

Stephen Thompson
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Education

The University of Pittsburgh, bachelor's degree in Communications and Political Science, 2018-2022

Previous Employment

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh PA

College sports reporter, July 2024-Present

- Covered University of Pittsburgh athletics, with an emphasis on football and men's basketball, plus relevant institutional, financial and legal matters for Western Pennsylvania's premier regional newspaper.
- Crafted weekly publication schedules, managed a travel budget, appeared in and edited original video content, contributed to podcasts and radio shows, covered daily news in addition to managing larger enterprise projects and maintaining a strong social media presence.
- Writing samples included live game coverage, profiles and features, obituaries, breaking news, columns and analysis of local and national events.
- Adapted coverage plans to fit with changing goals within the sports desk as the organization sought growth in its digital platforms.
- Established close working relationships with athletes, coaches and media relations staff to ensure we could deliver the best possible coverage of our subjects.

SI.com — [Inside the Panthers](#) and [All Steelers](#), Pittsburgh PA

Publisher and contributing writer, May 2022-June 2024

- Led coverage of Pitt athletics for a dedicated site on the Sports Illustrated network and contributed to its Pittsburgh Steelers site.
- Covered live breaking news, games, practices, locker room media availabilities and press conferences; wrote copy and organized a publishing routine for social media feeds on multiple platforms; created and edited original video content.
- Helped *Inside the Panthers* rise steadily up the viewership rankings of SI.com's college network since its inception in March 2022 using a detailed understanding of SEO optimization and best practices.
- Managed interns and other staff writers.

[The Pitt News](#), Pittsburgh PA

Sports Editor, April 2019-April 2022

Sports Staff Writer, September 2018-March 2019

- Assumed an editor's position in the spring of 2018. Managed, hired and edited a staff of anywhere from 10 to 15 writers. Prepared weekly budgets for daily production of the sports desk. Contributed

to daily editorial columns concerning campus and national news. Secondary duties included beat coverage of Pitt's men's basketball program.

- Maintained regular weekly production of The Pitt News sports desk, which had moved wholly online and remote during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Made appearances on various episodes of sports talk radio shows and podcasts representing the Pitt News.
- Winner of a first prize for Sports Commentary in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's 2020 Golden Circle Contest. Earned an honorable mention for both Best Sports Game Story of 2019 by the Associated Collegiate Press and Feature Story in the 2020 Keystone Student Media Awards.

Other Skills

- Effective communicator, able to explain tasks clearly and delegate when needed. Comfortable working independently and in teams. Previous experience managing staff.
- Experienced with creating and editing written, audio and video content.
- Strong writer, with good instincts for professional, journalistic and essay writing.
- Fluent with WordPress, Tempest, Libercus, Google and Outlook application software, as well as several social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.
- Experienced in curating SEO elements to ensure content reaches the largest audience possible.