

The School of Communication & Media Presents:

SPORTS COMMUNICATION & CAREERS PANEL

TUESDAY, MARCH 23 AT 6:30 P.M.

Hear from leading communication professionals in the sports industry!

- David Bassity, vice president of football communications at the Atlanta Falcons
- Brian Finneran, sports talk radio host at 680 The Fan and former Atlanta Falcons player
- Kaelen Jones, staff writer at The Ringer
- Traci Messier, account lead/sports practice co-lead at Jackson Spalding
- Ben Osborne, former editor-in-chief at Bleacher Report

Join the conversation here: [\(link coming soon\)](#)

Learn more about our panelists:

David Bassity, Vice President of Football Communications at Atlanta Falcons

Bassity joined the Falcons in 2019, and in his role as VP of Football Communications, he serves as the day-to-day communications liaison for the Falcons' leadership, coaches, and players. Before moving to the Falcons, Bassity served as senior associate athletics director at the University of Houston, where he oversaw the communications, video production and graphic design departments. Bassity has also worked as the assistant director for communications at the University of Oklahoma and as coordinator of public relations for the Professional Bowlers Association.

Brian Finneran, Sports Talk Radio Host at 680 The Fan

Finneran is co-host of the Front Row, a morning sports talk show at 680 The Fan. He also serves as host of the Atlanta Falcons radio pregame show during the NFL season. Prior to becoming a radio host, Finneran was a wide receiver for the Falcons from 2000-10, amassing 3,072 receiving yards and 19 touchdowns with the team. During his college career at Villanova University, he was awarded the Walter Payton Award as the top offensive player at the FCS level.

Kaelen Jones - Staff writer at The Ringer

Jones is a staff writer for The Ringer, where he covers the NFL and college football. The California native is also a regular guest on the site's extensive podcast network. Prior to his latest stop, Jones spent a year covering Texas Longhorns football at The Athletic. A 2018 graduate from Arizona State, Jones has also served as an associate reporter at MLB.com, working on the Los Angeles Angels and Dodgers beats, and as a breaking news writer for Sports Illustrated.

Traci Messier, Account Lead/Sports Practice Co-Lead at Jackson Spalding

Messier is the sports practice co-lead at Jackson Spalding, a public relations agency. She has led accounts for Mizuno and the Atlanta Sports Council, which included work with the College Football Playoff National Championship, the Super Bowl and the Final Four. Before entering the world of public relations, Messier was a sports anchor and reporter in Rochester, N.Y. She began her career in sports working as a researcher and production assistant at CBS Sports, including being a part of its 1994 Winter Olympics team.

Ben Osborne, editor and writer

Osborne was editor-in-chief at Bleacher Report from 2016-2020. During his tenure, he oversaw all text content and created B/R Mag, the site's long-form storytelling section. From 2006-2016, Osborne was editor-in-chief at SLAM magazine. At the monthly publication, he launched its social media accounts and published special issues covering Michael Jordan and LeBron James. Osborne has also written for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* and is author of the book *The Brooklyn Cyclones: Hardball Dreams and the New Coney Island*.