

**Around the Horn with the Erie SeaWolves:  
A Documentary about Four Minor League Baseball Players**

**By**

**Adam Cohen**

**Fall 2022**



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A Documentary about Four Minor League Baseball Players**

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Submitted to the Department of Communication Arts in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements of the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

I hereby recognize and pledge to fulfill my responsibilities, as defined in the Honor Code,  
and to maintain the integrity of both myself and the College as a whole.

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Adam Cohen

Approved by:

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Michael Keeley

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Michael Mehler

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## Treatment

My senior comprehensive project is a documentary consisting of four interviews with Minor League Baseball (MiLB) players. All these players are on the 2022 roster of the Erie SeaWolves, the Detroit Tigers' Double-A affiliate. I am fortunate to spend this year with the SeaWolves as the Broadcast/Media Relations Assistant. Thus, I have access to interview these professional baseball players.

My interviewees are Wilmer Flores, Markus Solbach, Bubba Derby, and Dane Myers. All four of these players have not played Major League baseball, but have aspirations to reach the big leagues one day. Flores has the same first and last name as his older brother in the big leagues. Myers is only in his second true season as a hitter, despite being originally drafted as a pitcher. Solbach has played 12 professional seasons and wants to be one of the first German-born pitchers in Major League Baseball (MLB) history. Lastly, Derby survived the Las Vegas shooting and became close with the two women that he protected during the tragedy.

Each of these players has a unique story that is unknown to the average baseball fan, and even the average person in the baseball industry. I am seeking a professional broadcasting position for the 2023 season, and my comp will help me land a job since it will separate me from my competition. For that reason, I plan on publishing the film and written portion of my comp on my website to send out to employers. I also will be presenting my film at the end of the semester because even non-baseball fans will appreciate the humanization of these larger-than-life athletes.

The communication-based classes at Allegheny allowed me to refine my writing skills and be able to tell multiple stories about the SeaWolves. I grew up looking up trivia and reading

baseball articles/books all the time. However, I hardly knew the stories of professional baseball players that never reached the big leagues. There have been hundreds of thousands, if not millions of professional baseball players that have never reached the big leagues. I could have easily made a film about why these baseball players have the determination to go after a near-impossible goal. Yet, I want to know the people behind this single aspiration and in turn have my employers, along with my peers, learn about these baseball players too.

Even though I am showcasing the stories of several professional baseball players, I need one overarching theme that ties everything together. My advisor, Professor Michael Keeley, says that the aspect of my film that brings everything together is me. It's my passion for baseball that led to the making of this documentary. Of course, this documentary is about the players and their stories, but I still want to provide context throughout the film. I am the narrator of this film and thus want to give a short summary of my experience this summer with baseball. All of this should be brief and no longer than a minute long.

I will also mention how significant the SeaWolves season has been this year. Erie has made the playoffs for the first time since 2013, four players went to Majors, many players have been promoted to Triple-A, and a lot of prospects have been called up to Double-A. Relating this back to my documentary, I will connect each interview with how the player contributed to the SeaWolves' first playoff berth since 2013 and their first playoff series win in their 27-year history. Solbach and Flores were a part of the SeaWolves' biggest strength, their starting rotation. Derby was a part of the closer-by-committee strategy. Meanwhile, Myers was a mainstay in the heart of the lineup. As a result, this version of the film is relevant to the season, and I can bring forth my love of America's national pastime. I plan on diving into how these players have a shot at reaching the Major Leagues. Albeit, my research portion of my comp will not dive into the

players at all. I want my audience to learn about the players from my films, rather than my research. My high school teacher Professor Sean Mills always said it is better to show, rather than tell. Besides, my research will explain how professional baseball and amateur baseball operate. This will connect with both my audience that knows little about baseball. I will also have the chance to talk about my experience along with the connections I find between amateur and professional baseball. Thus, the audience will learn enough about each player's background to follow them in my film.

As previously mentioned, this is an interactive documentary and what is unique about this genre of film. The narrator (myself) is directly speaking and interviewing the players. The audience will hear the questions I ask and will be introduced to each player. Besides utilizing another opportunity to demonstrate my speaking skills, the main reason I added my own narration was because it filled in the gaps about what my interviewees were talking about and segued from one interview to the next. However, I received some help with my narration in Spanish. I chose to finish my Wilmer Flores section of the film first. Most employers do not have the time to watch a 20-30 minute documentary, but they might be more inclined to watch a five to seven-minute film. Furthermore, if I had to showcase one interview in particular it is the one with Flores because it demonstrates that I can speak to Latin baseball players that account for nearly a quarter of all Major League Baseball players ("Hispanic Heritage Month").

Overall, I have to follow certain procedures to put together my film. Additionally, I have to work around the schedules of players to interview them. There are several instances where I was not sure if I would be able to interview specific players. Myers had two stints with Triple-A Toledo and I was not sure when he would return. Additionally, Derby had a triceps injury and was sidelined for a couple of months. He also had to do a rehab assignment before returning to

Erie. I lucked out with Solbach too. Solbach tore his UCL the day after I interviewed him. At first, I had a lot of difficulties to interview the pitchers. The Tigers only allowed my boss and voice of the SeaWolves, Greg Gania, to enter the clubhouse. I could always speak to the hitters during batting practice on the field, but it was different for the pitchers. Once they were warming up on the field, I could not bother them. So, the only time I could speak to them was in the clubhouse. The clubhouse policy was lifted mid-season, which allowed me to speak to Solbach, Flores, and Derby.

As previously stated, this project will be posted on my website and sent out to potential employers for next season. I am tasked by Greg to create my website filled with the material to send out to employers. This includes my resume, broadcasting demo reel, writing samples, social media profiles, qualifications, and my senior project. I have learned from Greg that in order for broadcasters to continue to find more lucrative positions, they need to separate themselves from the rest of the pack. Greg, for example, is the Assistant General Manager for the Erie SeaWolves, in addition to being their lead broadcaster. I am unable to hold that type of position at this point in my career, but I can separate myself from the rest of my competition by having a background in film and making a documentary. I developed a passion for filming at Allegheny, and want to continue using the camera throughout my career.

Professional sports teams, especially in the Minor Leagues, are always looking for more content. A lot of the jobs I have been researching ask the applicants to have a background in cutting highlight reels, and conducting research. This comp shows that I am able to edit interviews, which can be useful for making a thorough pregame show. Moreover, the extensive research I do will show how complex and interconnected the baseball world really is. For that reason, I will be posting both the Wilmer Flores section of my film and my final film on the

SeaWolves social media page once they are ready. Moreover, promising to make a film each season for the team I work for will also pique the interests of potential employers. Since this film is geared toward these employers, I will not be explaining every baseball term or how the Minor Leagues work in my film.

