

Trine University

Students Night with the Fort Wayne Mad Ants

By: Darcy Satkowiak

Sports Management Club Travels Students to Fort Wayne for Mad Ants G League Game.

ANGOLA, IN - A group of Trine University students traveled to the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to attend the basketball game between the Fort Wayne Mad Ants and the Capital City Go-Go of the G-League on Feb 4, 2023.

The undergraduates observed a thrilling match up as the Mad Ants defeated the Capital City Go-Go, 122-115 in an overtime battle. The game finished with an exciting game-winning shot in the first to seven-point overtime format from the night's highest scorer, Justin Anderson with 42 points.

Prior to the game, students attended a panel and networking event with a handful of employees who work for the Mad Ants organization as well as the Memorial Coliseum. These students were predominantly sports management majors; however, other studies were represented including accounting and communications. The students listened to the experiences and advice from the team president, general manager, a sales representative, and the vice president of facilities.

After listening to employees from the front office, Trine University's Sport Management professor, Brandon Podgorski, said "I hope that students learn the many different opportunities there are to work in



sports and what it takes to break into the business." Each employee stressed the importance of building a network and gaining experience to have a successful career in sports. They encouraged the students not to be closed off from working in different areas of sports and to have optimism with any chance they are handed. Podgorski said, "so much of working in sports depends on your network and experience, so it is nice to have actual sports professionals reiterating the message I give to my students every day."

Tim Bawmann, the Mad Ants Team President for six seasons, shared some advice of his own to the students about finding a place of employment that is right for them and their values. He spent much of his time working in Minor League baseball and regretted not being home with his family more often. He said, "There were nights when I would come home late from the ballpark and my wife would already be asleep." Bawmann said his reason for taking the job with the Mad Ants and exiting the Minor League baseball field was to be home more frequently but to continue to have a job in the sports field. Bawmann encouraged students to be open to different career paths but still maintain their personal values in life.



After hearing from the employees from the front office, Michele Remenschneider, the Vice President of Event Services guided the college students on a tour of the Memorial conference center and basketball arena.

They were shown the control room, each of the levels of the arena, and the suites. The students learned of the various events that take place at the Coliseum and what the staff members are tasked with doing in order for the events to be successful. The purpose of the tour was to exemplify the broad range of opportunities and fields that comprise the sports industry.

Professor Brandon Podgorski formed a relationship with the Mad Ants front office in the 2017-2018 school year and has offered this chance for students ever since. He loves traveling down to Fort Wayne with his students and providing them with advice from professionals in the field. Similarly, The Sport Management Capstone at Trine University made a partnership with the Mad Ants to organize a ticket sales class that takes place in the fall semester each school year.

Not only has Podgorski traveled with students to Fort Wayne, but he also has also taken students to Detroit, Michigan, for a networking event hosted by the Detroit Pistons that included representatives from 20 other professional sports teams.

In the future, Professor Podgorski is hopeful to continue the Sports Management Night with the Mad Ants and take students to other events. He said, “This spring in addition to the Mad Ants game, we will have similar trips with the South Bend Cubs and Detroit Tigers.” Podgorski also plans to take a handful of seniors from Trine to the National Collegiate Sports Sales Championship in Atlanta by the end of February.