

Andrew Ball

B.S. in Business Administration-Concentration: Sports Management

Graduated: May 2011

Internship with the Berkshire Baseball Club in Summer 2010

Why did you choose to do this experience?

I am looking to build in a career in the sports industry, specifically baseball. Career Services helped me to find a large number of internship opportunities before settling on the Berkshire Baseball Club. My time with Berkshire Baseball allowed me to gain my first hands on experience into the operations of a sports organization. By choosing a small youth organization for my first work in the field, I was able to expose myself to every aspect of the organization and directly assist the General Manager.

What are the benefits of doing this experience?

The internship was beneficial to me in many ways. Along with learning about all aspects of the organization, (accounting, finances, marketing, community relations, management, and baseball operations) I was able to get a better understanding of what career I really wanted to pursue in this field. I was able to see the type of work I would be doing, the hours I would be working, and gain valuable insight from my boss. This experience also helped me to receive a position (after I graduated in May 2011) with the York Revolution for the 2011 season as the Assistant Director of Baseball Operations.

Was there anything unique about your experience you can share with us?

In most sports organizations, even youth baseball organizations, there are many people employed by the company. For that reason it is difficult for anyone starting out to build a relationship with any of the upper management or for them to really gain knowledge of all aspects of the organizations. Berkshire, however, is a non-profit organization that really is run by the president/G.M., volunteers, and interns. During my time at Berkshire there were only two interns so we really handled a large responsibility in running the organization. Although sometimes it meant being slightly overworked and almost always working long hours, I was rewarded with knowledge of all areas and some strong connections within the company and also with the opportunity to be introduced to people in management with the Philadelphia Phillies, Reading Phillies, and Cal Ripken Baseball, and more.

What advice would you give to someone considering a similar experience?

The sports world is very competitive to even find unpaid internships. The best advice I was given was to conduct informational interviews with anyone and everyone who I could then begin to build a network. Those connections may not pay off immediately, but they will be the best way to break in and continue advancement. The people that stand out are the people that are willing to come in early, stay late, and accept any task given to them.