

SPEAKING OF SPORTS



JEFF
ARENZ

Meet your new Daily News sports editor

My name is Jeff Arenz, and covering sports is my passion.

I have been hired to lead the Daily News as its sports editor, a job that began Monday.

If you enjoy local sports, we will get along fine because it's my top priority to deliver the best in local sports coverage.

My immediate goal is to develop close working relationships with the athletic directors, coaches, players and readers in Washington County. I am excited to tell the stories of your teams and sports accomplishments.

I see the role of a sports editor as a person who is accurate and unbiased in his writing and who creates a sports section with a variety of stories.

When covering games in my past, I conduct myself like a fly on the proverbial wall, being there to observe the scene without forming an opinion while reporting the facts from several different angles.

I come to the Daily News as an experienced sports editor. My career began in the late 1990s at The Times-Press in my hometown, Streator, Ill. I will be forever grateful to Harold Olson, a veteran sports editor of 30 years, for giving me that internship. He taught me things about sports and writing that I still use today.

For more than 20 years, I have worked for several different newspapers. Along the way, I have tried to observe my co-workers and how they performed their jobs. I've tried to implement those traits that made them successful.

In addition to earning some awards for writing and page design during my career, there are very few sports that I have not covered. I am familiar with the entire spectrum of sports, from baseball, basketball, football and hockey to auto racing, boxing, golf, gymnastics, rodeo, soccer, tennis and track and field, and everything in between.

I think it's important for a sports editor to have at least a basic knowledge of each sport he covers.

Some of the highlights of my career include covering the 2000 St. Louis Rams training camp in Macomb, Ill., a year after the Rams defeated the Tennessee Titans in Super Bowl XXXIV; being able to experience pro and college games via press passes; covering many high school state tournament championship teams in several sports; and being the beat writer for the Murray State Racers, an NCAA Div. I athletic program in the Ohio Valley Conference.

When not working, I enjoy following my favorite sports teams; listening to classic rock music from the 1950s through the 1990s; playing keyboards, piano and guitar; following current events and politics; spending time with my parents, Leonard and Judy Arenz, and friends; reading about history and biographies; laughing and telling jokes; listening to talk radio; and going to sporting events, movies and concerts.

Like I said earlier, I am very passionate about sports and writing. I want everyone to know that I love my job and care for the people I write about.

NOTE: Jeff Arenz is the sports editor of the Daily News. He can be contacted by calling (262) 513-2665 or by sending e-mail to jarenz@conley.net. Follow him on Twitter @WBDNSports.