

SPORTS WRITING

Writing Sports Coverage

Where **action-packed stories** and **in-depth game analysis** happen.



Our targets for today:

- Define sports writing and its elements;
- Distinguish between news writing and sports writing structure;
- Explain the different sports leads;
- Analyze examples of leads and headlines;
- Write sports news story/article





















SPORTS WRITING

It is a specialized form of journalism that documents the world of athletic competition. It's the art of capturing action and highlights, and the human drama of victory and defeat.

Why cover or write sports stories?

- **To master the action narrative**
- **To go beyond the action and court**
- **To understand data and analytics**
- **To explore human interest angles**



Bagwis Catanduanes

1d · 🌐



WINNING MOMENT | Emosyonal na niyakap ng kaniyang mga magulang at coach si Jhon Michael Nazareno matapos itong nakasungkit ng gold medal sa swimming.

Bumiyahe pa mula Tubli, Caramoran patungong Legazpi City ang kaniyang mga magulang upang sumuporta sa kanilang bunso.

Kuwento ng kaniyang inang si Corazon Nazareno, matindi ang pagnanasa ni John Michael na manalo sa Palarong Bicol dahil nais niyang makakuha ng mga pabuya.

Ani Jhon Michael, nais niyang matapos ang muling itinatayong bahay nila nang ma-wash out ito ng bagyong Uwan noong nakaraang taon.

Mangingisda ang hanabuhay ng kaniyang ama habang nagtitinda naman ng isda ang kaniyang ina kaya't mangarap umano nitong makatulong sa kaniyang pamilya sa pamamagitan ng isports | via Ricky V. Tid/Bagwis Catanduanes





Alysa Liu released the pressure, reclaimed her joy and turned it into Olympic gold

EALA'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY FROM PHILIPPINES TO GLOBAL STARDOM

AUG 13, 2026



Sports writing becomes a daunting task for student-writers because ...

- **Lack of interests** in sports;
- **Limited time** for workshops (game watching & writing sports stories); and
- **Mediocre** school-based intramurals