However, I go into more depth about the overall theme of my film and provide a key for these baseball terms in the research section of my comp. My secondary audience for this film is my classmates that will view my documentary at Allegheny's end-of-the-semester film festival. Although most of those who will be seeing the film are not baseball fans, the audience will enjoy the heartfelt stories of the professional athletes that I've interviewed.



## Research

I will be dividing my research into eight sections. I will talk more about my personal experience with baseball in the first section. The second part will discuss the World Baseball Classic (WBC) and recognize how diverse the baseball community really is. The third section will explain Major League Baseball's connection to Minor League Baseball. This part goes into roster moves and Minor League affiliates. The next part of my research looks at how important it is to build a winning culture from the Minor Leagues to the Major Leagues. The fifth section dives into other professional North American and Latin American baseball leagues. The sixth part of the research portion of my comp describes the significance of amateur baseball. Afterward, I compare the attendance of teams in Major League Baseball, Minor League Baseball, independent ball (indy ball), and amateur baseball. The final section of my research outlines the strategies and promotions that non-MLB teams utilize to bring in fans.

Above all, I am fascinated with so many aspects of baseball. I enjoy the worldwide and domestic complexity of what was previously America's pastime. It's amazing to see baseball around the world and at the professional level firsthand. I spent a year playing baseball in Israel before college where soldiers would take batting practice in their military uniforms. I have traveled through the midwest and northeast parts of the United States throughout my first four years of broadcasting. These people come from all walks of life. Some of these people have never met a culturally Jewish person like myself before or never heard of Shabbat. Other people I have met include the owner of the Duluth Huskies, the amateur summer league baseball team I broadcasted for in 2021. He invited me over for Shabbat twice and took me to synagogue for the first time in years. I have also toured or been to baseball games at 20 Major League stadiums.

Additionally, I received scholarships to attend the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) in 2018 and the Sports Management Worldwide Baseball Conference in San Diego in 2022 — two of the most popular baseball conferences in North America. Therefore, I have gained more perspective about the small but intimate community of baseball in the United States and Israel along with these groups of baseball aficionados growing up in other countries.

Baseball was once seen as America's pastime but that is not the case anymore. Football and basketball are more popular than baseball in the United States. However, unbeknownst to non-baseball fans, America's former pastime is a global sport. Sure, it does not have the same influence as soccer or basketball, but there is the WBC. This event did not occur during 2020-2022 because of COVID-19, but it will return next season. Teams such as Great Britain, China, Israel, Germany, Australia, Canada, Korea, Czech Republic, and Italy ("2023 World Baseball Classic") all have teams competing in the WBC.

Many of these countries also competed in the 2020 Olympics. I have met players around the world and have been to a WBC match myself. Five years ago, I went to a WBC Qualifier in Brooklyn between Israel and Great Britain. I had the privilege of living in Israel during a gap year between August 2018 to May 2019. My friends that I met in the Jewish homeland, Dean Pelman and Jake Rosenberg, were part of the WBC's extended roster. I often witnessed these two having special practices before the WBC to refine these skills on the Tel Aviv baseball field, where I spent many grueling hours picking up weeds and cleaning up the field. Israel itself has about 1,000 people who play or have heard of baseball, including the Israel Association of Baseball (IAB). These baseball players included Israeli Defense Force soldiers, who would play alongside me in our 18+ Premier League. Additionally, when I talked to Solbach about his baseball experience in Germany, they also have a small community that knows about the

Bundesliga — the top professional baseball league in his native country. The first pitcher I heard of was Chien-Ming Wang, who was a back-to-back 19-game winner for the New York Yankees and hails from Taiwan. Last year, Australian-born pitcher Liam Hendriks closed out the All-Star Game. Furthermore, one quarter of MLB players are from Latin America. Thus, MLB has the most talented group of players, but it is a small portion of the baseball world.

Minor League Baseball (MiLB) completely dwarfs MLB in terms of sheer population. There are about 1,000 big leaguers every year between all 30 MLB teams. Each Major League team has a farm system. In other words, five minor league affiliates that produce players that hopefully are talented enough to come up to the Major League level. In ascending order, the minor leagues consist of rookie ball (located internationally for Latin American born players and domestically for North American born players), Single-A, High-A, Double-A, and Triple-A. Thus, it is reasonable to believe that there are around 750 to 1,000 players per minor league level.

The best prospects coming out of the yearly MLB draft can bypass rookie ball and even Single-A at times. However, those two affiliates are usually for those coming directly out of high school or college to the professional level. Arguably the hardest jump in minor league baseball is from High-A to Double-A. Pitchers have much better control and hitters are more disciplined at the plate. A couple of times each year a minor league player from Double-A can be called up directly to the Major Leagues. Triple-A is just one step below the Major League level. All it takes is for one injury and a good couple of months to turn a minor leaguer into a big league player. Players that frequently shift between Triple-A and the Majors also have something called a “taxi squad”. A Major League roster generally consists of 26 players, but they can receive a 27<sup>th</sup> man for a doubleheader. When a position player (non-pitcher) is brought back down to the

Minors, he must stay down there for 10 days. Meanwhile, when a pitcher is brought down to Minors, he must stay down there for 15 days (“Minor League Options”). This process is called being optioned and can only happen five times during a season or else the player must be placed on waivers, meaning any of the other 29 teams can acquire this player. Consequently, many below-average Major Leaguers are in Triple-A and may be more susceptible to a callup than their less experienced counterparts.

Most Minor Leaguers will not make it to the Majors, but all World Series caliber teams are built around their prospects. Only 10 percent of Minor Leaguers make it to the Majors (Dress). Yet, big league clubs eye young, affordable talent and these generally include up-and-coming Minor League players, who are in the early-to-mid 20s. Teams used to gut their farm systems by signing costly free agents at around the age of 30 (when players physically decline). For example, the Yankees signed Mark Teixeira before the 2009 season to a eight-year, \$180 million contract (“Mark Teixeira Spotrac”). Teixeira did his job and came in second in the American League Most Valuable Player race, aiding the Yankees to their 27<sup>th</sup> World Series title in 2009 (“Mark Teixeira Baseball-Reference”). He then teetered off in the last four years of his contract. The Los Angeles Angels, whom Teixeira previously played for, extended him a qualifying offer before he hit free agency. A qualifying offer is a one-time, one-year contract valued at over \$10 million to incentivize a player to return to the same team. If another team signs this player, that team will forfeit a draft pick. The Yankees forfeited their 25<sup>th</sup> overall pick of the 2009 draft and the Angels selected Mike Trout; he has been regarded as the best player in MLB since he joined the league in 2011. If the Yankees held onto this pick, they likely would not be on a 13-year World Series appearance drought.

