



## Sports Writing: Two great things that go great together

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PLUS  
Basketball  
word search  
inside!

Fairfield University  
Athletic Department  
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# thestagazine

school day edition

## Skills, drills, practice, play, and reflection

### A Top Ten list for writing about sports

**Dr. Bryan Ripley Crandall**  
Education Correspondent

The Connecticut Writing Project at Fairfield University is invested in making all students better writers. And we know that writing, like sports, takes skills, drills, a lot of practice, time to play, and most importantly, much reflection. Here are 10 ways athletes can think about writing and writers can interact with sports.

**Keep a journal** Richard Kent of the University of Maine has found that some of the best athletes are those that keep track of their practices, how they are feeling, and what they've accomplished.

**Share your story** If you love

**Write your opinion** If you think sports are important to school, then you need to let others know why. Write a letter to the local newspaper, to your board of education, or to your school principals, letting them know what your teams need!

**Make up a story** If you like making up stories, why not choose an athlete as a character and explore the events in his or her life? How might an athlete's life be changed by events in his or her world, whether during a game or not?

**Listen for dialogue** As you attend sporting events or participate yourself, listen to the ways that individuals talk to one another. Write down what they say! Real-world talk is great

**“Sports seems to bring out the best in our greatest writers. I’m not exactly sure why that is, but I suspect it has something to do with the inherent drama in sports and the fact sports heroes are treated like gods...”**  
—Monte Burke, *Forbes*

a sport, write about it. Write about a time when you were very successful, or a time when you were really disappointed in a game. Write an essay about what you learned.

**Investigate like a reporter** Newspapers, blogs, and magazines across the country, and even the world, are filled with stories about sports. Next time you watch a game or other sporting event, record details that you can use to write an article that informs others.

**Think poetically** Every sport is like a dance, and poetry, as a form of writing, dances across the page. Think about a sport you love and all the words you associate with it. Play with those words. Let them leap across the page.

for writing scripts and plays.

**Think like an illustrator** Writing isn't words alone; drawings and photographs can also communicate to an audience. Draw a sports cartoon or begin a graphic novel set in the sports world that you love.

**Contact a hero** Whether it's a coach, player, referee, or sportscaster, hearing from fans is always a huge joy. Why not write a letter to someone you admire and let them know how much and why you look up to them?

**Nominate a mentor** through Fairfield University Athletics and CWP-Fairfield's Literacy4Life campaign. We want students like *you* to write a letter telling us why and how someone in your life has helped you as a student and as an athlete.



The Stags huddle up before a recent game against Cornell's Big Red.

## Stags play St. Peter's in a Kids' Day game at Alumni Hall

**Ivey Speight**  
Sports Correspondent

**Listen my children,  
And you shall hear,  
About the team  
For which you now cheer.**

This year's Fairfield Stags women's basketball team is young. In fact, nine of the roster of fourteen players did not play college basketball last season.

Felicia DaCruz, a 5' 5" communications major from Chestnut Ridge, NY, is the team's lone senior. As point guard, she has the ball in her hands for most of the game, and it's up to her to set up the offense.

DaCruz stands out in more ways than one. She also leads the Metro Area Athletic Conference in a statistic known as assist-to-turnover ratio, which measures ball handling and control. A high ratio indicates that the player can distribute the ball, or pass it to a teammate, without losing control of it, or turning it over.

DaCruz is not the Stags' only on-court weapon. Fairfield likes to shoot, and they have six players on their team who have made at least one three-pointer this season. The team as a whole has sunk at least one three-pointer in their last 301 straight games. The team's top scorer, Kristin Schatzlein, a 6' junior

has led the Stags into the MAAC top five in each of his seasons at Fairfield.

Today's opponent is the Saint Peter's Peacocks. A Jesuit university like Fairfield, St. Peter's is located in Englewood Cliffs, NJ, on the banks of the Hudson River. With a student body of about 2,500, St. Peter's

***You're part of the first-ever Kid's Day at Alumni Hall. So cheer loudly and scream Go Stags when we need the energy!***

guard from Tolland, CT, has over 15 points per game this season and is on pace to hit over 90 three-pointers. Only one other person in Fairfield history has done that before.