SPORTS WRITING

a different writing experience



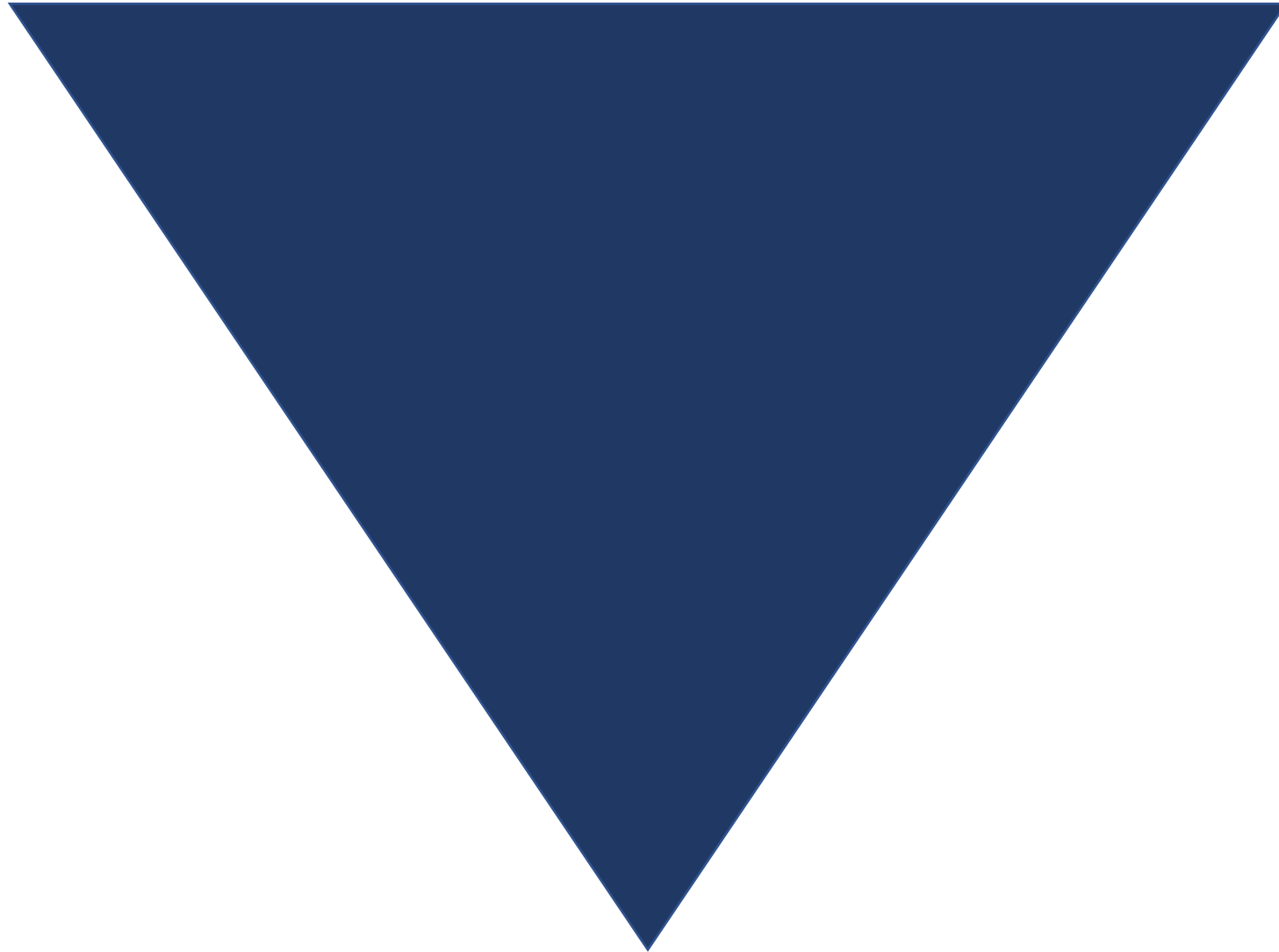
The foods that they will serve will power them up during their games. We also make sure the musarap na musataraya pa ang ilalagay natin sa mga plato," said Roderick Matienzo, the official master chef of this year's Catanduanes del



14 *"Sigaretes in schools are bringing Clio to the knee in a way that is different from anything we've seen at school."*
—*John M. Smith*



SPORTS WRITING vs NEWS WRITING





DOWN AND OUT Referee Kenny Stephens calls the fight over after Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao is knocked out by Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez in the final second of the sixth round of their World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight rematch at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dynamite punch stuns PH

Marquez kayoes Pacquiao in sixth

By Ray Lanza

LAS VEGAS—The unthinkable happened as Manny Pacquiao got knocked out by Juan Manuel “El Dinamita” Marquez on Saturday night (Sunday afternoon in Manila), sending

