HC SPORTS

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Introduction

Hanover College currently offers information about their sports teams through many different platforms, such as on the Hanover Athletics webpage and on social media. While students can find Hanover's sports schedules, rosters, and season records on the Hanover Athletics page, many fans (outside of students and faculty) may not know to look there. While social media users may follow Hanover Athletics on twitter, many non-technical savvies may not be familiar with social media platforms or may not have accounts at all to be able to have access to these twitter updates. Having to turn to many different sources for different highlights of Hanover Athletics can sometimes be inconvenient as well. My solution to this problem is a Hanover sports mobile application, which is what I propose for my senior project.

HC Sports will be an application that allows Hanover sports fans to stay connected to Hanover sports by alerting the user of game times and scores. The best part of this app is that the user will get to choose the sports team(s) they would like to follow and receive updates on as well as having access to all of Hanover's Athletics. On this application, you will also find a roster, season schedule, stats, and conference standings. I hope to also include fun updates like "HCAC Player of the Week" or the live stats that are featured on Hanover's social media pages.

I think a Hanover College sports application would be beneficial to both me and the Hanover community/fans. By developing this HC Sports app, I will build the mobile application development skills that I have yet had the opportunity to do. Many people rely on social media and mobile apps for their source of news and sports updates. The HC Sports app would provide the public easy access to sports news from Hanover College. As for the Hanover community and

fans, HC Sports would take the multiple platforms: Hanover Athletics page, Twitter page, and Instagram page, each with their sports updates, down to one; making it easier and more convenient for their fans to get updates on all of the sports they choose to follow.

As a last motivation for creating this application, I think there is always room for improvement when it comes to morale at Hanover College, and I truly believe that this app has the potential to boost morale. It will hype up fans as the app reminds users of game times through push notifications and alert users of final scores after games. It will show off our sports teams' hard work and talent, as it will feature the player(s) of the week within the app.

Related Software

I have been using the ESPN[1] mobile app for project inspiration. It has many features I would like to implement within my HC Sports mobile app, such as push notifications, customized push notifications, live stats, livestreaming, and team information/news/highlights.

Presto Sports[2] is a new platform Hanover is using to post updates for all sports teams. Presto Sports does have a web application and a mobile application. I had a meeting with Lynn Hall, Tyler Jester, and Joe Lackner to discuss the benefits of investing in the HC Sports mobile app versus the mobile app version of Presto Sports. The mobile app version of Presto Sports is

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[1] http://www.espn.com/espn/apps/espn

[2] https://www.prestosports.com/landing/index

very similar to ESPN but does not have a customizable favorites feature where the user can select certain teams to get alerts for. Presto Sports also does not have a highlights feature where I plan on featuring the Hanover Athletics account's tweets and HCAC Player of the Week.

Major Project Components

My project will have 2 major components: the HC Sports app user interface and the communications component, which involves gathering data from the Hanover Athletics webpage and sending alerts to the users using push notifications. Going forward, Hanover will be Presto Sports to post sports information via the internet. I will scrape data from the Presto Sports website and store the data locally onto the HC Sports app.

The HC Sports app user interface component will be the interface that will display the sports team information and updates. When downloaded for the first time, the user will be prompted to select the sports team(s) they would like to follow. This, along with the customized alert settings, will be stored locally into the device. Then the application will be ready for use. The application will display 4 tabs at the bottom of the screen: Homepage, Favorites page, Sports page, and Highlights page. The Homepage will display the schedule of the upcoming games/meets/matches of team(s) the user is following. The Favorites page will display a list of the team(s) the user is following and if clicked on, information about the team, such as season schedule, records, roster, and stats will be displayed. The Sports page will be a resource page about all Hanover sports. The Highlights page will feature tweets and pictures tweeted by the Hanover Athletics twitter account.

The Hanover Athletics page (Presto Sports) and Twitter components will serve as a resource that will be used to update the HC Sports app. This data will be accessed by the server component and stored locally onto the HC Sports app.

Project Details

To start diving into the HC Sports mobile app project, I will work on the first component of the application, creating the basic layout of the user interface. This will consist of creating the title of the application and the logo for the splash screen and additional text fields for the four main pages: Main/schedule page, Favorites page, Sports page, and the Highlights page.

To be successful, I need to learn the Xcode platform and Swift language for iOS development. Currently, I am enrolled and working towards completing classes on Udemy. These are courses on iOS development, focusing on Xcode and Swift. Once I've completed these courses, I believe I will have a good understanding and tools that I need to create and design the basic layout pages of the HC Sports mobile app.

I plan on developing one page at a time. Before working on the next page of the HC Sports app, I will develop the back-end portion of the project using Unity and scrape the data needed for each respective page from the PrestoSports webpage. I will use the Twitter API to integrate tweets within my Highlights page.

Upon successful completion of my project, I will have gained valuable skills in iOS application development, working with databases, and planning and completing an entire project from start to finish using the Design Thinking Methodology.

Timeline

10/1 – 10/7: Discuss with Lynn Hall, Tyler Jester, and Joe Lackner senior project proposal and ask if they would be interested in investing in HC Sports mobile app

10/8 – 10/14: Follow-up with Joe Lackner about possible API for PrestoSports

10/15 – 10/28: Research what it takes to make an IOS mobile application, from beginning to end

10/29 – 11/8: Go through Design Thinking Methodology (Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype, Test), create GitHub repository for HC Sports app, start making commits of major milestones/components to HC Sports project and design splash screen and main/schedule screen

11/9 – 11/16: Link test data from PrestoSports to main/schedule screen

11/16 – 11/20: Favorites screen design

11/20 – 11/27: Link test data from PrestoSports to Favorites screen

11/27 – 12/1: Sports screen design

12/1 – 12/7: Link test data from PrestoSport to Sports screen

12/7 – 12/12: Highlights screen design

12/12 – 12/19: Link data from Hanover Athletics Twitter page to Highlights screen

Rest of Christmas Break: Allotted catch-up time if behind, improve visual design of application, and time to review and revise code.

Rubric

Table 1 shows is a rubric that breaks down the grading scale for each major component.

Grade	HC Sports UI	Communication	Notifications/Alerts
A	Can view live stats and livestream	Can constantly update and store data locally	Can customize alerts
B	Has an interactive UI	Can manually update and store data locally	Game time, halftime score, and final score alerts
C	Can view data stored locally	Can store data locally	Game time and final score alerts
D	Have a user interface, but no data	Send a query and get information	Game time alerts
F			

Table 1. Major components rubric for HC Sports mobile application project.

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