Other teams such as the Arizona Diamondbacks tried to jump the gun too early on their postseason ambitions. Shelby Miller had a terrific season for the Atlanta Braves in 2015 (“Shelby Miller”). So in the offseason, the Diamondbacks traded the number one overall draft pick in 2015, Dansby Swanson, to the Braves for Miller (“Dansby Swanson”). This deal was already seen as a head-scratcher as 55 of the 58 first overall picks in MLB history have made it to the Majors; Henry Davis (2021) and Jackson Holliday (2022) should make their MLB debuts within the next couple of years (“List of first overall MLB draft picks”). Swanson, was a huge part of the Braves 2021 World Series title and will command north of \$200 million as a free agent this offseason.

All 30 teams in Major League Baseball now care a lot more about Minor League talent and preach a winning atmosphere from the bottom up. Most MLB teams now advocate for the success of the farm system, rather than primarily view them as trade chips. In fact, most MLB teams actively try to help their affiliates make the playoffs. It is why the Tigers likely kept Chance Kirby, Myers, and Quincy Nieporte with the SeaWolves, rather than promote them to Triple-A Toledo before the end of the season. The Toledo Mud Hens were on the outside looking in on a 2022 playoff berth, whereas the SeaWolves were right in the thick of a postseason race, and had their most successful season in franchise history. Furthermore, it’s why the Yankees brought in rehabbing MLB players to the Double-A Somerset Patriots this season because they too had the best chance of making the playoffs. These rehab stints likely assisted their Northeast Division title. Even though it’s rare for the average MiLB player to contribute immensely at the MLB level, they are essential in nearly every facet of the game.

Professional teams below Minor League Baseball can still find their way to the Major League level. Below Minor League baseball there is independent ball. Indy ball is also primarily

based in the United States (along with a few teams in Canada and Mexico). These clubs are not affiliated with Major League baseball or Minor League baseball, but are still professional teams. There are 94 of these teams in North America. These teams are part of the American Association, Atlantic League, Frontier League, Pecos League, Pioneer League, Empire League, United Shore Professional Baseball League, Mexican League, and the Mavericks Independent Baseball League (“Independent Baseball Teams and Leagues”).

Many players in Indy ball are ex-MLB and ex-MiLB players trying to revitalize their baseball careers. One of the more famous success stories is Jim Bouton. A World Series winner with the Yankees in 1962, Bouton was blacklisted from baseball after revealing disturbing, behind-the-scenes stories about Major League Baseball in his book *Ball Four*. Most of these revelations showed that Major League baseball players were cursed, threatened, and treated unfairly by Major League teams. He also exposed the drug use and womanizing behavior he witnessed during his tenure in the big leagues. Bouton seemingly played his last season in the MLB in 1970 for the Houston Astros (“Jim Bouton”).

However, he developed a knuckleball, a pitch with little to no-spin, whose movement nearly defies the laws of physics. He signed with the Portland Mavericks, an independent ball team that squared off against minor league baseball clubs and eventually made it to the 1975 Northwest League championship series (*The Battered Bastards of Baseball*). Bouton returned to the Majors with the Braves at age-39 in the 1978 season (“Jim Bouton”).

Overall, indy ball players have a relatively high success rate in returning to Minor League Baseball, but it’s rare to find cases like Bouton. The majority of indy ball players are those who were not selected by MLB teams. These mostly include talented college athletes, who were not seen as good enough by Major League scouts from the get-go. For example, 6-foot-7 left-hander

Sean Kealey came to Allegheny throwing in the mid 80s and left college topping out at 94. Kealey signed with an indy ball team called the Washington Wild Things. He performed well and was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals. Kealey is still in the Cardinals' organization and reached Double-A before undergoing Tommy John surgery, sidelining him for the rest of the 2022 campaign. Playing in indy ball is not as lucrative as playing in Minor League Baseball, but it remains a good training ground for those looking to enhance their professional career.

There are other professional leagues outside of Major League Baseball, Minor League Baseball, and indy ball. There are winter leagues in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Australia, the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Mexico ("MLB Research Tool"). These teams mostly consist of native ballplayers from each of these countries. However, MLB, MiLB, and indy ball players make up a decent portion of these leagues. Their performance does not usually result in being signed by a team in MLB, MiLB, or indy ball, and players usually take advantage of these leagues after having poor seasons or coming back from injury. Conversely, the Arizona Fall League (AFL) is made for MiLB players to increase their value in the organization. Essentially, the AFL is an extended look at Minor League players handpicked from Major League teams. A prospect that performs well in the AFL can be moved up to the next level.

Parker Meadows, who played on the SeaWolves this year, had a terrific season in Double-A. He batted .275 (meaning he reached base 27.5% of the time when he put the ball in play), had 16 homers, 17 stolen bases, and played excellent defense in center field ("MLB Research Tool"). He was selected by the SeaWolves' parent club, the Tigers, as one of the seven players (and three position players) to play in the AFL. A solid performance in the AFL could cement his promotion to Triple-A for the 2023 campaign. Additionally, since each team can only

select seven players to play in the AFL, five different teams make up one team. For example, the seven selected players from the Diamondbacks, Colorado Rockies, Toronto Blue Jays, Tigers, and Cardinals make up the 35-man roster of the Salt Water Rafters in the AFL (“Arizona Fall League”). Thus, professional opportunities exist outside of the big three North American leagues.

MiLB and indy ball teams are generally located in smaller cities than their big league counterparts. The big cities such as New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, and Miami are occupied by big league clubs. Major League teams are divided into divisions and two separate leagues. There is the American League and National League. Each league has an East, Central, and West division; five teams are in each division. Historically, teams play the most games within their own division, but also play teams a fair number of times in their own league. In the late 1990s, teams would occasionally play interleague matches and this happens on a more frequent basis nowadays.

These organizations generally bring in between 15,000 to 55,000 people a game. The Major League average was 26,834 fans per regular season (non-playoff and exhibition) game in 2022 (“MLB Research Tool”). Most professional baseball leagues are divided into leagues based on certain regions of the country. As expected, all the teams in the AFL are in Arizona and are within a three-hour radius of each team.

Unlike the Major Leagues, Minor League teams take the bus everywhere they go. This includes the league where the SeaWolves play in, the Eastern League. Usually once per season either the Portland Sea Dogs (who are also in the Eastern League) play a series in Portland, Maine, or play on the road in Erie, Pennsylvania. The bus ride is a grueling 12 hours for the coaches and players. However, there is no interleague play in Double-A. In fact, each year there



is an Eastern League, Southern League, and Texas League champion at this level; no team from either of these leagues faces off against each other.