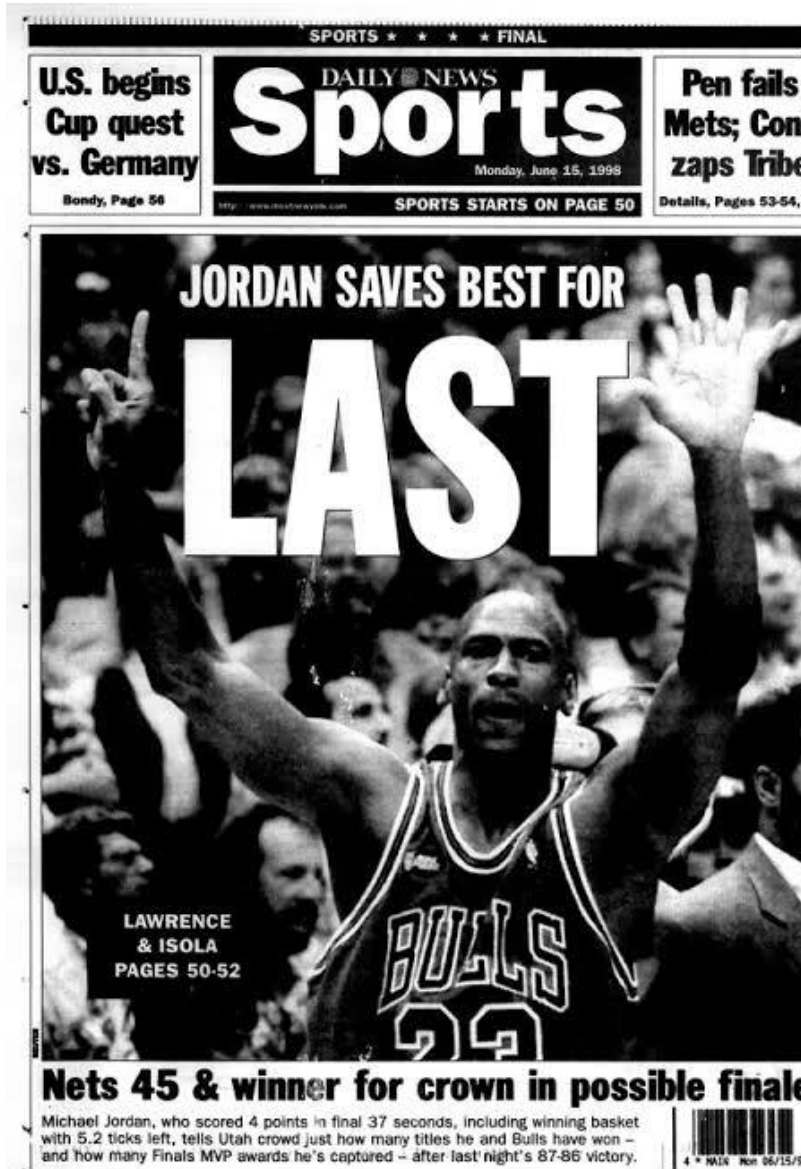
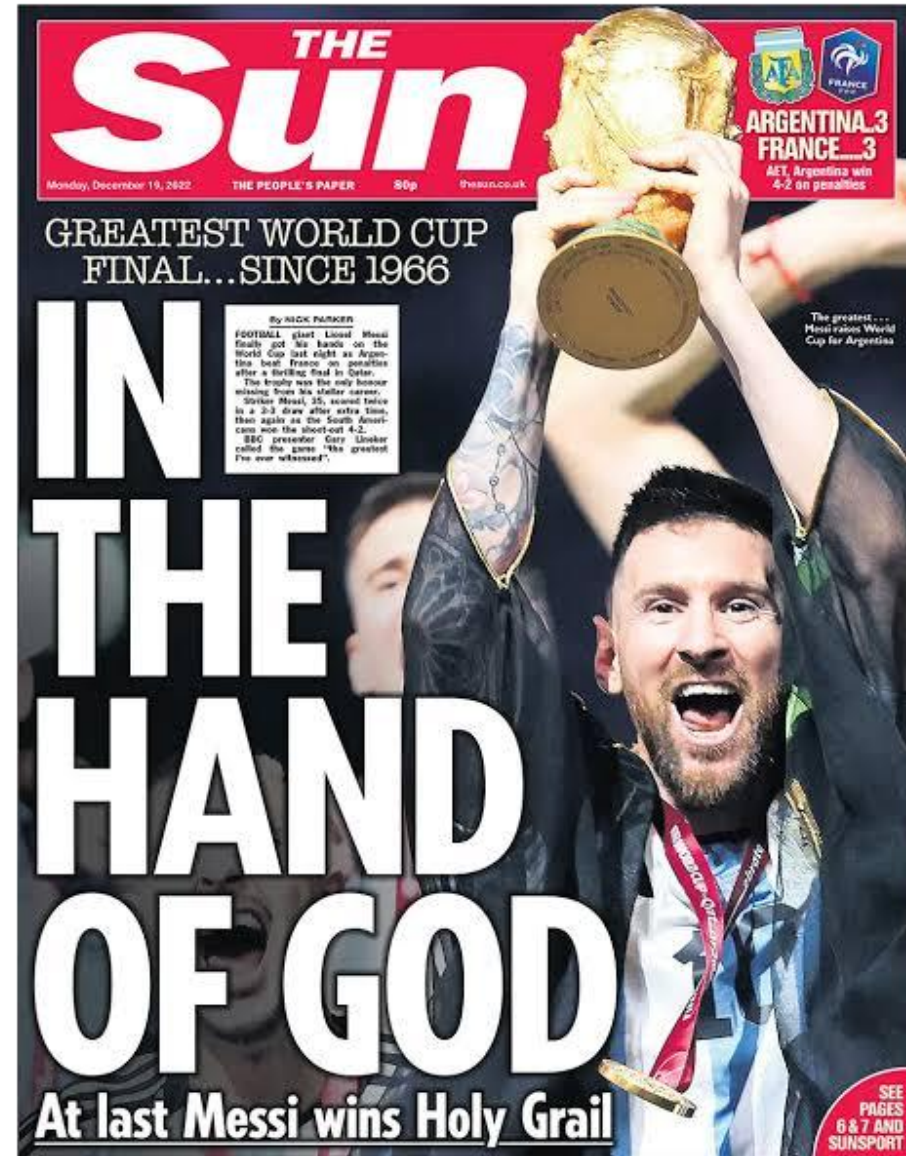


