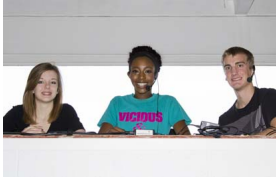


Swede Stream

Written by Deb Egenberger
Friday, 21 December 2012 14:40 -



GHS students combine radio, television and Internet into sports broadcast

Lucas Foster has been around radio and basketball all of his life.

Foster's father, Scott, has a familiar central Nebraska radio voice, working for KRVN as a sports announcer.

The younger Foster tagged along for many games, helping out by keeping statistics.

Tiani Reeves simply loves sports and equally likes to talk.

Haley Cline labels herself an organized techie.

The three Gothenburg High School students form Swede Stream, a new livestream project by Dan Jensen's media production class.

Livestream is a Internet-based video platform that allows users to view and broadcast content worldwide using a camera and a computer.

Jensen said his media production class began tinkering with it last year without audio.

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This winter, the students have made it a complete production, offering live video and audio similar to what might be heard on the radio for all home varsity girls and boys basketball games.

The whole thing is available free to Internet users who may not be able to attend in person.

By clicking on a link on Educational Service Unit 10's website, users can watch the game while listening to commentary by Foster and Reeves.

There are other schools that livestream games and other events but most don't include the radio-style audio.

Jensen said the livestream production allows grandmas and grandpas or other family members who live far away to still experience GHS basketball games.

"We don't want to hurt our gate receipts for home games in any way but we feel like it's a valuable service," he said. "The potential is huge. It's pretty exhausting to think about it."

In the future, other sports such as football and volleyball could be added, Jensen said, as well as other school activities.

Plays such as the one-act and musical, though, are limited by copyright laws.

Jensen said while mobile production equipment isn't available now, it may be something to be considered in years to come, allowing livestream broadcast of away games as well.

"That may be something that's more useful to people here in Gothenburg," he said, "but we also have to consider the schedules of the busy kids who put this thing together."

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Foster said as a senior, a future in radio or television is a possibility but he has not yet settled on a career path.

“It’s always a possibility, I guess.”

And Reeves, a sophomore, hadn’t considered any media-related careers until she started working with Swede Stream.

“I’ve always enjoyed watching ESPN and I love to talk so maybe it’s something I should think about,” she said.

Cline, another sophomore who takes care of the equipment connections and sound checks, is learning about keeping basketball stats and helping out but she hasn’t decided her future career either.

All three say Swede Stream has been a valuable experience so far and they look forward to possibly expanding it to include promotion of other school events.

“We’re getting better as we go along,” Reeves said. “We’ve even added some music at halftime. We hope it someday gets to the point where people are talking about it.”