Generally, MiLB teams bring in between 1,000-15,000 fans per game. Per regular season games during the 2022 season, Triple-A averaged 5,823 fans, Double-A averaged 4,119 fans, High-A averaged 3,246 fans, and Single-A averaged 2,144 fans; rookie ball affiliates did not report any total attendance numbers. Indy ball teams can average around as much as teams in Minor League Baseball. The only reported number of league averages in indy ball was from the Atlantic and Mexican League; the Mexican League averaged 4,653 fans per regular season game in 2022 and the Atlantic League averaged 2,463 fans per regular season game in 2022 (“MLB Research Tool”).

Minor League teams are usually located in better baseball cities than their indy ball counterparts. Even in NYC, the Brooklyn Cyclones (New York Mets High-A affiliate) are in a much more favorable area in Coney Island, rather than indy balls teams such as the Staten Island FerryHawks and the Long Island Ducks. Again referencing the Mavericks, small market teams can draw in big crowds and have strong backing from the city or town that they play in. The same applies to amateur league baseball teams, which can draw in larger or similar crowds to MiLB teams.

The world of amateur league baseball is a haven for players who wish to be scouted by Major League clubs and higher-ranking college baseball teams. Players can also receive reps and rehab from injury in the summer ball. The Cape Cod League and the Northwoods League produce tons of professional talent each year. After broadcasting for two years in the Northwoods League with the Rockford Rivets (in Illinois) and Huskies, I have seen a bunch of players make it to Minor League Baseball. For example, Jordan Wicks played for the Rivets in

2020, had a \$3.1 million signing bonus from the Chicago Cubs in 2021 (“Jordan Wicks”), and has already reached Double-A Tennessee (“MLB Research Tool”). The Northwoods League Baseball Network and each of the teams radio networks draw a couple million of listeners each summer from their 22 teams.

There is also the Major League Draft League, which is directly partnered with, you guessed it, Major League Baseball, and was only established last year (“MLB Draft League”). They are quickly rising to the upper echelon of amateur summer leagues in North America, but similar to the rest of U.S. baseball teams they are based all around the country. Overall, these summer leagues provide a successful pipeline to the professional level.

Another popular summer ball team are the Savannah Bananas in the Coastal Plains League (CPL), located in the southeast region of the United States. Some of the Bananas’ antics include dancing on the field before the pitch is thrown, and have a choir consisting of grandmothers, who sing the national anthem. During the Mavericks’ 1977 season, they averaged 3,800 fans per home game (“Portland Mavericks”). As for the Bananas in their inaugural 2016 season, they averaged 3,659 fans per home game and had 17 sellouts. They also broke a CPL record with 80,504 fans, surpassing a previous high of 77,151 fans in a single season (“Bananas finish second in the country in attendance”).

Both teams have also had really good baseball talent. Besides Bouton, ex-MLB player Larry Colton was on the team and Jeff Cox eventually made it up to the Majors with the Oakland Athletics (“Portland Mavericks”). As for the Bananas, former MLB All-Stars Bill Lee (who made his Bananas debut 75 years young), Jonathan Papelbon, and Jake Peavy all suited up for Savannah (“Savannah Bananas”).

Throughout my experience in the Northwoods League and in Minor League Baseball, promotions are a part of nearly every home game. The Huskies generally had themed-games at the ballpark such as back-to-school nights, while the Rivets had Firework Fridays. An average week for the SeaWolves in a six-game homestand could look like this: Howl at the Noon on Tuesday (where the game would start at 11 am or 12 pm), the Erie Piñetas on Wednesday (where the SeaWolves would be in black, yellow, blue, and red alternate uniforms to celebrate Latinx culture), Two-Buck Thursday (Smith's hot dogs were only two dollars), Fireworks Friday, bobblehead giveaways on Saturday, and Sunday Family Fun Day (fans can have a catch on the field for 15 minutes after the Sunday day game).

All MiLB teams have a similar promotions schedule to the SeaWolves. All Major League Baseball teams have promotional events. However, small markets teams such as the Tampa Bay Rays and the Athletics really need promotions to bring in fans each game, but this phenomenon still does not occur in each game, just a bit more often than other MLB teams. Promotions help teams make ends meet and for non-MLB teams they are essential. The Rivets asked interns with cars to put up posters across Rockford to let fans know when their games are. The SeaWolves needed more help with sales, so I jumped on board and sold 300 tickets for two promotional events. The next time you go to a sports game with a promotional event, it's not only to keep fans entertained, it's a necessity to bring fans out to the stadium.

Finding unique ways to have fans fill out the seats in the ballpark essentially started with Bill Veeck. The man who literally married a woman raised by parents in the circus put on some of the greatest shows in professional baseball history. The first team he owned was the Milwaukee Brewers, a then-Double-A affiliate in the American Association. The Brewers were a deadweight team that finished in last place in 1941. However, Veeck made fans appreciate the

Brewers by having surprise promotions every night – meaning fans were not sure what the promotion would be until they arrived at the ballpark. Some of his antics included bringing in livestock such as pigeons, lobsters, horses, and guinea pigs. Veeck also brought more talented players to the team. In turn, the Brewers nearly won the pennant in 1942 and earned the championship title from 1943-1945 (“Bill Veeck SABR”).

Veeck’s next project would be at the Major League level. He purchased the Cleveland Indians in 1946 and that season they finished sixth in attendance. Veeck turned the team around and was a pioneer to the game by signing the American League’s first black player Larry Doby. He also signed Satchel Paige, the first black American League pitcher, and played up the fact that no one (including Paige) knew his true age. Veeck catered to the fans after thousands of letters and demands to keep player-manager Lou Boudreau (“Bill Veeck SABR”). The result was a 1948 MVP campaign for Boudreau as the Indians won the World Series the same year. Consequently, this is the last time the Indians won the Fall Classic. They currently have the longest championship drought in North American sports.

Veeck’s strategy of using showmanship to appeal to the fans has been adopted by the Mavericks and the Bananas. It has also served as a blueprint for current professional baseball teams. One of the ploys utilized by the Mavericks was to purposely get thrown out of games to sit next to the fans in the bleachers. If the Mavericks were losing or their pitcher needed a rest, a loose ball would be thrown onto the field. A black labrador by the name of P.L. Maverick would run onto the field, stopping play, in order to fetch the ball much to the sheer delight of the fans. The Mavericks would also keep a 40-man roster, unheard of at the time in the Northwest League. Even if some players declined, they were still kept around since the owner Bing Russell wanted the fans to relate to someone on the team (*The Battered Bastards of Baseball*).

