

Courtney Timmons: All About the Sports

With perfectly styled hair and a fresh face of makeup, Courtney Timmons simply said, "I always liked being a little goofy and weird." She made it clear that she was very comfortable in her skin by sitting with her legs like a pretzel while she talked, never taking time to censor her quickly and casually spoken words.

"It's never been journalism, it's always been sports," said Timmons. "Nothing makes me feel that way, I get chills watching certain things." The passion seemed to come alive in Timmons as soon as these words left her mouth. Articulating her words with her hands, she expressed her true love and infatuation with all things related to sports. She recalled covering the Arkansas Razorbacks College World Series in 2009 in Omaha, Neb. saying it was "just the coolest place and the fans were smart." The Razorbacks did really well, she said, but that wasn't the highlight of the event. "It was just a feeling with all the fans...the atmosphere," said Timmons looking off into space as if she longed to go back to that time and place.

Upon recalling her day-to-day activities at her current position at KEYE, Timmons' expression shifted.

"Fayetteville was great because everyone cared and everyone watched the news, whereas here, people don't really watch the news," said Timmons. "You can get it on ESPN; you can get it anywhere."

However, Timmons said she doesn't feel underappreciated by the lack of Austinites watching her for sports updates since she doesn't even really watch the news.

Although she doesn't normally watch the news, Timmons said that aspiring journalists should know what they're getting into. On days when she's anchoring, Timmons typically works from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

"People see you on TV for two minutes and they're like 'Oh cool you get to watch sports all day,' they don't see what my job actually is," said Timmons. "We edit, produce, and I still have to shoot."

Timmons suggests that all aspiring journalists do research.

"It's a lot of work for little money," said Timmons. She earned \$6 an hour at her first job.

With the shift in technology and the rise of the Internet, Timmons said she has seen first-hand how the industry has changed.

"I have to do a blog now which I hate because I think that I should have to report the facts," said Timmons. "It's not my job to say, 'Everyone should be mad at Mack Brown because he didn't run this play' That's not my job. I'm going to tell you what he said then you make your opinion."

Although Timmons did her research before choosing her journalism career, she simply laughed and said, "I think a lot of people could be exploring their options...I don't want to get into it."

While guiding a visitor through one of the control rooms, Timmons said with a wave of her hand "I don't even really know what they do here." Timmons actually didn't know much of anything about the technicalities of journalism when she graduated with a degree in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin in 2006.

“I was done with school in 2005, but technically I didn’t get my diploma until 2006,” said Timmons. “I always say 2005 so people know I was still there [for the National Championship].”

Timmons started her college career as a pre-med student, switched to pre-law, and then decided philosophy was a good enough route as any. She didn’t realize that she was interested in sports journalism until her last year of college when she realized sports were her true passion.

After college, Timmons had an internship at a local radio station in her hometown of Garland, Texas near the Dallas area. Soon after she started she was hired to be the full time board operator/ producer.

“I still don’t know how that stuff works,” said Timmons referring to the sound boards at the radio station. She also did a fantasy football show and the traffic reports on the weekends for a little extra money.

“It was awful because I didn’t know what I was doing, but it was a great experience.” After the radio station was sold, Timmons did what she called a “fake internship” at the Fox station in the same area. She was no longer a student, so it wasn’t technically an intern, but she was not a fulltime staffer either. There she learned more about the industry and covered games. After sending out her “bad tape with zero experience” to numerous stations, she bounced from Abilene to Midland and then onto a station in Fayetteville, Ark., where she was the main sports anchor for two years. In 2009 Timmons started her job as a sports reporter at KEYE.

“It would be nice to hang out here a while,” she said.