‘A painful defeat felt across the nation’

THE PUNCH that landed out around boxing hero Manny Pacquiao left the Philippines shocked. Even the highest offices of government as the man in the sport, Pacquiao’s defeat deepened again already weighed down in a country dealing with a killer typhoon that left more than 1,000 dead or missing last week. Sen. Francis Pangilinan summed up the national mood.

Highlights CONFLICT & ACTION

Offers greater freedom of style in writing



Uses **sports lingo** and **fancy verbs**



Is more playful when relating to scenes

Ruthless Jannik Sinner marches into French Open fourth round

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Brawl Mars FIBA Qualifier Between the Philippines and Australia



Share full article



**We write sports stories to bring
the game and experiences to our
readers**

storytelling

vivid descriptions

emotions and context

game highlights

specialized terms



creative writing

SPORTS WRITING

Maintain the Momentum of Ideas

Boost the Power of Movements



**Dapat maramdaman ng mambabasa
na parang nanonood din sila ng laro.**

**And your words and stories have the
power to let your readers feel the
intensity and drama
as if they're inside the court.**

LEAD/INTRO

The sports lead is the attention-getter.

Summary Lead

The Novelty Lead

The Key Play Lead

The Outstanding Player Lead

The Analytical Approach Lead

The Summary Lead

“Six Honest Serving Men”

5Ws 1H

What, Who, When, Where, Why, How

Basic info. lang muna!

The Summary Lead

Catanduanes National High School Lady Spikers completed their back-to-back championships on Wednesday after sweeping Gigmoto Rural Development High School in Game 2 of their best-of-three series, 25-23, 25-20, 25-16, at the Virac Sports Complex.

The Summary Lead

Naungusan ni former Palarong Bicol medalist Jay Abayon mula sa Catanduanes National High School ang Bato-based paddler na si Rico Miranda, 2-0, para masungkit ang huling puwesto para sa gold medal match matapos ang table tennis semifinals na ginanap sa Virac Sports Complex.

The Novelty Lead

Attention-getter lead.

It has to be effective, unique, and striking.

Dapat kakaiba!

The Novelty Lead

The grittiest battle leads to the sweetest victory.

Despite facing the much experienced opponent, the 13-year-old cue artist from Virac overcame an early deficit and defeated the 11th grader, 10-7, winning the 9-ball billiards gold medal yesterday.

The Novelty Lead

Hindi makaalpas sa bilis at lakas.

Muling nangibabaw ang kombinasyon ng lakas at liksi ni Jerry Novio, 12-anyos na smasher ng Bato Rural Development High School matapos nitong dominahin si Reggie Espiritu, 3-0, sa kanilang badminton quarterfinals na sagupaan sa Virac Sports Complex.

The Novelty Lead

Walang makakapigil!

