organize other events such as “Teacher Appreciation Day” in which student-athletes take a

teacher to a tailgate and a game. This past spring, student-athletes and teachers attended a baseball game.

“The idea behind the Teacher Appreciation Day was to let teachers know that we appreciate them and we appreciate them working with our schedules when we are in season and traveling,” Gibbons said.

“In addition to the community service we do, we are looking at doing other events like a barbecue for the seniors or something like the ESPYs [Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Awards],” Gibbons said. Other schools do things like a field day and formal dances, so we may try something like that.”

Gibbons has been a member of the advisory committee since her sophomore season in 2005. She said student-athletes usually get involved by talking with a senior on their team who explains to them what the advisory committee is and what it does. Gibbons’ former teammate and advisory committee representative Annie Baxter asked her if she wanted to join the committee. Gibbons said she immediately enjoyed it and liked what she saw.

“I enjoy doing legislation and since I’m on the national committee, I can see what kind of effect we as student-athletes have,” Gibbons said. “At national advisory committee meetings, athletic directors have come up to me and said ‘I never thought about that issue in that way until I heard you talk about it.’ The advisory committee gives student-athletes a voice.”

At the national level, Gibbons took part in the National Leadership Conference in 2007. Gibbons is the Western Athletic Conference’s national Student-Athletes Advisory Committee representative, a position she applied for along with three other applicants from the WAC.

Gibbons is a psychology and nutritional sciences major with a minor in Spanish. After graduation, she plans to go to graduate school to earn a doctorate.

—Kristin Saibini '06 (*journalism*) is the assistant director of Athletics Media Services.

Reno Orthopaedic Clinic helps build 'ROC-Solid' Nevada athletes

For nearly 20 years, University of Nevada, Reno athletes have benefited from the expertise, innovation and commitment of Reno Orthopaedic Clinic. This year, ROC is celebrating 50 years of providing excellent patient care to northern Nevada. As part of their legacy, whether on campus or on the sidelines, ROC has a proven track record as a rock-solid community partner for Nevada Athletics.

In the early 1990s, Chris Ault, then athletic director and football coach, had a vision to take University athletics into Division I of the National College Athletic Association.

"I knew where we wanted to take our programs, but also knew that we would need the proper facilities to help us get there," Ault says. "From the very first day we talked to ROC the relationship was positive, for them and for us."

With only a tiny weight room and training space in a few doublewide trailers, Ault knew something had to be done to help the University and its athletes get to the next level. Fortunately, he also knew the right people to talk to.

After a short time and several discussions, the University and ROC identified a creative solution to their facilities challenges. The University would donate land on campus for ROC to build a training facility that would house orthopedics, physical therapy, strength training and conditioning. At the time, the concept of a private business investing funds to build a large-scale sports clinic on a college campus was not only innovative and creative, it was risky.

"This project was very unique thinking for the time," says Dr. James Greenwald, one of the original ROC physicians to get the project



Members of ROC's medical staff, including (from left to right) Renny Uppal, M.D., Jennifer Puentas, M.A., Tony Alvarado, '97 (history) P.A., John Ramos, O.T., Ryan Dobbs, '00 M.D. and Sharon Adams, M.A., are proud to celebrate 20 years of presence at the University and 50 years in northern Nevada.

rolling. "Nothing like this had ever been done in the country. We knew this was a rare opportunity to create something very special, and we also knew it would be important to build a unique team of professionals to run a university campus sports clinic."

In 1992, upon the project being approved by the Board of Regents, Ault identified land on campus which is now better known as Reno Orthopaedic Sports Complex Facility. Near Cashell Field, it was the perfect location adjacent to Mackay Stadium and in close proximity to the Lawlor Events Center and training fields.

The ROC Sports Complex Facility was complete within 18 months. At the beginning of the project, eight physicians from ROC took a leap of faith, trusting that the decision to build a private orthopedic facility on campus would succeed. In addition to Greenwald, physicians blazing the trail included Drs. Richard Blakey, Tim Bray, James Christensen, Pat Herz, Robert Parlasca and Lex Simpson.

Despite the risks, the project was an immediate success, both functionally and financially. Not only did the new facility meet the training and recovery needs of Nevada athletes, ROC's reach extended to patients throughout northern Nevada.

"It was the right group of physicians at the right time," Greenwald adds. "We were really rolling by the second and third year, and knew that we had a winner of a project on our hands."

From the beginning, the sports complex was an asset to the University's current athletes, as well as a recruitment tool for future athletes. Universities across the country were contacting Ault to learn more.

"Having 12 orthopedic surgeons and a state-of-the-art facility aided our recruitment and set the tone for where intercollegiate athletics had to go in order to compete at this level," Ault says. "The kudos really goes to the docs because they gave us the foundation that helped build our program."

The ROC Sports Complex at Nevada was expanded in 2003 to include a larger area for physical therapy, strength and conditioning, as well as three training pools.

"This relationship has been a win-win since the beginning. This is a true partnership," Greenwald says. "If you're not committed to athletics and the well-being of the teams you work with, you don't belong here. We've invested a huge time commitment and in return have experienced some of the most fun you can possibly have."

ROC is celebrating 50 years serving Northern Nevada. During this time, ROC has been committed to providing excellent orthopaedic patient care in northern Nevada. ROC's legacy and leadership is reflected in their cutting-edge procedures, innovative treatment and dedication to community outreach.

—Leann Pinguelo, Reno Orthopaedic Clinic
Director of Marketing and Public Relations