Despite the Stags' relative inexperience versus other teams, conference coaches picked Fairfield to finish fourth in the MAAC this season. The team members themselves are looking to finish in the top three, and they're being assisted by Head Coach Joe Frager, who

is slightly smaller than Fairfield. Fairfield goes into today's game with history on its side: the Stags have not lost a game to Saint Peter's in four years, and they've won 16 of the last 18 match-ups against the Peacocks.

Even so, the Stags are going to need your help. You're part of the first-ever Kid's Day at Alumni Hall. So cheer loudly and scream **Go Stags** when we need the energy!



## Fairfield Stags Game Day Roster



**1 Lizzy Ball**  
5' 7" junior guard from Essex, MA. Nursing major; vice president, Ballroom Dance Club; member, Cancer Crush; Student Nursing Association.



**14 Macey Hollenshead**  
5' 7" freshman guard from Needmore, PA. Business major; won 3 district championships in high school.



**3 Sarah Stock**  
5' 9" freshman guard from Germany. Member, 2013 WNBL German Championship team.



**15 Kristen McLaughlin**  
5' 11" freshman guard from Blauvelt, NY. Scored 1,137 points in high school.



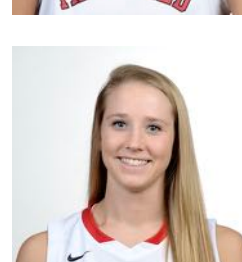
**24 Kristine Miller**  
6' 1" sophomore forward from Egg Harbor City, NJ. Finance major; MAAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee; two-time Atlantic City Press Player of the Year.



**5 Felicia DaCruz**  
5' 5" senior guard from Chestnut Ridge, NY. Communications major; 16th all-time career assists (289); 13th assists per game (3.1); Student Athlete Advisory Committee.



**21 Casey Smith**  
6' 2" redshirt sophomore, forward from Danbury, CT. English major; Secondary Education minor; volunteer, Fairfield Senior Center, St. Mark's School, Wakeman Boys and Girls Club.



**25 Emma McCarthy**  
5' 11" freshman guard from Shelton, CT. Business major; won 2 State Championships in high school.



**11 Samantha Cooper**  
6' 2" freshman forward from Ontario, Canada. Biology major; member, Team Canada 3-On-3 World Championship squad.



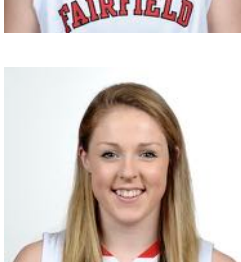
**22 Jamie Melville**  
5' 7" freshman guard from Sparta, NJ. International Studies major; scored 1,144 points in her high school career.



**30 Margeaux Dupuy**  
5' 6" redshirt junior guard from Colleyville, TX. Biology major; Studio Art minor; played 2 seasons at Marquette University in Wisconsin before transferring to Fairfield University.



**12 Helena Orts**  
6' 2" freshman forward from Barcelona, Spain. Member, Team Spain, placed 3rd in 2014 Summer Youth Olympics in China.



**23 Kelsey Carey**  
6' 0" sophomore forward from Staten Island, NY. Volunteer, Best Buddies; holds the Staten Island record for points scored in high school with 2,174.



**40 Kristin Schatzlein**  
6' 0" junior guard from Tolland, CT. Psychology major; Education minor; named to the MAAC All-Rookie Team and Fairfield University Freshman Athlete of the Year in 2012-13; volunteer, Fairfield Senior Center and Special Olympics.