Muling nanalasa ang defending champion Red Warriors matapos tambakan ang Green Archers, 80-48, sa ikatlong araw ng basketball tournament kahapon sa Ynares Sports Stadium.

The Novelty Lead

Gintong medalya na, naging bato pa.

Bigong maipanalò ni Rex Teves ang gintong medalya matapos bumawi ni Trevor Leon sa huling set at makapagtala ng come-from-behind win, 2-1, sa kanilang table tennis finals sa Cuneta Astrodome kahapon.

The Novelty Lead

Solid connection at its finest!

Flaunting their on court chemistry, the tandem of Jorge Wawao and Jes Discaya proved to be a strong force as they handled Unit 3 a 3-0 drubbing during the table tennis elimination game yesterday at the school auditorium.

The Novelty Lead

A promise made last year was finally fulfilled today.

Fuelled by the team's early exit last provincial meet, Catanduanes National High School team captain Rex Vargas fulfilled his promise by lifting his squad after posting 32 points and 12 rebounds to reclaim the basketball championship.

The Novelty Lead

Simply unstoppable!

Virac point guard sensation Jason Curry posted yet another masterful performance scoring 12 points to carry Unit IV Cagers to a lopsided victory, 21-8, against Unit 1 Dribblers.

The Novelty Lead

A familiar foe in a different territory.

Facing against each other for the third time this year, visiting junior smasher Jun Reyes will face Bato-based netter Clyde Dizon in his home turf for the men's badminton gold medal at Cabugao covered court tomorrow.

The Key Play Lead

The most decisive or most crucial moment of the game. This is the turning point of the match.

Dramatic ending ba.

The Key Play Lead

The Calatagan High School bombed the Nationalian Batters with six runs in the third inning to subdue a nerve-fuzzling Nationalian rally, 14-12, as they clinched the invitation game yesterday at the Virac Athletic Complex.

The Key Play Lead

Down two points with four seconds left in the final frame, hot shooting guard Bimby Yap nailed a halfcourt 47 feet shot, leaving Catanduanes State University Ballers in shock, 73-72 to snatch the victory yesterday at CatSU Gymnasium.

The Outstanding Player Lead

**Start your story with
the best player of the game and support it with
statistics.**

***Sino ang bida sa laro?
MVP level ba?***

The Outstanding Player Lead

Kirby Aguilar shook off a shoulder injury to 15 attacks and 8 blocks, as the Unit III Dragons staged a dramatic comeback victory to beat Unit IV Panthers, 3-2, yesterday at the Rawis Gymnasium.

The Outstanding Player Lead

Sumandal ang CatSU Lizards sa heroics ni Ramona Ang matapos itong makapagtala ng 10 points sa huling taltong minuto ng laban upang tangayin ang panalo kontra FEU Tamarrows sa quarterfinals ng women's 3x3 basketball.

HEADLINE

The headline of a sports coverage should tell right away who or which team won over whom. Appropriate action words should be used to indicate who won depending on how the event unfolded.

SPORTING EVENT:

4ACH



HEADLINE NG
SPORTS ARTICLE:



USUAL HEADLINE

Winning Player + Verb + Losing Player

CNHS Tigers dump CatSU Lizards

Teston upsets former Palarong Bicol medalist

USUAL HEADLINE

Winning Team/Player + Verb + Losing Team/Player

CRDHS pinatumba ang Tubli cagers

Unit I Tigers ginulat ang Unit III Warriors

USUAL HEADLINE

Winning Player + Verb + Losing Player

Unit 3 thrashes Unit 2

CNHS Cagers escape CHS Dunkers

USUAL HEADLINE

Winning Team/Player + Verb + Losing Team/Player

Subion pinaluhod si Rebola

Bagwis Catanduanes pinahiya ang Legaspi City

MODIFIED HEADLINE

Winning Player + Verb + Losing Player + Modifier

Red Lions survive Green Archers in semis

Ocampo punishes Santos in men's boxing

MODIFIED HEADLINE

Winning Player + Verb + Losing Player + Modifier

Red Lions sinuwag ang Blue Archers sa semis

Virac nanlamig kontra Caramoran sa unang laban

STORY-BASED HEADLINE

Winning Player + Verb + Story-Based Angle

Santos siblings extend reign in dancesports

Blue Eagles dominate elimination round

STORY-BASED HEADLINE

Winning Player + Verb + Story-Based Angle

**Aguilar nagbida sa panalo ng Unit I kontra Unit
III**

**Ranola sibak sa 9-ball open; Pagulayan
umabante sa quarters**

Double Decker (comma)