That feeling of relatability is one of the reasons Jackson Olson's story with the Bananas resonates with so many people. Originally a Division I college shortstop for Stetson University, Olson had to hang up his cleats after his baseball career ended upon graduation. Similar to many other 20-somethings all over the world, he had no idea what to do with his life. He knew he loved baseball and eventually became an MLB Ambassador. Olson threw out first pitches, tasted and ranked the food at all 30 ballparks, and tried out the unique experiences each MLB team had to offer. He documented his journey on TikTok, and his popularity piqued the interest of the Bananas. Olson showed his nearly one million followers on social media about his life with the Bananas. His antics include dressing up like *The Greatest Showman* (his favorite play) while eating nachos in the batters box ("Jackson Olson Tiktok"). Olson's story has brought in tens of thousands of positive responses and many fans connect with him because anyone who has ever played a sport will have to call it quits someday.

Storylines such as Olson's are always marketed by professional teams. One of the most famous examples is how Derek Jeter grew up a Yankee fan and accomplished his dream of being the shortstop in Pinstripes. Almost all baseball players have the same dream of playing for their favorite team but few actually achieve it. For that reason, Jeter's 20-year MLB career with the Yankees is still a remarkable feat and he is the most popular Yankee in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Meanwhile, on the SeaWolves, Yaya Chentouf has become extremely popular. A mixture of his unusual name, funky hair, playing college ball at the University of Pittsburgh (just a couple hours away from Erie), his colorful gloves (including a red Lightning McQueen mitt), and being with the team for the last two seasons has made him a fan favorite. It is common for relievers to stay with the same Minor League team for many years. However, few have received the same notoriety as Chentouf. No matter what the score is, when Chentouf does well on the mound, he

exits with applause from the hometown crowd. Thus, the SeaWolves will frequently feature Chentouf in ads or promos because he is a familiar face that brings fans to UPMC Park.

As a whole, this research has been able to give my readers more information regarding professional baseball. I began this section by explaining baseball's impact on a global scale, then went more in depth on a domestic scale. At the same time, this research has allowed me to write down how my experiences in baseball relate to the SeaWolves — from helping out the team in sales, understanding the promotional side of baseball, and why some of the team's best players stayed in Double-A this year. Now, it's time to apply this research into my film. I lay out the script for my film in the next section before composing a self-critique on how my film portion of the comp turned out.

## Script

Video	Audio
<p>Photo of the SeaWolves Video of the SeaWolves playoff berth.            Adam1. Adam2. Photo of Erie. Photo of two Erie players. Adam 3.            Photos of all four players. Couple photos of Wilmer Flores. Spaeder Pregame Show.</p>	<p>Adam: The Erie SeaWolves had their most successful season since they became a Minor League affiliate in 1995. The SeaWolves made the playoffs five other times before this year but 2022 was the first time they won a series. Erie came away with the Southwest Division title and were a game away from winning the Eastern League Championship in Double-A. I had the pleasure of being the broadcast and media relations assistant for the SeaWolves this year. This title allowed me to conduct one-on-one interviews with several players of the SeaWolves. Overall, 62 baseball players spent time with Erie this season. It was difficult to choose from so many talented people with unique backgrounds, but I found four interviewees in Wilmer Flores, Markus Solbach, Bubba Derby, and Dane Myers. All of these interviews were conducted in English with the exception of Wilmer Flores, whom I talked to in Spanish. This is Around the Horn with the Erie SeaWolves.</p>
<p>Title sequence:            Four videos with four different transitions</p>	<p>Music: Satara - The Game</p>
<p>Cut to black. Around the Horn with the Erie SeaWolves as a title. Cue the howl.</p>	<p>Dramatic pause in the music</p>
<p>Cut to black</p> <p>Subtitles:</p> <p>Adam: Wilmer Flores is the third-ranked prospect in the Detroit Tigers system. I had the chance to interview the Venezuelan right-handed pitcher, who played in High-A West Michigan and Double-A Erie this season.</p>	<p>Adam: Wilmer Flores es el top tres de los mejores prospectos en el sistema de los Tigres de Detroit. Tuve la oportunidad de entrevistar al lanzador diestro venezolano, quien jugo en Alta-A West Michigan y Doble-A Erie esta temporada.</p>

<p>Screen recording of me typing Wilmer Flores</p> <p>Subtitles:</p> <p>A: When you search for the name Wilmer Flores, his picture does not appear.</p>	<p>A: Al buscar el nombre Wilmer Flores en el internet, su foto no aparece.</p>
<p>Videos of Wilmer Flores (the hitter)</p> <p>Subtitles:</p> <p>A: Instead, a picture of his older brother, also named Wilmer Flores, appears. The older brother is a veteran Major League hitter. He is well known because of a famous moment with the New York Mets. After playing with the organization since he was 16 years old, in a 2015 game, he was almost traded to the Milwaukee Brewers. It was one of the few times it's okay to cry in baseball.</p>	<p>A: En lugar de esto, una foto de su hermano mayor, también llamado Wilmer Flores, aparece. Su hermano mayor es un bateador veterano en las Ligas Mayores. El es reconocido debido al momento famoso para los Mets de Nueva York. Después de jugar desde de los dieciséis años para la organización, durante un juego en 2015, Flores lloró porque casi fue intercambiado a los Milwaukee Brewers. Uno de los pocos momentos para llorar en beisbol.</p>
<p><a href="#">Mets Call of Wilmer Flores Crying:</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Mets Call of Wilmer Flores Crying:</a></p>
<p>Wilmer Flores in New York, Arizona, San Francisco, fade to the photo of him in Erie.</p> <p>Subtitles:</p> <p>A: He eventually left New York in 2019 to play for a year in Arizona and has played in San Francisco since 2020. His younger brother, who is 21 years old, who can reach 100 miles per hour, could face him in a Major League game one day. This is the story of Wilmer Flores, the pitcher.</p>	<p>A: Él eventualmente sale de Nueva York en el dos mil diecinueve para jugar en Arizona por un año, y ahora juega para San Francisco desde el dos mil veinte. Su hermano menor que tiene veintiún años y puede alcanzar cien millas por hora podría enfrentarlo algún día en un juego de las Ligas Mayores. Esta es la historia de Wilmer Flores, el lanzador.</p>
<p>Waist shot of Wilmer Flores</p> <p>Subtitles:</p> <p>Wilmer: I grew up in Valencia. I started to play baseball when I was six years old. When I was 13, I started in the Academy and at the time I had a vision of becoming a professional baseball player, and now I'm here (in Erie).</p>	<p>Wilmer: Bueno y yo crecí en Valencia. Empecé jugar al béisbol desde los seis años y a los trece empecé una academia ya con la visión de un béisbol profesional donde estoy en este momento.</p>
<p>Photo of Wilmer Flores and his brother Along with a couple of articles</p>	<p>A: ¿Y por qué tus padres llamaron tu y tu hermano el mismo nombre?</p>



