

Yearbook Sports Copy



THE ASSIGNMENT

You are to write a yearbook sports story. Background information and quotes have been provided for you below. **The writer should determine which information and parts of the quotes are relevant and important to the story. The writer should make sure all background information provided is in their own words, not copied/pasted directly from the prompt.** Students should draft their work in Google Docs, Microsoft Word or any other word processing program. Using built-in spell-check or grammar-check to assist with proofreading is allowed. Students may also use a dictionary, thesaurus and an AP Stylebook.

BACKGROUND

Over the summer, the athletic department accepted applications for students to join the Sunflower Stadium Crew, a team of students to film athletic events at the stadium, run a control room in the press box and produce the video feed for the new 35-ft. video scoreboard during soccer games, football games and track meets.

During the fourth quarter of the football game against League City, sophomore Jason Valdivia was recording the sidelines in a timeout. The Buffalo were down 14-10 and had possession of the ball inside League City territory. At 3rd and 8 with 40 seconds left on the clock, Valdivia took a step back to get a shot of a player when his foot slipped across the line and into the back of one of the officials. The referee blew his whistle and called a 15 yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. The Buffalo couldn't achieve a first down on the last drive and ended the game on the penalty.

Feeling responsible for the loss, Valdivia tried to follow Head Coach Martin Wedge into the locker room to offer his apologies, but was unable to speak with him after the game. On Monday when Valdivia was in broadcast journalism class, Wedge came to visit with two players wearing their jerseys and brought him a new Buffalo T-shirt and some spirit bracelets to let him know he was still part of the team.

The Buffalo finished the season with a record of 7-3, and narrowly made the playoffs where they were eliminated in Round 1 by the Independence High School Wranglers.

INTERVIEWS

Jason Valdivia, sophomore

"This weekend has been full of the most intense emotions. I've never been so ashamed as when I caused a penalty that may

DESCRIPTION

You are a reporter for the Sunflower, the student yearbook of Sunflower High School. From the given information, write a sports story for your yearbook. You may use statements attributed to individuals as direct or indirect quotes. You may not change the meaning of a statement. You may not make up any additional information to go into the story and all background information should be in the writer's own words. **You have 65 minutes to complete this in a supervised setting.**

SCHOOL INFO

Name: Sunflower High School

Location: Clinton, Kansas

Mascot: Mighty Buffalo

Enrollment: 800 (grades 9-12)

School colors: yellow and blue

Yearbook: The Sunflower

Newspaper: Sunflower News

Contest Info

This is a Writing category for the KSPA State Contest.

Students must not request help or advice from any person other than the KSPA staff at staff@kspaonline.org.

All work must be solely that of the contestant and should be proctored by the student's journalism teacher. AI like ChatGPT may not be used to help organize or create the entry.

SUBMIT YOUR WORK

The entry must be uploaded to the [KSPA online submission form](#) according to these specifications:

- Copy your entry from your document and paste it into the form.
- Submit by **Thursday, April 10, 2025 by 5 p.m. You will copy and paste your entry onto the form.**

have been the thing that cost us the game. With the whole school watching, as soon as I saw the ref's face, I knew he was going to blow his whistle. I didn't think we'd end up with an actual penalty though. I couldn't even hear myself think over the boos, although I think they were more for the ref than for me. I could feel my face getting hot from the shame. My eyes filled with tears and I just stood there paralyzed. My broadcasting teacher up in the press box texted me to come up. I thought I was going to be fired or maybe worse. But she just told me not to worry about it and that next week was a new week.

Failure to follow these requirements may result in disqualification.

"I don't think I slept for the next three nights. I don't think I felt any relief until Monday morning when I was in class telling everyone about the embarrassment I had lived through. There was a knock on the door and in came Coach Wedge and a couple players. They were all smiles and decked out in their jerseys. Coach Wedge actually high fived me and thanked me for all we've been doing to make games more fun with video at the stadium. They even brought me little spirit bracelets that the team wears. They're yellow and blue and say "All In" — the team motto. I was part of the team.

"I went from feeling like the worst person in the world to one of the greatest. I can't thank Coach Wedge and the team for being cool about all this. After that, I was ready to go back to the stadium every Friday night and do it all again."

Matthew Gadchek, senior quarterback

"I was never mad at Jason for stepping into the ref. That was so obviously an accident. It seemed to me like the ref just decided at that point that we weren't going to have a chance to win. Calling a penalty on us for a clear accident was way out of line.

"I love what the Stadium Crew is doing with the video board to make the games more exciting. They can do instant replay now, and they show all the pre-game activities. Sometimes they even do little video games between halftime and second-half kickoff. It makes our stadium more legit, and I think it may even intimidate visiting teams, which is a cool bonus."

Martin Wedge, head football coach

"Our players work hard at what they do. Our coaching staff works hard at what they do. Our officials work hard at what they do. I was mad after that game when we got that penalty, but after that I decided all our kids work hard to make our Friday nights happen. From the band to the spirit groups to the dance team and now the Stadium Crew. We're all on the team together here and no one person deserves to take the blame for a loss. Do I think that was a bad call the ref made? Absolutely. But do I think that one moment should keep that kid from doing what he loves and getting experience working with our team? No way."



Yearbook Copy Writing-2025 State Entry

Judging Criteria for Yearbook Copy

Ratings at a glance	Criteria	Comments <i>(judges are encouraged to leave additional comments here but are not required to for all lines)</i>
Select rating.	LEAD: The writer grabs the reader's attention with the lead, featuring unique element(s) of the topic in an interesting way.	
Select rating.	FACTS: The story presents the most important facts related to the topic, eliminating non-essential information.	
Select rating.	SOURCES: The story provides the most vital reactions from a variety of attributed sources for greater development of the story.	
Select rating.	QUOTATIONS: The writer uses correct format and punctuation for direct quotes and partial quotes. Writer selects the appropriate portion and length of quotes provided in the prompt.	
Select rating.	TRANSITIONS: Writer uses informative transitions between quotations and when moving to a new topic.	
Select rating.	ORGANIZATION: The story is logically organized into short, journalistic paragraphs. The writer concludes with a strong quote and/or brings the reader back to the beginning.	
Select rating.	EDITING: The story has been closely edited for grammar, punctuation, AP Style and capitalization.	
Select rating.	WORD CHOICE: Writer's word choices emphasize specific details, action verbs and solid nouns. The writer paints pictures with his/her words and description.	