**Virac fends off Bagamanoc,
books Palarong Panlalawigan finals vs Bato**

**Araojo-Jacob tandem outshines San Andres,
claims four golds in dancesports**

HAMMER

COMPLETE DOMINANCE

Virac kickers sweep foes in Mayor's Cup

BACK AGAINST THE WALL

CNHS tries to avoid elimination,
faces defending champs

HAMMER

DROUGHT NO MORE

Pandan cops gold medal in volleyball after ten years

STILL UNDEFEATED

Subion shames Sarmiento,
retains perfect record

HAMMER

WALANG ATRASAN

Caramoran gymnasts humataw sa ikalawang araw ng
Palarong Bicol

SUPALPAL

Fajardo pumoste ng career-high
sa panalo ng Beermen kontra Kings

Claim

Cop

Seize

Reign

Rule

Dump

Overwhelm

Destroy

Demolish

Knock Out

Shock

Shame

Outsmart

Outclass

Below is a list of words sportswriters substitute for “defeat” in different situations. Pick those words that you believe are inappropriate, can be used in close matches or in total dominance.

crush	rip	kill	ruin	pummel
destroy	murder	slay	poke	wreck
down	edge	upend		devastate
beat	trounce	bury	wallop	nail
rout	annihilate	clobber	bomb	upset
rock	beat up	punch		put away
surprise				

CLOSE MATCHES

- Pokes
- Edges
- Upends
- Holds off
- Sneaks past
- Shades
- Nips
- Survives
- Trounces
- Escapes
- Beats

CLOSE MATCHES

- Inungusan
- Bumalikwas
- Nagpumiglas
- Bumira
- Umungos
- Gumuhit
- Kumalas
- Inisahan
- Kumawala
- Dinaig
- Pinutol

LOPSIDED MATCHES

- Crush
- Rip
- Ruin
- Pummel
- Destroy
- Wreck
- Devastate
- Trounce
- Rout
- Annihilate
- Clobber
- Thrubs
- Manhandles
- Dismantles
- Whips
- Bludgeons
- Drubs
- Thrashes
- Wallops

LOPSIDED MATCHES

- Kumana
- Nagpasiklab
- Humataw
- Umariba
- Bumuwelta
- Bumalandra
- Lumarga
- Isinalpak
- Ginulat
- Winasak

Watch and analyze the game.

Team A – 85

Team B – 40

Tambak!

Watch and analyze the game.

Team A – 78

Team B – 77

Dikitan!

Watch and analyze the game.

Team A – 25 20 23

Team B – 21 25 25

Uy, humabol!

Watch and analyze the game.

Team A – 25 20 25

Team B – 21 25 23

Uy, muntik na!

THE BODY

- 1. The best highlight plays**
- 2. Play-by-Play**
- 3. Quotation (Interviews)**
- 4. Statistics**
- 5. Analysis**

“The best highlight plays”

Biglang uminit ang Unit I sa kalagitnaan ng first set matapos magpakawala si Rex Cortes ng tatlong matutulis na roll spikes para itabla ang iskor, 13-13.

“The best highlight plays”

Down by 2 points with four seconds left, Romeo delivered a dramatic three-point basket to shock the defending champions.

“Play-by-Play”

Agad na umarangkada ang tandem ng Unit I sa unang set matapos umiskor si Santos ng tatlong net drives at dalawang smash mula kay Bono, 5-2.

Bumuwelta naman ang 13-anyos na netter ng Unit IV nang bitawan nito ang mapanlinlang na crosscourt attacks, 6-4.