<p>Subtitles:</p> <p>A: And why did you parents give you and your brother the same name?</p> <p>W: We don't know. My father has the same name. My three brothers have the same name. I don't know why he gave us that name. My older brother and I have an excellent relationship. My relationship with him and my family is very good. I asked him about the game, about the hitters, how to have an approach, all that. He has given me advice regarding the game.</p>	<p>W: No sabemos. Mi papá tiene el mismo nombre. Somos tres hermanos con el mismo nombre. No sé, solamente nos puso de esa manera. Muy bien con él y con toda mi familia. Si yo le hubiera preguntado sobre el juego, sobre los bateadores, como atacar el <i>approach</i>, esa cosa. Si me ha dado consejos en esa parte.</p>
<p><a href="#">Flores at Arizona Western Junior College</a></p> <p>Subtitles:</p> <p>W: In Venezuela, I had no opportunities to sign there. No team gave me a chance. So, one time I took a trip to Arizona. I got to study in Arizona and I had the opportunity to play for the school. There I signed with the Detroit Tigers.</p>	<p>W: En Venezuela, no tuve la oportunidad de firmar allá. Ningún equipo me dio "el chance". Entonces, hubo un tiempo que viaje hace Arizona y puede conseguir, pude estar en una escuela en Arizona y tuve la oportunidad de jugar con el equipo de la escuela y allí pude firmar con los Detroit Tigers.</p>
<p>B-Roll of Wilmer Flores pitching (Pennsylvania lottery recap)</p> <p>Subtitles:</p> <p>A: You are only 21 years old and you are in your second season as a professional. Additionally, you are two to three years younger than the average player in Double-A. How have you gotten to this level so quickly?</p> <p>W: I'm not focused on the levels. I only focus on playing the game. The levels are not important. I'm always focused on what I do day to day, game to game.</p>	<p>A: Tienes solamente veintiún años y estás en tu segunda temporada como profesional. Adicionalmente, tú tienes tres a cuatro años menos que el jugador promedio en Doble-A. ¿Cómo has alcanzado este nivel más rápido?</p> <p>W: No me he enfocado en los niveles si no en lo que yo hago el juego durante el campo. No importa en que nivel estoy. Siempre enfocandome en lo que hago día a día, y juego tras juego.</p>
<p>B-Roll of Dodger Stadium and Futures Game footage. Also, show Erie photos of Wilmer Flores and Dillon Dingler being selected to the Futures Game. Show photo of Jimmy Rollins.</p>	<p>A: El Juego de las Futuras Estrellas es un juego de exhibición donde los mejores prospectos de diferentes equipos se enfrentan. Wilmer Flores fue seleccionado para representar a Detroit con su compañero de</p>

<p>Subtitles:</p> <p>A: The Futures Game is an exhibition game where the best prospects of each team face off against each other. Wilmer Flores was selected to represent Detroit, alongside his teammate and then Tigers' #3 overall prospect Dillon Dingler. This year's game was held at Dodger Stadium, where they were managed by the Philadelphia Phillies' all-time hits leader, Jimmy Rollins.</p> <p>W: It was an unforgettable experience being at Dodger Stadium and I am very happy when I went out to pitch on the field. After the game, (Jimmy Rollins and I) talked and he basically told me to keep doing what I'm doing; to give my everything in each game, and never slow down.</p>	<p>equipo y en ese momento el top tres de los jugadores de los Tigres, Dillon Dingler. El juego de este año tomó lugar en el estadio de los Dodgers, donde ellos fueron dirigidos por el jugador con más bateos en la historia de los Philadelphia Phillies, Jimmy Rollins.</p> <p>W: Jimmy Rollins, sí. Un momento después del juego, tuve un momento platicando con él, y si básicamente que siguiera al máximo en cada juego que siguiera jugando y nunca bajarle la energía que pongo en cada juego.</p>
<p>More b-roll of Wilmer Flores</p> <p>Subtitles:</p> <p>A: Wilmer Flores is ahead of the curve and is making a name for himself. He will likely begin the 2023 season in Triple-A Toledo. He is mature for his age because of his lethal fastball and slider along with his 6'5" frame. He has demonstrated the ability to take advice from other players, and take each day one day at a time, which will serve him well on what should be a long Major League career.</p>	<p>A: Wilmer Flores está a la vanguardia y se está dando a conocer. Él probablemente va a empezar la temporada dos mil veintitres en Triple-A Toledo. Para su edad, es una persona madura debido a su bola rápida letal y curva rápida y su estatura de seis pies con cinco pulgadas. El ha demostrado la habilidad de aceptar consejos de otros jugadores y tomar un día a la vez, lo que refleja que tendrá una carrera próspera en las Ligas Mayores.</p>
<p>Strikeout then photo of UPMC Park</p>	<p>Call of the strikeout</p>
<p>Transition to photos of Markus Solbach: Solbach10, Solbach11, Solbach3, Solbach1, <a href="#">Solbach pitching in Australia</a>, Solbach17, Solbach5.</p>	<p>Adam: Speaking about storied baseball careers, German-born pitcher Markus Solbach has spent 12 years as a professional. The 6-foot-5 right-hander has pitched in the Minor Leagues as a member of the Minnesota Twins', Arizona Diamondbacks', Dodgers', and Tigers' organizations. He's played with indy ball teams such as the Windy City Thunderbolts and the Rockland Boulders. Away from the United States, he won the</p>

	MVP in Australian Baseball League, started for San Marino in the Italian Baseball League, played in Germany's professional baseball league the Bundesliga, and was on the roster for the World Baseball Classic along with the European Championship. Out of all the teams he has pitched for, his favorite place to play is in his home country in Germany.
Waist shot of Solbach. Three photos of baseball fields in Germany. <a href="#">Markus Solbach pitching in Germany</a>	Markus: STE - 034 (1:08 - 1:42). Solbach talks about what playing baseball is like in Germany.
Waist shot of Solbach and photos provided by Solbach	Adam: One of the first times that Markus played baseball away from Germany was in Australia for the Melbourne Aces when he was just 19 years old. Fortunately, he had good people looking after him.
Waist shot of Solbach. Accompanying photos of his trip there.	Markus: STE - 034 (7:37 - 9:02). Solbach talks about his experience in Australia.
Solbach pitching for the Dodgers	Adam: Now 30 years old, Solbach is at an age where most career Minor Leaguers hang up their cleats. However, his goal keeps him going.
Waist shot of Solbach. Photo of Max Kepler. Solbach16. Stadium noise.	Markus: STE - 034 (10:47 - 11:25). Solbach talks about representing Germany as a pitcher in the U.S.
Waist shot of Solbach. Three photos of the old Tigers Stadium. Two photos of Dmitri Young.	Adam: You moved to Detroit at a young age because your dad worked for Ford Motor Company. Tell me about your first baseball game. Markus: STE - 034 (2:11 - 3:15). Solbach's first baseball game.
Waist shot of Solbach. Picture of Gabe Ribas. Solbach8	Adam: How excited were you to sign with the Tigers organization this year? Markus: STE - 034 (3:14 - 3:46). Solbach speaks about signing with the Tigers.
<a href="#">Solbach pitching for Erie on June 21</a> . Bubba Derby Minor League photo. <a href="#">Bubba Derby pitching for Erie on July 29</a> Derby with the A's. Two photos of Derby with the Brewers. Photo of Jacob Nottingham and Khris Davis.	Adam: Markus Solbach provided a veteran presence and stability in the SeaWolves rotation. Another important pitcher for the SeaWolves was Bubba Derby. Similar to Solbach, Derby has also pitched with several

