Benjamin Thomas

Interview: Carey Murdock

Sports Journalism (JMC)

“It was probably a little of a whiskey fueled argument I was having with a subscriber.”

Carey Murdock, an editor for SoonerScoop and on-air talent on The Sports Animal, alluded to this when discussing about his past with OU football head coach, Lincoln Riley.

“We always have had issues around when major scrimmages happen and it’s gotten to a point where even the people, I’m closest to don’t like going to scrimmages because they get rallied on don’t tell anyone what you’ve seen here, don’t share anything you’ve seen here.”

With Sooner football and Lincoln Riley running a tight ship, it is difficult at times for media personnel to gain access that many once had. Gone are the days of being able to walk into the locker room, grab whoever you want and interview them. For Murdock and others, they had grown tired of this and for Murdock, he would stop giving any insider information on certain players and certain performances.

“People still throw that stuff [player performances] out there anyways but have no idea if it’s true or not because they’re getting it third hand, fourth hand from a players parent or something like that, and not even from people allowed to go because many weren’t allowed to go.”

Due to this issue between the media and OU football, Murdock was involved in an incident with a fan who was upset and attacking him and his colleagues for not having the insider information for a closed scrimmage that media personnel could not attend.

“So, I just said, don’t be mad at me cause Lincoln Riley is one of the biggest dicks in college football and doesn’t give us any access.”

That message from Murdock was soon screenshotted and posted all over social media specifically Twitter, getting to both Lincoln Riley and Athletic Director Joe Castiglione starting some big controversy.

“People were all up in arms, wanting me to be fired for it. So, it turned into this big thing, and I got suspended which made it all much worse than what it was.”

After the message was circulated, Murdock got the chance to sit down with Riley, Castiglione and Mike Houck, S.I.D. for OU Football, about media access for football. The support from other journalists, who agreed with what Murdock had said, helped support Murdock in the meeting where he got to discuss issues within the program straight with the main sources. Lincoln Riley heard and was understanding of the issues within the media and is taking steps to ensure it doesn’t get to that point again and does not go public.

“It was regrettable, I wish I hadn’t called him names. Of course, I was fighting with a subscriber at 2:30 in the morning on a Saturday though, still doesn’t make it right. But at the same time, I will always fight for the media and what is right and what’s deserved.”