## versus

No.	Player Name	Yr.	Position	Height	Hometown & High School
42	Sajanna Bethea	Fr.	F	5-11	Levittown, PA / Pennsbury
12	Teresa Corchado	Gr.	G	5-3	Willingboro, NJ / Camden Catholic
32	Kaycee DeVoogd	So.	F/C	6-2	Edison, NJ / New Providence
33	Kylie Garrett	So.	G	5-9	Mt. Orab, OH / Western Brown
15	Talah Hughes	Fr.	G/F	5-10	Beacon, NY / Beacon
45	Neechelle Ingram	Jr.	F/C	6-1	Pocono Summit, PA / Pocono Mountain East
24	Imani Martinez	Jr.	F	6-1	Annandale, NJ / North Hunterdon
21	Samantha Meier	Fr.	G/F	6-0	Manalapan, NJ / Manalapan
14	Hala Mostafa	Jr.	F	6-1	Cairo, Egypt / Modern Narmar Language
4	Marcia Senatus	So.	G	5-3	Roselle, NJ / Trenton Catholic
5	Antonia Smith	Sr.	G	5-6	Bronx, NY / Dwight
1	Rebecca Sparks	Jr.	G	5-6	Teaneck, NJ / Teaneck (St. Francis)
23	Alyssa Velles	Fr.	G	5-10	Franklin, CT / Norwich Free Academy
50	Bridget Whitfield	Jr.	F	5-7	San Diego, CA / La Costa Canyon

## Alan Brown's book blog is in a league of its own

One of the greatest acts of literacy a person can perform is to be smart with the questions they ask of others. As an example, CWP-Fairfield Director Dr. Bryan Ripley Crandall interviewed Dr. Alan Brown of Wake Forest University about his Sports Literacy Blog. On the site ([www.sportsliteracy.wordpress.com](http://www.sportsliteracy.wordpress.com)), Dr. Brown features books that tell stories of baseball, basketball, boxing, cheerleading, cycling, fishing, hunting, football, golf, gymnastics, field hockey, hockey, racing, rock climbing, horses, running, skateboarding, soccer, softball, surfing, swimming, tennis, volleyball, winter games, and wrestling. Read on to learn what he has to say about the importance of literacy and sports.

**Dr. Crandall:** Hi, Alan. Tell me a little about the sports literacy blog? Why did you create it?

**Dr. Brown:** As a teacher and basketball coach, I often took aspects of school (like writing, poetry, and informational text) into the locker room to serve as teaching tools for my basketball players. I hardly ever considered sports as a topic worthy of conversation in my high school English classroom, however, despite the fact that many of my sports-minded students, particularly the basketball players, were not likely to pick up a book otherwise. Being a fan of young adult literature and children's books, I wanted to create a resource for students, teachers, librarians, and parents interested in promoting reading through sports content. The biggest attraction of my site has been the book lists.

**Dr. C:** Tell me about your relationship with sports and how it influences your reading, writing, and thinking?

**Dr. B:** Like so many students, I spent much of my childhood focused on sports, namely basketball and baseball, and I wasn't much of a reader. As I reflect, I realize that I wasn't against reading per se, but the act of reading just wasn't active enough as I preferred being outside shooting hoops or throwing the ball around. Even today, I do my best reading on the exercise bike. I find that movement helps keep my mind engaged. As much as I enjoyed playing, and later coaching, these sports, I enjoyed thinking about

certain aspects of each sport—lineups, match-ups, statistics, and plays—just as much.

**Dr. C:** Tell me why you think sports literacy matters.

**Dr. B:** Let me start by saying that I am a huge advocate for teaching through the arts and popular culture. I love to see teachers using music, dance, art, theatre, television, and film to engage students in learning. I have long wondered why we can't add sports to the list and allow students to contemplate and critique the culture of sports in schools and society, as well. I fear too many people take sports literacy to mean being literate about sports, but that's not the intent. For me, the bigger question is, What happens when we turn students into critical consumers of sports through reading, writing, listening, and speaking? Thus, my purpose is to bring together sports and literacy to allow for a broader conversation about sports in today's world.

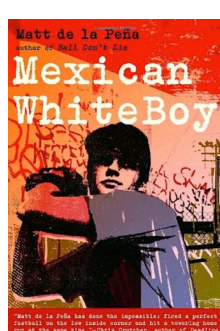
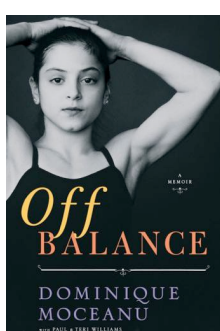
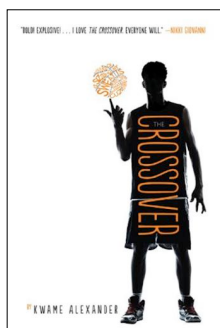
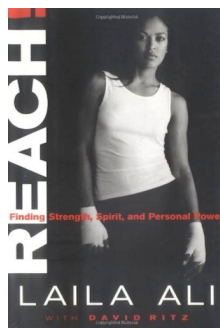
**Dr. C:** Tell me what you want young people to know about your work.

