

By: Josie Lynn

A Kansas City Chiefs game from a Halloween night 11 years ago is cemented in junior Daniel Sullivan's mind.

The Chiefs took on the San Diego Chargers in overtime, and fans held on to hope as Ryan Succop kicked a 30-yard field goal. While the ball soared through the goal post, the fans in Arrowhead Stadium went wild; back at home, however, Sullivan's house was quiet except for the sound of his voice.

Starting when he was about 7, Sullivan began to commentate on football games to his parents, who would often mute the TV so he could have the spotlight.

"My parents would talk about how I was good at it, not in a cute little kid kind of way, but in the way that they really enjoyed it," Sullivan said.

Sullivan never grew out of this activity; in fact, he began to practice more and more, gaining skill and interest in sports announcing.

"I grew up with a passion for it, and when I got to Miego, I really got involved in it," Sullivan said.

His freshman year, Sullivan reached out to math teacher Andrew Groene, who was athletic director at the time, and asked him about getting started with announcing for sports. Sullivan said that Groene was excited to help get him involved.

"He was really supportive throughout all of my time announcing," Sullivan said. "Mr. Schramp helps out a lot now too since he's taken over the role as athletic director."

Sullivan received service hours his freshman and sophomore year for announcing at football and basketball games. As he kept at it and advanced his skills, he was able to announce the football, soccer and volleyball state championship games for the Kansas State High School Activities Association, which he was paid for.

"Announcing at those games was a lot more motivating than regular games at Miego," Sullivan said. "Getting paid and meeting athletes is a lot of fun."

Sullivan prepares for most games by emailing the coaches of the teams for a synopsis of the team as well as researching the different players.

"I try to have something ready for everybody, especially kids who come off the bench to play," Sullivan said. "I know it means a lot if I know something about them."

Sullivan said that one thing he has loved about sports announcing at Miego is when players and their relatives thank him. He described one instance of this that particularly moved him: when he spoke with sophomore Kirston Verhulst's grandparents, who have lived too far away from Miego to watch most of their grandchildren's games.

"They talked for a while about how much of a help it was and how fun it made it for them, and that kind of put it into perspective of what I was doing," Sullivan said. "I was pursuing my passion but also making a difference in people's lives."

As much as he loves to hear positive feedback from Miego families, Sullivan said his favorite part of sports announcing is actually getting paid, and that is why he eventually wants his career to be in sports announcing or somewhere within sports journalism.

"You want work to not feel like work, and it doesn't when I'm working in sports," Sullivan said. "It's so rewarding to be able to take your passion and make money for it."