Colts Internship

Maybe it wasn't exactly playing wide receiver to an Andrew Luck pass, but an Indianapolis Colts internship for IUPUI student Drew Dickinson is still a pretty good conversation opener—not to mention great on-the-job experience and a hefty boost to his collegiate resume.

Dickinson transferred to the Indianapolis campus after hearing great things about the sports management major at IUPUI. After taking a final exam, assistant professor Dave Pierce asked about his plans for the summer then told him about the Colts internship. "I have a lot of experience with what they needed, so I sent them my resume," said Dickinson.

The internship offered experience in the football press box, allowing Drew to assist the Colts stats crew with gathering and publishing the official NFL statistics for home games. "I'd coached basketball, and I could quickly compile numbers," said Dickinson.

He could also hustle. He went to the Colts complex hoping to put a face to his credentials, then found out the stats crew only comes in on game days. But the director heard of the attempt and appreciated the initiative—how Dickinson went the extra mile— and offered him a position.

Though initially a little star-struck by the reporters, former players, and coaches who populate the press box along with the stats crew, Dickinson learned a lot, technology-wise and culturally. "I was surprised at how calm and good the people are who do this for a living," he said. "There's a lot of joking and camaraderie in the room during games—I thought it'd be more intense. But everyone's prepared, and they gave us (interns) a responsibility we could handle. They set us up to succeed."

Dickinson has a passion for sports and wants to work in the industry. "I wouldn't mind working for the Colts," he says laughing. "I was really grateful for the internship—and impressed with the professors here at IUPUI. They know people in a lot of different industries and they really want us to learn, not just in class but on the field." So to speak.

—*Lynnell Nixon*