**Dr. B:** My biggest goal is to prepare future teachers to teach with the interests of their students in mind. If sports or some other aspect of popular culture can be used as a tool to engage students in a text or topic, I hope students will let their teachers know. What teacher in his or her right mind would say no to a student who wants to examine the role of sports in "The Great Gatsby" or the role athletes played in the Civil Rights movement? On the other hand, I also want students and teachers to know that the sports literacy blog exists solely to provide ideas and resources for sports-minded students whose interests and motivations should be valued.

**Dr. C:** Tell me anything else you feel is important to know about your world.

**Dr. B:** Each Thursday during the school year, I lead an after-school sports literacy program for boys at Southwest Guilford High School in High Point, North Carolina. The agenda is pretty informal: we talk sports, eat snacks, and read books. Last semester, we read "Boy21" by Matthew Quick, and the students loved it. As they read about Russ, one of the main characters, they visualized a young LeBron James coming

out of high school. By the end of the novel, students lost sight of basketball and began talking about ideas such as sadness, hope, and redemption. This semester, we are reading Chris Crutcher's "Running Loose" while taking a historical look at racism in sports and society.



**Dr. Alan Brown, a sports lover, edits a blog about... sports in young adult literature.**

## Now it's your turn to interview a neighbor

The best interviews are conversations where the interviewer and the interviewee discuss what they think with one another. A good interviewer asks follow-up questions based on what he or she hears. Try the following prompts with someone sitting near you. Give it a try!

Tell me about your relationship with sports. What do you play? For how long?

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Tell me about the sports you watch on television. Do you have favorites? If you don't watch sports, tell me what you do watch.

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Tell me what playing sports or participating in an activity has taught you about being the person that you are. Are there any stories that stand out?

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Do you practice to get better at what you like to do? How much time do you spend working at it?