“Interview Quotes”

Ayon sa striker ng Lizards, naging epektibo ang kanilang paghahanda at game plan para sa laban kontra sa defending champions.

“Sinunod lang namin yung sinabi ni coach na dapat open communication at receive the ball properly,” ani Tud.

“Interview Quotes”

The thirteen-year-old paddler admitted that he was outplayed by Mareol from the start of second set.

“Nag-adjust siya sa kaniyang atake at talagang hindi ko napaghandaan iyon,” said Mareol.

“Statistics”

Pumoste si Alapag ng 15 points, 6 rebounds, at 4 assists, samantalang umambag naman ng 10 points, 5 rebounds, at 2 steals si Pingris.

“Statistics”

The defending champions banked on their defensive prowess after registering a team effort 15 blocks compared to only 4 deflections of Green Panthers.

**snapped four-game skid
went on a scoring rampage
hard-earned triumph
solid output
picked up the slack
late game meltdown
leaning on clutch baskets
four-point cushion
added 18 markers**

THE BODY

- 1. One sentence one paragraph rule**
- 2. Separate direct and indirect quotes**
- 3. One single idea per paragraph**
- 4. Choose important highlights only**
- 5. Use past tense**

POINTS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- 1. Lead should complement the headline**
- 2. Double check details**
- 3. Include in-game analysis and statistics**
- 4. Observe coherence of ideas, use cohesive devices**
- 5. Do not memorize sports article structure**
- 6. Include quotations/interviews**

Poor/Weak/Wrong

CNHS suffers close defeat at the hands of Bato RDHS

Bato Rural Development High School demolished Catanduanes National High School in a thrilling basketball game held at Cabugao Gymnasium, yesterday.

Poor/Weak/Wrong

Tigers drubbed the Lions in the opening set after scoring 1-0, then Lions responded with a powerful spike courtesy of Avila followed by Samonte's complex attacks, 1-3. But in the end, Tigers took care of the first set, 25-12.

Covering Sports Events



What should sports writers cover?

1. Actual games (from eliminations to finals)
2. Advancers (schedules or most-awaited events)
3. Story-based angles (significance, impact)
4. Drama and conflict (injuries, rivalries, records)





Possible challenges during sports coverage

- 1. Going to the game venue unprepared;**
- 2. Gets overwhelmed by lots of information;**
- 3. Lacks patience, grit, and passion ;**



Possible challenges during sports coverage

4. Is afraid of asking questions

5. Unfamiliar events such as chess, baseball, gymnastics, arnis, lawn tennis



Qualities of a Sports Writer

- 1. Must know sports rules**
- 2. Must attend games as reporter, not as spectator**
- 3. Must observe accuracy**
- 4. Must be able to take notes quickly without losing the sequence of a play**

What should sports writers do during the sports event?

1. Gather information before and after the game.
2. Always bring a piece of paper for score sheets and play-by-play account.

Tips in Writing Sports Story

- 1. Write the story immediately after the event.**
- 2. Be accurate not only with scores but also the highlights of the game.**
- 3. Include personal background of the player.**
- 4. Use sports lingo, but do not overdo it.**
- 5. Be selective in picking out details in the story.**

Tips in Writing Sports Story

- 6. Check for spelling, grammar rules, unity, and coherence.**
- 7. Put the final score high in the story.**
- 8. Do not editorialize. Keep it balanced.**
- 9. Do not hesitate to ask questions during interview.**

Preparing your sports writers before the contest

- 1. Let them watch different sports events. (Video or actual game)**
- 2. Act as an interviewee if you can't have the actual games.**
- 3. Allow them to develop their own style of writing as long as they follow the basic rules of reporting.**
- 4. Provide them with a rulebook of different sports events.**
- 5. Give them a compilation of sports articles from internet or newspaper (e.g. Spin.ph)**

Preparing your sports writers before the contest

6. DO NOT require them to memorize a sample article.
7. Analyze different styles of writing and ask them which of them is more effective for him as a writer.
8. Let them cover unfamiliar sports events.
9. DO NOT let them work on their writing skills alone.
We should always guide our writers.

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