

Sports Power point

- Slide #1** Tips for Better Photographs, Part Deux
- Slide #2** **Tip #1:** Learn what your camera can and cannot do. Read the instruction book.
Tip #2: Learn what your flash can and cannot do. Again, read your instruction book.
- Slide #3** Grips and grins, portraits and events are all relatively easy. Most times, everything is set up beforehand and all the shooting is relatively up close and personal.
- Slide #4** Sports, on the other hand, can give most people problems.
- Slide #5** **Tip #3** Follow the ball: You have to find it first, so look closely. In many sports, if you can follow or watch the ball, you can walk away with some really cool shots. In some sports, you have to know where the ball will be going next (this is where knowing something about the sport comes in really handy).
- Slide #6** Practice, timing, lighting and shutter speeds, and focus are the main points of this presentation. If you practice with the other four, you will get better photos.
- Let's start with practice: Practice, practice and more practice really help at this job. Watch your teams at practice. Watch the local high school teams. Learn something about the sports that you are photographing.
- Slide #7** Talk to the coaches; they will help you. Learning the sport will also help you with your timing. Soccer, baseball, football or golf...no matter the sport, the more you know about the sport, the better off you'll be.
- Slide #8** Soccer, baseball, football softball: All the sports you'll be shooting have an element of timing.

- Slide #9** **Timing** is necessary to capture that really great shot.
- Slide #10** **Shoot too early**, and you have no shot.
- Slide #11** **Shoot too late**, and you still have no shot.
- Slide #12** Push the shutter button **right on time** and you'll get that great shot you're looking for. Again, knowing the sport will help you in timing the pitch, the kick or the pass for the best photograph.
- Slide #13** That "best photograph" also depends on how much light you have to work with and knowing what shutter speed you'll need. The lighting will determine the shutter speed you'll be using.
- Slide #14** Sunshine will let you use a fast shutter speed to freeze the action.
(baseball and softball) Easy to do! My suggestion: Shoot with a fast shutter speed a portion of the time to freeze the action and a slow shutter speed another portion of the time to show the action. Both shots will work, as long as the players are in focus. (That will come later.)
- Slide #15** Dim light, night-time or indoor sports will be a little tougher. Fast shutter speeds won't work.
- Slide#16** But it can be done if you know what your camera can do. Read your instruction book about low light situations
- Slide #17** **Know your camera**
Read up on your manual settings.
Read up on your flash sync speeds.
(football and basketball shots)
Shoot with flash on a power like full or half (depending on the distance to your subject). Here again practice before the game then at game time you'll have what you need for the great shots. My camera syncs at 250 or 500 shutter speed. If you shoot digital, use the viewer on the back. If you shoot film, use the first game to try different settings, write them down, and then use the settings of the photos that worked.

- Slide #18** Focusing: Where do you focus?
Again, knowing something about the game will help you to focus in the right place and to know where the ball is going to get the shot.
(soccer, baseball, basketball, football and softball)
In basketball, I've focused on the net, followed the players to it and then took the shot...or watch for the ally oop. The Nikon D70, like other cameras, will hold your focus point if you hold the shutter bottom halfway down. In football you have to watch the center and the QB. The action is fast, so watch the player carefully as he hands the ball off to the back or passes it down field. Knowing the sport will help here, as well. In baseball and softball, try to focus on a part of the player that doesn't move too much (hip or front knee cap). These parts don't move very much as the player swings the bat or throws the pitch.
- Slide #19** If the player is out of focus, the shot will be unusable. You may have caught the ball, but the shot is still no good.
- Slide #20** When the player is in focus, the shot is good. Yes, it's best when the ball is caught in the shot, even when it's blurred, as in this shot. The player is in sharp focus, so you could use the shot if you really had to, even if the ball wasn't in the shot.
- Slide #21** Here's the lagniappe (a little something extra)!
- Slide #22** **EXPERIMENTATION!!** This is the fun part. Do this as much as possible, and everyone will think you're working so hard at learning your camera. Try different things while you're shooting. Go to a practice, and get in as close as the coach will allow you...without getting hurt, of course!
- Slide #23** **Crop:** If you get a really great shot, but it's a little too wide, just crop it, and take out all the erroneous stuff or people. The newspapers do this all the time! I sometimes watch the photographer who comes to our games. They shoot wide most of the time and then crop the good shots to give that "in the action" feel. You can do it, too.

Don't forget the coaches! Watch their faces during a game. Watch their reactions to the calls made by the refs. These are all really cool shots, especially if you get the shot just as they win a really big game, or after that winning touchdown or homerun. They'll love you for that!

Slide #24 Try different lenses, if you have them. I've shot with a wide-angle lens at a football game, and it looks great, especially from the top of the stands or right on the goal line at a low angle. Everybody gets stuck using the same two lenses for sports – try something out of the ordinary.

And speaking of out of the ordinary, try different angles. Have you ever walked to your opponent's side of the field? Don't laugh, I know it happens. I try to shoot from all sides of the event, no matter what type of sport. I try to move all the way around the field. If you try this at your next game, be careful: You might run into me!

Slide #25 Last but not least, have fun with it. If you're not having fun, then it's just work! When I work a sporting event, and I'm on that field, I'm having fun... and lots of it (unless it rains!). I enjoy being a photographer. I have the best job at my college. Just don't tell my boss: She thinks I'm working, and I don't want her to think otherwise! In conclusion, the bottom line is, enjoy what you do. Have fun with it. And above all

READ YOUR INSTRUCTION BOOK!!