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Longtime Sportswriter Hosting Lindenwood TV show

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Former St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist and local author Tom Wheatley has launched a new television show called "Sports Folks" on Lindenwood University's high-definition cable television channel, LUTV. The 20-minute show features interviews with notable St. Louis sports figures and covers personal, professional, and sports literature topics.

"Sports Folks" is a continuation of a course project Wheatley began while pursuing a master's degree in sports analysis and writing at Lindenwood. He worked with Joe Cernik, Ph.D., professor of political science and political management, to tailor a program that would serve his goal of eventually becoming an instructor at the collegiate level.

"I was amazed at the flexibility of the program and how accommodating the faculty is," Wheatley said.

During his successful career as a sports columnist, author, and on-air personality, Wheatley has encountered many figures of local renown, several of whom have been guests on the new show, which debuted on Jan. 5. "Sports Folks" has already featured guests such as former St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Jason Simontacchi, long-time major league batboy Fred Buchholz, and Tim Forneris, the man who caught Mark McGwire's 62nd homerun ball.

Before retiring in 2007, Wheatley had worked since 1984 as a sports columnist for the Post-Dispatch. He has contributed to ESPN Magazine, Sporting News and Hockey News, and currently delivers the morning sports report on KLOU 103.3's Smash Morning Show, which airs weekdays from 6-10 a.m. He also is a four-time recipient of the Sportswriter of the Year Award from the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association of Missouri.

Wheatley has authored and co-authored several works of non-fiction, including "The Memoirs of Bing Devine: Stealing Lou Brock and other Brilliant Moves by a Master G.M.," "Bob Forsch's Tales from the Cardinals Dugout," and "Bob Plager's Tales from the Blues Bench." The name of his Lindenwood television show was inspired by the title of his latest book, "St. Louis Sports Folks."

"Sports Folks" airs five times weekly and can be viewed on Charter Communications' channel 989, on the City of Florissant's channel 10, and on AT&T U-verse's channel 99.

All Lindenwood television programming is produced by university communications students under the direction of Ed Voss, LUTV director of operations and assistant professor of communications, and Peter Carlos, LUTV station manager and assistant professor of communications. For more information about "Sports Folks" or other LUTV programming please visit www.lindenwood.edu, or contact Carlos at (636) 949-4513.