Website

After graduating from Stanford University in June of 2018 with a B.A. in Communication and a minor in Data Science I accepted a year-long sports business fellowship at Pac-12 Networks. While I found the business side of the sports media industry interesting, I felt like I was too far away from what drew me to sports in the first place.

In May 2019, after receiving offers to stay at Pac-12 and continue to pursue a career in sports business, I took a risk and accepted a job as a full-time sportswriter at the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, covering sports for Northern and Interior Alaska.

When I made the six-day drive up the Alaskan Highway to Fairbanks, I had no idea what to expect but I hoped to find cool stories, unique experiences and adventures. From covering a 1,000-mile sled dog race in 30-below weather to wrapping my year up with a baseball game played through the night lit only by the light of Alaska’s Midnight Sun, I experienced more unique life experiences in one year than many have in a lifetime. I was fortunate to work with hockey coaches at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Ice Dogs NAHL Hockey team who were patient with a young sportswriter whose prior knowledge of the sport was limited to watching a few Stanley Cup Finals. I am so grateful I had mentors who encouraged me to take this opportunity when I was a little nervous to do so, and even more grateful for the athletes who shared their stories with me this year, making the small leap of faith totally worth it. I hope you enjoy some of my favorite stories.

The Yukon Quest, which alternates starting and finishing between Fairbanks and Whitehorse, Yukon each year is one of two 1,000-mile sled dog races in Alaska. While its more famous counterpart, the Iditarod, is better known in the Lower-48, the Yukon Quest is considered by many in the mushing community to be the more difficult contest. With fewer checkpoints and a harsher climate, only the toughest teams make it to the finish.

I covered the race's preparations and the first three days of the contest, but unfortunately the News-Miner wasn't able to send me past the Alaska boarder. The time I spent on the trail was unforgettable and also a true test of my journalistic abilities. The temperature, which at times reached -30 degrees, caused tape recorders to die instantly and pens to freeze. A plentiful supply of fresh batteries was helpful, but pencil and paper was the most reliable option. Camera batteries died in minutes, camera shutters would freeze shut and lenses could fog for hours. I learned a lot from the Quest's veteran photographers - keep your camera battery stashed in your pocket next to a hand warmer until right before you need it and always leave your camera outside until you're done for the day. Internet also wasn't available on the trail, leaving the hunt for wifi at the end of the day so I could file my story and photos an adventure of its own.

Although the harsh Alaska climate provided challenging technical details, the mushers, dogs and volunteers on the trail made writing never feel easier. I hope you enjoy reading their stories as much as I loved writing them.