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# the stagazine

school day edition

*Founded in 2014 and sponsored by*



**Fairfield  
UNIVERSITY**

Rev. Jeffrey P. von Arx S.J.  
President



**Connecticut Writing Project**  
FAIRFIELD

Dr. Bryan Ripley Crandall  
Director



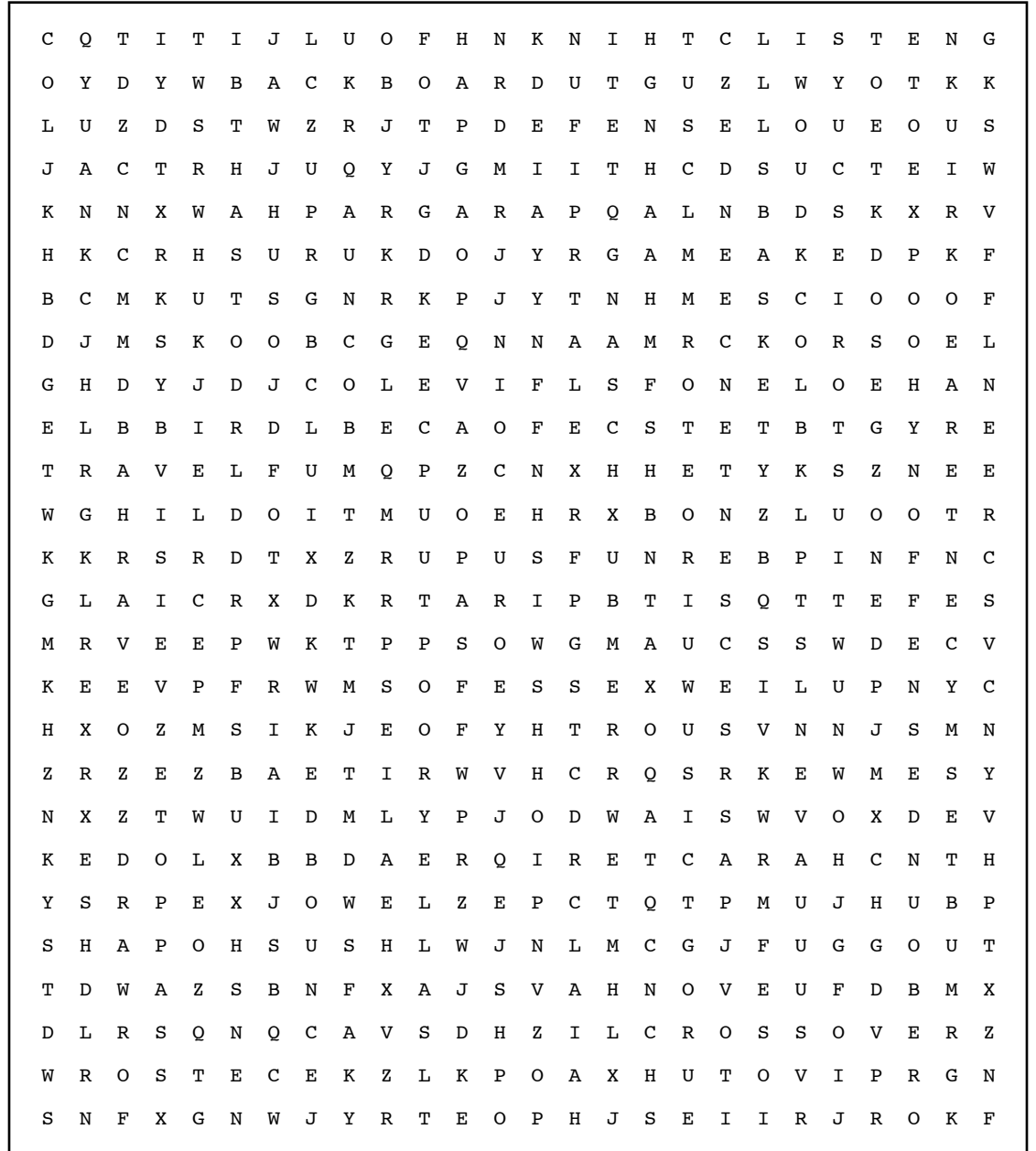
Eugene Doris, Athletic Director  
Joe Frager, Head Women's Basketball Coach



Mark Crandall  
Founder & CEO

*Fairfield University Athletic Department and CWP-Fairfield support youth who build skills for life and the teachers, coaches, and mentors who help them focus, work with integrity, take responsibility, become self-aware, build self-esteem, and keep a sense of humor, in and out of the classroom, and on and off of the court, course, or field.*

## WORD SEARCH : Basketball Edition



- |           |           |           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| ALLEY-OOP | CLOCK     | GAME      | PAINT     | STORIES  |
| ASSIST    | CROSSOVER | GUARD     | PARAGRAPH | SWISH    |
| BACKBOARD | DEFENSE   | HALFCOURT | PASS      | THINK    |
| BASKET    | DOUBLE    | HOOP      | PIVOT     | THROW    |
| BLOCK     | DRIBBLE   | JOURNAL   | POETRY    | TRAVEL   |
| BOOKS     | DRIVE     | JUMP      | QUESTION  | TURNOVER |
| BOUNCE    | DUNK      | LANE      | READ      | WATCH    |
| BUZZER    | ESSAY     | LAY-UP    | REBOUND   | WORD     |
| CENTER    | FORWARD   | LISTEN    | SCREEN    | WRITE    |
| CHARACTER | FOUL      | OFFENSE   | SENTENCE  | ZONE     |
| CHEST     | FREE      | OVERTIME  | SPEAK     |          |

Now, let your words dance...

In the space below, turn basketball into poetry using at least 5 of the words in the Word Bank above. Don't worry about rhyming (although you can if you want to); think about making your poem as bold as Brittney Griner or as confident as Carmelo Anthony.

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**1**

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