

“Live. Love. Fight like Hell” – Brian Rose. Brian Ray Rose, who served as the Wingnuts' bench coach from 2010-12, passed away at the age of 34 on January 31st, 2013 following a three-year battle with stage 4 melanoma.

On September 15th, I was on my 6-hour drive back to Canyon, contemplating my internship I had just finished with the Wichita Wingnuts, a minor league baseball team in Wichita, Kansas. I was trying to process everything I had just experienced for the last six months. The Wingnuts are a part of a professional, independent baseball league, the American Association. This year, the Wingnuts went 68-32, breaking the previous record of most wins in a single season in the American Association. In the playoffs, the team made it to the championship series, only to fall short, losing to the Gary Southshore Railcats. A part of me felt that the final outcome of a season was inadequate because of falling short of the organization's goal of winning the championship. Ever since my arrival in Wichita, the organization pressed upon me that everything we did was going to be in honor of Brian Rose this year. Because of arriving on April 1st, I never had the opportunity to meet him, but now I feel like I have known Brian my whole life. Looking out into the fields of Oklahoma on my drive, I came to the conclusion that the most important thing I learned is that you should always enjoy the ride, do your best, and even if it doesn't fall in your favor, you should always fight like hell for what you believe in. Brian's life was cut short after passing away at age 34. But does that mean his life was inadequate? Absolutely not. Life is not about wins and losses, statistics, or even the final outcome, but rather the impact you make on other people's lives. I never met Brian, but the impact he left on me is far greater than something I could ever take away from a classroom setting. Learning to live & work for something that is greater than yourself

makes everything you do more powerful. Our organization gave everything we had to honor Brian this year, and seeing how that makes people step up to the hardest of tasks and complete them was an experience that I will never forget. Even though the team fell short of our goal, I know that Brian was looking down with a proud smile on his face from everything we accomplished this summer.

As I made a stop at Sonic on my drive back, the man taking my order asked me “if I would like anything else with my meal,” which led me to think about the hard work over the summer selling group tickets to companies and organizations. My supervisor, Brian Turner – Group Sales Manager, set all of the interns a goal to reach in order of revenue and ticket sales. I was not only able to reach my goal, but far surpass it, reaching 155% of my ticket goal and 178% of my revenue goal. This experience making cold calls and persuading people to have their company join us for an evening of baseball will definitely allowed me to gain experience for my future in pursuit of working in sport management.

Pulling back into Canyon, I came to the conclusion that life is not a destination, but a mere journey that everyone takes. Life is not about the wins and losses, or who can make the most money, but how are you impacting the lives of other people. Are you successful, or are you significant? Brian Rose taught me so much about life that couldn't have been taught anywhere else. Whether it is making group sales' calls, studying for a test, or hosting a philanthropy event, life is about making an impact on other people's lives. Enjoy the journey of life, because you only have one opportunity to make the most of everything you have. Last, always be mindful of the words and life motto of Brian Rose, “Live. Love. Fight like Hell.”



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September 30, 2013

M. Steve Sellar
Experiential Education Coordinator
West Texas A&M University
Canyon, TX 79016

Dear M. Sellar,

I have been very impressed with Tanner's professional demeanor when I became his advisor 3 years ago. During this time, I had an opportunity to observe Tanner not only in a classroom environment but also during our numerous discussions pertaining to his goals and aspirations. I believe that Tanner is a competitive candidate to receive the Intern of the Year Award.

Tanner is a reliable, dedicated, and outgoing individual. His ability to handle difficult situations and challenges in class has been remarkable, even under extreme pressure. Tanner has always been turning projects and assignments in a timely fashion, many times finishing the product ahead of the deadlines. His heightened sense of organization at such a young age is invaluable, especially for any organizations such as the ones he has been involved in on campus. Tanner has demonstrated on many occasions the ability to multitask to effectively handle high-volume workloads. Little supervision was needed when handed a task and the work has always been above and beyond expectations. Upon his arrival at WTAMU, Tanner has immediately inquired about possibilities of being involved and, soon enough became a member of the LEAD WT group where he was a student representative as well as a scholar. He has maintained a competitive GPA along with challenging classes. Additionally, he was selected as one the WT Ambassadors to Cambodia through the WT

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readership program. I have received several unsolicited comments regarding his talent to quickly connect with future students while maintaining respect and a professional attitude.

