



Husky hockey broadcast wins national media award



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Mitch LeClair, mleclair2@stcloud.gannett.com 10:03 a.m. CDT June 9, 2016



(Photo: St. Cloud State University/Husky Productions)

They won a prestigious broadcast media award, but don't expect members of Husky Productions to brag.

It was pretty cool, Neil Lommel said.

He and Jeremy Klein were part of a 24-person crew the College Sports Media Awards honored June 2. A broadcast of the Jan. 22 men's hockey game against Western Michigan University — an 8-2 victory by St. Cloud State University — won an Outstanding Live Game Production award in the Collegiate Student division.

Lommel, a Luxemburg native, is set to graduate next spring. He used "cool" to describe directing that game on Fox Sports North, which he frequently watched as a kid. Lommel also said it was cool visiting Atlanta for the first time and seeing other students' work.

Klein, an Avon native, graduated in May. He said being a part of Husky Productions has been "cool." He said the same about students running the broadcasts and an internship at WCCO-TV he recently finished.

Despite the use of the chilly, casual adjective, St. Cloud State students have been on a hot streak.

In the last eight years, they have earned six honors at the College Sports Media Awards.

"This is the big dog of awards," Brian Stanley said in a news release. The executive director of Husky Productions said "some of the biggest names in the sports production industry" judged the Live Game award.

"The entire crew should be very proud," Stanley said.

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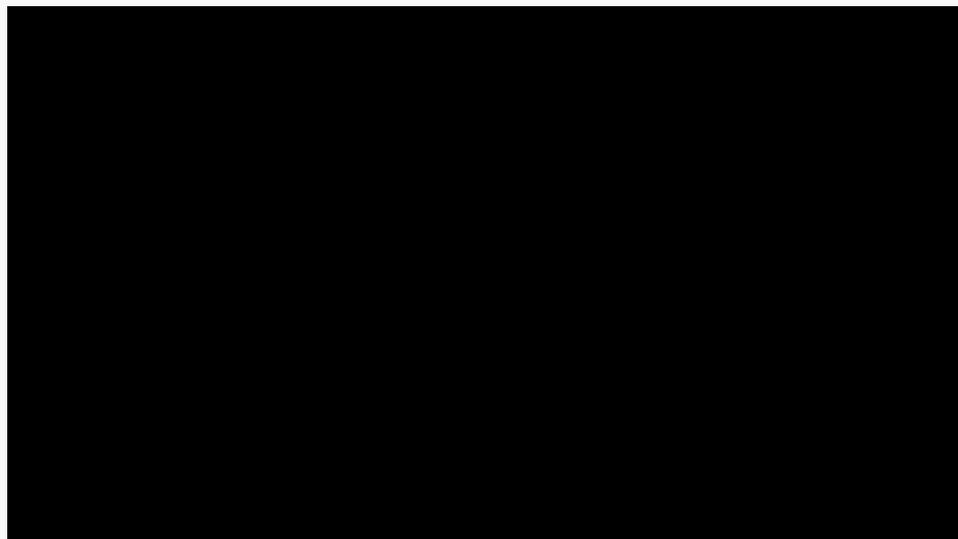
Klein gave kudos to both Stanley and Derrick Silvestri, two staff supervisors of Husky Productions. The broadcast program is a part of UTVS, the student-led television station at St. Cloud State.

Lommel said much of the credit for the recent award should go to Katie Halter, the crew's producer last season. After the previous director graduated in the winter, Lommel left the replay room and took over as director. He said Halter "had to hold my hand" through his first broadcast, which was the Jan. 22 game.

The Technical High School graduate said as director, he monitors video displays that show "every single camera angle." Lommel decides which one to use next. He puts the producer's plan for the show into action, Lommel said.

An interest in broadcast media has been bubbling inside Lommel for years, he said. Growing up south of St. Cloud, he said he would watch ESPN "all the time." Minnesota sports on Fox Sports North was also a common choice, Lommel said.

"To be directing a game on that channel is pretty surreal, honestly," he said.



Klein said his first broadcast experiences came at Albany High School after the district purchased an online video streaming system for sports games. He announced games for those Huskies before starting school at St. Cloud State.

During a tour of the university's mass communications department, Klein learned about UTVS and saw the station.

"I knew then this is what I wanted to do," he said.

Klein said staff supervisors at St. Cloud State deserve praise for the opportunities and

freedom they provide students. He said they give students keys to a car of sorts, which they can take wherever they want.

With talented crews building an award-winning tradition, Klein said they've been able to take that broadcast vehicle to "some pretty crazy places."

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