	<p>organizations. The California native began his career with the Oakland Athletics and was signed in 2015. However, less than a year after being signed with the A’s. He was traded to the Milwaukee Brewers along with catcher Jacob Nottingham for outfielder Khris Davis — both of whom had multi-year Major Leaguer careers. Derby discusses how he found out he was being shipped off to a new team.</p>
<p>Picture of San Diego. Picture of SDSU. Picture of the broken phone. Picture from Moneyball. Picture of bluetooth. Oakland area code. Postgame interview at SDSU.</p>	<p>STE - 048: Derby mentions how he broke his phone and had to use bluetooth to find out he was traded.</p>
<p>Two Bubba Derby photos of him signing with the Tigers</p>	<p>Adam: After talking back-and-forth with the Brewers, Derby was granted his release in 2021 and to become a free agent. This process allowed him to sign with a new team. Joining the Tigers organization and playing with the Erie SeaWolves was a match made in heaven.</p>
<p>Bubba Derby SDSU photo. Eye of the tiger photos. Detroit Tigers photo. Erie photo. Perry statue photo. Battle of Lake Erie photo. Perry photo. War of 1812 photo. Another Derby SDSU photo. Erie playoff photo. Tigers logo photos.</p>	<p>STE - 038: Derby remembers how his grandmother always said he had the eye of the tiger and how his relative fought in the War of 1812.</p>
<p>Photo of Las Vegas, 58 strong glove photo, Derby with the two women photo</p>	<p>Adam: Derby has always been a fighter on the field, but demonstrated his true colors when he witnessed the Las Vegas shooting first hand. During the deadliest shooting in American history, he protected two women as a human shield. All three of them survived but were never the same.</p>
<p>Photo of the Las Vegas victims. Screenshots of the Bleacher Report article. Photo of the facebook comment from Jori. Derby shot in black and white.</p>	<p>STE-048: Derby speaks about the Las Vegas shooting</p>
<p>Black and white photo of Derby.</p>	<p>Adam: A terrible tragedy will change any person for better or for worse. In Derby’s case, faith, family, and his dream of making the Major Leagues keeps him going.</p>

Waist shot of Derby	STE-048: Derby says that his faith in God, his cousin, and his inability to quit allows him to continue to pursue his passion.
Video of Dane Myers circling the bases and hitting.	Adam: Dane Myers is another example of someone that has proved everyone wrong during his professional baseball career. He attributes his success to his family's support.
Waist shot of Myers. Myers5. Myers20	STE-024: Myers talks about his upbringing part one.
Myers3. Myers13. Dane Myers instagram.	Adam: Dane's mother Rhonda worked multiple jobs to make sure her son could play football and baseball growing up. Rhonda convinced the DMV to give his then 14-year-old sister a license so that she can drive Dane to his practices.
Waist shot of Myers. Myers23. Myers 14. Myers31. Myers12.	STE-024: Myers talks about his upbringing part two.
Waist shot of Myers. Myers2. Myers9. Myers11. Myers28. Myers25. Myers18. Myers 17. Pictures of Miguel Cabrera, Dontrelle Willis, David Price, Magglio Ordonez, and Rajai Davis.	STE-024: Myers talks about being drafted and his favorite Tiger players.
Myers video being interviewed at Rice.	Adam: Myers was originally drafted as a pitcher out of Rice University in 2017. He compiled a 2.72 ERA over 129.1 innings pitched. However, in 2019 he struggled in High-A Lakeland. By 2021, he converted to a hitter.
Waist shot of Myers. Video of Myers pitching and video of Myers hitting.	STE-024: Myers talks about his return to hitting
Dane Myers home run	Adam: Myers broke out during the 2022 campaign. In only his second full season as a professional hitter, Myers became the first player with at least 20 homers and 20 stolen bases in SeaWolves history.
Video of Myers stealing his 20th stolen base	Video of Myers stealing his 20th stolen base
Myers15. Photo of Myers hitting in Toledo.	Adam: He also held his own in Triple-A,

	batting .256 with three doubles, five RBIs and a stolen base in 14 games with the Mud Hens.
Video of Myers and Ryan Lavarney	Video of Myers and Ryan Lavarney
Waist shot of Myers	STE-024: Myers on getting called up to Triple-A
Picture of Myers catching a ball in the outfield.	Although Myers spent the majority of the season in Double-A, he is likely to start next year in Triple-A.
Same four photos as earlier. Video of the SeaWolves celebrating their playoff berth.	Overall, Myers, Derby, Solbach, and Flores were part of a special 2022 SeaWolves team. Not only did this team have talent, but these men from all walks of life built comradery on and off the field all with the shared dream of making the big leagues.
End credits	Music: Wolfmother - Joker and the Thief

## Critique

It was not easy to balance college, broadcasting for the SeaWolves, applying to broadcasting positions for next season, being the Treasurer of Phi Delta Theta all while working on my comp. I also took on two other classes along with making sure I exercised and received at least seven hours of sleep a night — the latter two I was not able to accomplish during my first three years at Allegheny. I made the right choices to stop writing for the Meadville Tribune, and only broadcast Allegheny sports if I had time to do so. Luckily, I had family and friends to talk to when I was overwhelmed with work, while trying to find some downtime by hanging out with friends during my last semester of college.

I remember the first time I thought about my senior comprehensive project was as a junior. I knew that I wanted to make a documentary about the baseball team I broadcasted for this summer. Yet, I thought for sure that I would be calling games for an amateur team. I am very proud of the fact that I became a professional broadcaster while still in college. Not only because I am already in my field but also the content of my film is so much better. I was able to pick and choose from 62 different players and found four different but fascinating individuals. Above all, I love the fact that I had the opportunity to interview professional baseball players and make a film about them.