Tanner's involvement in campus life is aiming at bettering the life of his colleagues without compromising the integrity of academics. Tanner was an Attebury Honors student, a Dean's list member, and was named Outstanding President of an Organization on campus. He has lead by example, joining the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and going from Pledge Class President to President of the WT chapter. He participated to the Iron Phi, event that raised money for ALS, and raised \$1,000. That resulted in tanner having to shot a total of 4,000 free throws at the event. His dedication to the world of sport, in particular basketball has transpired throughout his assignments. Tanner is intending to pursue his education in Sport Management to better serve the organization he will work for. As early as our first advising meeting, he expressed the desire to work in a professional organization is some form of fashion. He sought an opportunity to work as an intern and successfully completed an internship as a seasonal account executive this summer (April 1st to September 15th) with the Wingnuts baseball organization, based in Kansas. Tanner has anticipated his absences and was responsible by contacting his professors to make the necessary arrangements to successfully finish his internship without neglecting his academics. I have no doubt that he exceeded his internship supervisor's expectations.

Tanner has my highest recommendation for the Intern of the Year Award, and I would be happy to provide more details if necessary.



Sincerely,

Vanessa Fiaud, Ph.D.

September 29, 2013



Brian Turner
Group Sales Manager
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Mr. Steve Sellars
Experiential Education Coordinator
West Texas A&M University
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Mr. Steve Sellars,

Whenever I met Tanner at the Oklahoma City Thunder Career Fair in February, I greatly respected his professional demeanor and the confidence that he carried himself with. After two different phone interviews, I felt that he would be a perfect fit for our organization, and he did not let me down. He would be a great candidate for WT Intern of the Year.

This year, we decided to go out and recruit new potential interns from various places instead, such as Oklahoma City and Kansas City, instead of just selecting our candidates from the surrounding area. This year, we only selected one intern that didn't already live in the Wichita area, and that was Tanner. He came and fit right in with our organization. The second day on the job, we had our interns take a test about the Wingnuts and baseball in general. Tanner and one other intern tied for the highest score out of the 8 who took the test. That same day, I described the tasks that they were in charge of for the year. The biggest task was making phone calls to sell group rated tickets. The next day, Tanner stepped up to be the

leader amongst the other interns and make the first phone call. This may seem like a small thing, but with my experience as Group Sales Manager, it usually takes the interns a few days to muster up the courage to make that phone call. Tanner was also the first one to make an actual sell by selling our Twisted Tea Field Pass. Throughout the summer, he was able to not only make the most calls, but also surpass the goal I set for each intern. The goal I set for them was \$7,500 in revenue and 875 tickets. Tanner not only met these, but also surpassed these expectations. His final sales total was \$12,517.80 and selling 1,363 tickets, which was by far the most out of the other 5 interns.

Tanner was also one of the hardest working interns that we have ever had. There were multiple nights where we worked 14 -16 hour days and he would always have a positive attitude, even when cleaning the stadium at the end of the night. We ask a lot of the interns and because of the small nature of minor league sports, they often were stuck with doing the more grueling tasks, but Tanner would always tackle the challenges head on with that "Texas smirk" on his face.

Tanner was a very hard worker and always brought up the moral of our organization every time he walked in the door. We were very fortunate to have met Tanner in Oklahoma City. He was named Intern of the Year for the Wingnuts, and there would be no better candidate than him to be awarded the same title for West Texas A&M University.

Sincerely,

Brian Turner
Group Sales Manager
Wichita Wingnuts