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SPORTVIEW

The Boston Globe

## Broadcasting their plans for the future

By Bill Griffith, Globe Staff | July 29, 2005

It would seem a great many young people aspire to be sportscasters.

That's the impression you'd get from stopping by the weeklong sports broadcasting camp that wraps up today at Boston University. The group of 10-to-18-year-olds has been meeting with members of the electronic media and taking broadcast-oriented trips to local sports venues.

Celtics play-by-play announcer Sean Grande was a guest speaker Tuesday morning and had a lengthy Q&A session with the campers, many of whom would like to have his job one day and at least half of whom raised their hands when he asked if their dream job was to broadcast Red Sox games.

The campers hit Grande with a steady stream of inquiries, asking about his job status and the lifestyle of an NBA broadcaster, touching on game preparation for different sports, chemistry, agendas among the media, and reporting on players' off-the-field problems.

After the session, camp director Jeremy Treatman complimented his aspiring broadcasters: "That was the best line of questioning we've had at any of my camps."

Several times, Grande asked, "How old are you?" after 13-year-olds asked particularly perceptive questions. "Those were topics I didn't know existed when I was your age," he said.

"Between you and me," he told the youngsters, "I think you'll be reading soon that Max [analyst Cedric Maxwell] and I will be back broadcasting the Celtics' games for the next couple of years."

He did surprise them by saying his dream job growing up had been to call New York Rangers games and that he'd been approached this summer about taking an NHL job.

"Which team?" was a camper's immediate question. "Wouldn't you and Mr. Griffith like to know that?" he replied. "It's one of those

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questions that's best unanswered," he said. "Everyone always wants to think they were a team's first choice when they're hired."

Part of the Grand(e) scheme of broadcasting:

"Doing play-by-play for a team is the closest to being part of the team. If you think of a circle with the game at the center, play-by-play is the closest media job to the center."

"Then WEEI broadcaster Jimmy Myers gave me my best advice: 'Always be ready. You never, ever know what's around the corner.' " For Grande, that time came on a snowy day when he got a tap on the shoulder at 4 p.m. to get to the then-Garden to call a Celtics game because play-by-play man Howard David couldn't get into town.

His chemistry with Max: "It defies logic. But I never considered leaving Minnesota [where he was the television voice of the Timberwolves and also did the WNBA Lynx on radio] until Max called and began recruiting me."

On broadcasters keeping their distance from players: "I tried to do it at first because I didn't want to cloud my judgment on the air. But you realize that you're losing on the relationships." [Continued...](#)

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