Before I was a junior, I did not know what I would major and minor in. I took some Philosophy classes in high school that were really fun. Adding to what I originally mentioned in my treatment, I thought I would be a Journalism in the Public Interest minor, but I was already writing for The Campus and the Meadville Tribune. Thus, I did not think the journalism courses would really help. I thought it might help to have a more advanced background in statistics and data analytics. My line of thinking was that maybe I could compute my own baseball statistics

when there was not as much information available in the Northwoods League. I ended up taking a couple of computer science courses. I received an “A” in both classes, but went to office hours all the time since I did not understand nor retain the material. One of my minors is in Mathematics. I thought that the statistics courses at Allegheny would aid me in my quest. Unfortunately, the statistics were only related to how Actuaries would use them in their line of work.

The reason why I am mentioning this is because being a communications major on the film track was perfect for me. I decided to give filming a shot during my second semester sophomore year. In middle school, I had friends that raved about being part of film classes and thought that designing my own film would be interesting. Lo and behold, I loved it. I had so much fun making movies with my friends. I knew that through the film courses in Film and Digital Storytelling (FDS) would put me in the right spot to make my own documentary about baseball.

FDS 171 was the first class I took and it helped me understand the basics of filmmaking. FDS 300 was the follow-up class to FDS 171 and gave the students different filming prompts to work with. FDS 350 is about Advancing Filmmaking Technique. This course had a strong emphasis on lighting and sound, which I am now always cognizant of when filming. FDS 375 was about making documentaries. I was taught the importance of finding inspiration from other documentaries. Thus, watching *The Battered Bastards of Baseball* was extremely prevalent to my research. Plus, I was able to make a mockumentary about table tennis and then make a documentary about my friend and fellow broadcaster at Allegheny, Kyle Chandler. My junior seminar class, FDS 583, and senior seminar class FDS 600, both prepared me to make my comp. I was able to make longer films and understand the workload that comes with them. I planned



out and had a better idea of what my comp would be about. Did I want to make a comp about the team's history or about the team's players that I would be broadcasting for? I had to do so much intensive research on the SeaWolves players that I knew I had to talk to them. I really wanted to tell the stories of my four interviewees, so once I met the players I knew this would be the correct path for me to take.

There was hope that I could have included my fifth interviewee in Eric De La Rosa. He was my first interviewee for the project. De La Rosa grew up with ten siblings, and used the video game *MLB The Show* to revamp his swing before he was drafted by the Detroit Tigers. We had a great conversation, but I ended up leaving his section out of the film. I wanted to make sure that I had time to show Professor Keeley a full draft of the film section and a completed written section of my comp. Even if I could have put myself through the ringer by receiving three hours of sleep for four days straight after Thanksgiving break, the quality of my work would have deteriorated. Instead, I opted for my usual seven hours of sleep and focused on my other four sections.

Overall, I am really satisfied with how my documentary came out. I love the opening. I have fun and relevant pictures of me and the SeaWolves players. The music I selected and the transitions from one player to the next sets up the film nicely. Incorporating the howl from the Erie SeaWolves postgame show was a fantastic way of bringing in the title sequence. I also had a great time interviewing Wilmer Flores in Spanish. He thought that I spoke his native tongue pretty well. I originally took a Spanish class this semester. I had taken a Spanish class every semester at Allegheny up to this point and had already finished Spanish minor, but wanted to maintain my proficiency. Sadly, the extra class made my workload ever more strenuous. I still

wanted to and have challenged myself this semester, but taking this class was affecting my sleep and time to exercise. I decided to withdraw from the class, but continue practicing Spanish.

Oftentimes, I'll sit at the Spanish tables for lunch and speak to my friends in Spanish. It bothers me a lot that nearly every American took a foreign language in high school, but retains little of it upon graduation. When I lived in Israel, I had roommates from Austria, Germany, and France — all of whom spoke English fluently. Everyone they graduated with spoke English fluently. I learned some Hebrew while in Israel and they stressed the importance of learning how to speak, rather than write first. As a result, I was able to talk decently well in Hebrew when I lived in the Jewish homeland. Thus, continuing to put myself in positions to speak to other people in Spanish, will only make me more proficient in an industry where a quarter of all MLB players are from Latin American countries. At first, I was very nervous to interview Flores in Spanish. I kept thinking about how my Spanish would be good enough to be understood by someone who primarily speaks that language. Fortunately, the interview went really well and it gave me the courage to talk to other players in Spanish. For that reason, conducting a whole interview in Spanish has made me immensely proud.

Flores's portion of the film took a long time to make. I wanted to make sure the questions I asked Flores and the captioning I provided were grammatically correct. I enlisted the help of Professor Barbara Reiss for the questions and Professor Alfredo Hernandez for the captioning. The latter took a couple of days to make where I worked on nothing but the transcription. Furthermore, synching up the captioning with how quickly Flores talked was difficult. I spent many hours in the film lab to finish his section first so that I could send it out to employers as soon as possible.

Speaking about another one of the interviewees, I was pleased with how I was able to get in contact with Derby. I was not allowed to interact with the pitchers when they were getting loose or shagging in the outfield. Additionally, there were very few homestands left before the fall semester started and I could interview Derby. So, I am happy I was able to interview him during a time crunch. I had a profound conversation about a sensitive topic.

However, I wish I could have shown more of Derby. Even though I always double check the focus on the camera, the interview was out of focus. Fortunately, a portion of the interview was usable so I had something to work with. Despite the technical difficulties, I chose Derby's story over De La Rosa because of his connection to Erie and surviving the Las Vegas shooting. Additionally, I received photos and videos from Solbach that I used in the film. I let the interviewees know that I would be asking for the b-roll at a later date. I messaged them all weeks in advance but only Solbach responded. The next time I do a feature interview about a player I will make sure I will acquire all the b-roll I can find ahead of time. Because I worked 12-hour days during every home game, I had little time to create a script for my film. Still, I did not have to arrive at the office until 10 am. If I had started work a couple hours earlier each day, then maybe I could have collected more b-roll.

That being said, I worked with what I had. I credited my sources that provided the pictures and videos that I used for b-roll. There was enough material to find relevant pictures and videos. I am satisfied with how Derby's and Solbach's sections came out even with some of the filler images. For future reference though, I will make sure I know how to convert the photos and videos from the Internet to a film. The resolution was a tad off at times and I was unable to find the right conversion website to better the quality of the film.

As a whole, I am pleased with how my comp turned out. This project is the culmination of my education and my time at Allegheny. It reminds me that even though Allegheny is a small college, and an eight hour drive away from home, it gives me the chance to create something special. This comp felt like I was taking on three classes in one. It was in the back of my mind on a daily basis. I was able to keep going since I knew that my film will be watched and would separate me from my competition in the baseball industry. Above all, it feels very rewarding to have made a quality film and hand in a well-researched paper while talking about my experience with this project.

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