**Need to prep 1-2 hours for each hour you will be on the air**

**Things to Know Prior to the Game**
- Memorize the names and positions of important players and coaches
- Find out exactly who the key players are, know as much on their playing and personal background as possible
- Find out the little things going on with the team (details) which will help your sportscast sound professional and give you inside information listeners might not know about
- Research this year and last year’s individual/team records and stats
- Search newspapers/online articles about the teams and players
- Know as much as you can about the opponent (same steps as above), as well as the next opponent. Know who the opponent has played
- Know what happened in the last two games for both the home team and the away team
- Develop storylines for each team & the overall game
  - What does each game mean to each team?
  - What does either team need to do to be successful?
  - Player-specific storylines

**Know the Rules**
- Preparation starts with knowing the rules of the sport you are covering
- Nothing looks more silly than not knowing the rules

**Go Beyond the Stats**
- Continue to keep your preparation fresh – stories, content
  - You will get much more from coaches and players than from reading anything online
- Spend time with players and coaches before the broadcast to get some additional storylines and talking points
  - Try to schedule a meeting with players/coaches. Have questions prepared, don’t waste their time
**Pronunciation**
- Learn how to pronounce players' names correctly prior to the broadcast
- Spell the names the way you would say it on your spotting boards
- Ask players, coaches, SID’s, etc.

**Memorize Player Names, Numbers & Positions**
- MUST have key players memorized before the broadcast
- Tips:
  - If possible, watch previous games of the teams you are covering
    - Will familiarize you with the players
    - Watch for physical characteristics to help you remember different players
  - Use flash cards
    - Write names, numbers and positions
    - Take them with you and study in the days leading up to the broadcast
  - Fill out your spotting board
    - Use ink that will correspond to the color of each team
  - Memorize one player at a time
    - Start with player 1. When you have his name and number committed to memory then memorize player 1 and 2. After you have those two, move on to players 1, 2 and 3. Etc.
  - Practice spotting players during pre-game warm-ups
    - Just like watching film, it will allow you to associate a physical characteristic with the player’s name and number
  - Having trouble?
    - Focus on skill position players or those who play more than others
    - During the broadcast only cover one ear with your headphones. That way you can hear the PA announcer identify players
Spotting Boards & Rosters
- Have starters & backups for each position
- Include stats & brief notes
- Need entire rosters in addition to spotting board
- Be able to write in notes for players in game for reference (ex: Johnson 73 yd rush TD 1Q)

Head coach, player, team notes
- Go more in–depth
  - History
  - Season trends
  - Interesting stories, facts
  - Background info
  - Search to find extended info on players you can reference
  - Expanded information you cant fit in your spotting board
- Gives you talking points throughout the game

Team/Game Storylines
- Have storylines featuring both teams & the overall game
- These help your viewers to quickly be brought up to speed on what is important about this game and helps them to get invested in the story
- Game storylines teams (ex: two teams looking to turn their season around...both teams looking to move into a playoff position...last time teams met game was won on a controversial OT goal)
- Team specific overall storylines (ex: new head coach: Matt Edwards era begins...how will d-line fare vs run heavy attack...2nd in SCIAC passing last year but returns only 1 WR)
Writing the Pre-game Intro

- Tells audience why they should listen
- Describe who, what, when, where, why, how
  - Who is playing
  - Why this game is important
  - What is going on
  - When it will happen
  - Location of the game
  - How it will be carried out
- General teaser which entices the listener
- Cut to the chase and tell them exactly what they need to know, then expand further later
  - After the intro, expand on everything you talked about to form your the pregame show

Intro:
Ex) “Coming to you live from Pritzlaff Field where the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Stags match-up against the Whittier Poets, I’m John Doe here to bring you this SCIAC conference battle. Both teams could use a win here today as the Stags currently lead the Poets by 1 point in the conference standings but both are on the outside looking in at a potential SCIAC postseason tournament berth.”
(:20:-:30)

Pre-game show:
Ex) “For the 7-6-1 Stags, this season has been one filled with many ups and downs, highlighted by a four game winning streak that was snapped last week at the hands of the Chapman Panthers. CMS is an offensive powerhouse but they need to find defensive consistency to close out the year....”
(However long you want the pre-game show to be)
- Expand on what each team needs to do to win
- Storylines (ex: #1 offense vs. #2 defense, player makes return from injury, win would put team in playoff position, streaks, etc.)
- Keys to the game/what to watch for
- Important players