

# Matt Birch

Digital Content Strategist

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## EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Digital Content Strategist with 15+ years of experience building, managing, and optimizing content-led websites. Owns the full web experience—from information architecture and UX writing to CMS workflows, technical SEO, and performance optimization. Brings a product-oriented mindset shaped by scaling a sports media company to millions of monthly readers prior to its acquisition in 2021.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

**Website Management & CMS:** Manage WordPress and content-driven CMS sites, including template customization, content workflows, SEO-friendly information architecture, ongoing updates, and governance to keep sites accurate, scalable, and easy to maintain.

**Content-Led Web Experience:** Lead website strategy and execution with a focus on clarity, usability, and conversion. Translate business and editorial goals into intuitive site structure, page layouts, UX-focused copy that supports real behavior.

**SEO & Content Operations:** Implement technical and on-page SEO best practices—semantic HTML, internal linking, metadata strategy, and structured data—to improve discoverability, engagement, and intent alignment across high-content websites.

**UX, Performance & Accessibility:** Improve Core Web Vitals, accessibility, and mobile usability through thoughtful layout decisions, asset optimization, and cross-device QA.

**Technical Web Execution:** Hands-on with modern JavaScript and frontend frameworks (React, Next.js, Astro) with a strong HTML5/CSS3 foundation; comfortable supporting backend services and integrations (Node.js, Supabase) to enable content workflows.

**Process & Collaboration:** Partner with founders, marketers, and designers to scope work, prioritize improvements, and ship reliably. Communicate clearly, document decisions, and keep projects moving through structured workflows and pragmatic problem-solving.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Optimize Web Solutions** | Digital Content Strategist | October 2021 - Present

- **Lead** content-focused website strategy and execution for SMBs and startups, owning projects **end-to-end** from discovery through launch and ongoing optimization.

- **Manage** website updates and enhancements across **WordPress** and modern **JavaScript stacks**, including content changes, design refinements, and performance tuning.
- **Design** and deliver high-performance websites using **React, Next.js, Astro, and headless CMS** architectures, balancing UX clarity, maintainability, and brand consistency.
- **Translate** business and editorial goals into clear site structure, page layouts, and **UX-focused** copy that supports usability, engagement, and conversion.
- **Own** CMS workflows and governance, including WordPress **themes**, child themes, and plugins, ensuring accessibility, security, and consistent execution across templates.
- **Implement** technical and on-page **SEO** best practices (semantic HTML, internal linking, metadata strategy) to improve discoverability and intent alignment.
- **Integrate** analytics and tag management (**GA4, Google Tag Manager**) to support funnel tracking, reporting, and content performance iteration.
- **Optimize** performance and user experience by improving **Core Web Vitals**, asset delivery, mobile responsiveness, and cross-device behavior.
- **Support** hosting and deployment operations (**DNS, SSL**, staging/production) while partnering with founders and marketing leads to scope work, prioritize backlogs, and maintain predictable timelines.

#### **The Sports Daily** | Founder / Digital Content & Web Strategy | July 2015 - October 2021

- **Founded** and scaled a digital sports media platform from launch to **successful acquisition**, owning content strategy, web experience, and technical execution end-to-end.
- **Built** and grew a high-traffic, content-driven website to **2M+ monthly unique visitors**, emphasizing performance, reliability, and user experience.
- **Drove** data-informed growth through **SEO strategy**, analytics, and reporting—resulting in a 150% increase in organic traffic and a 200% lift in mobile engagement.
- **Led** a site-wide redesign using WordPress and **modern web tooling** to improve UX clarity, navigation, and content presentation.
- **Managed** a distributed team of **25+ writers, developers, and analysts**, aligning editorial goals with site structure and technical direction.
- **Guided** the company through a successful **ownership transition**, ensuring operational continuity and a clean handoff of web systems and workflows.

**Bleacher Report** | Associate Editor | August 2011 - July 2012

- **Curated** and published breaking **sports content** for a top-tier digital sports platform, prioritizing relevance, accuracy, and audience intent.
- **Planned** and executed weekly NFL coverage, **managing content** calendars, priorities, and production deadlines.
- **Wrote** high-performing, **SEO-informed headlines** and framing to support discovery, engagement, and click-through.
- **Live-blogged** NFL games in real time, delivering rapid updates and commentary while **engaging** directly with the audience.

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

**Web Platforms and Frontend Architecture:** HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript (ES6+), TypeScript, React, Next.js, Astro, WordPress, Tailwind CSS

**Development and Tooling:** Git and GitHub, npm and yarn, Chrome DevTools

**Deployment and Delivery:** CI/CD, Docker-based workflows

**Performance and SEO:** Core Web Vitals, Technical SEO, GA4 (Google Analytics), Google Search Console, Lighthouse audits, site performance optimization

**Design, UX, and Accessibility:** Responsive web design, CSS Grid and Flexbox, UX and interaction design best practices, accessibility standards (WCAG), cross-browser and cross-device QA

**Collaboration and Workflow Tools:** Project tracking & automation (Asana, Notion, Zapier), Slack & Google Workspace, Microsoft Teams & Zoom, AI workflows (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini) and website integrations

## **EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Science, Mass Communications (Print Journalism)** | Virginia Commonwealth University | May 2011