**Reflection Essay**

Ryan Leonard

My internship this semester has been outstanding. I really enjoy working at Peoria Sports Complex. There are many things I like, but also a few things I dislike. I liked seeing the pros, working with my hands, and learning more about baseball. I disliked having to work outside, being on my feet all day, and doing all the grunt work.

Working at Peoria Sports complex was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone. There were many very cool people there. I was able to sit in the dugout of the spring training games. I would have to go out and do the 3rd and 6th inning drags of the fields. It was cool seeing all the people watching the game. While I was there I could talk to all the professional baseball players. They were really relaxed and very funny. While I wasn’t in the stadium, I would be out on the practice fields. Those fields are where minor league teams’ play and pros do their normal practices. After the teams finished on the field, we would be tasked with preparing the fields for the next day. I really enjoyed working with these guys. They all knew a ton about the sport. They taught me many things, not only about the sport itself, but the fields as well. It’s a science to take care of a professional baseball field. They have certain amounts of water to give the grass, certain ways to maintain the infield material, and there are many different layers of material underneath a baseball diamond. It’s very interesting and I really liked working here.

Although I really enjoyed my experiences, sometimes it wasn’t the best. Being a baseball facility, everything was outside. I would constantly be getting burnt by the harsh Arizona sun. At the beginning of my internship in February, it would be very cold outside. Now, in May, it tends to be hot outside working. I was either freezing, or sweating a lot. All the work is physical labor to, so you definitely would work up a sweat. I also was standing for most of the day, which lead to my feet hurting after a while. Since I was the new guy, I had to do all the low-end jobs, including raking up little pieces of dirt in the grass, and cleaning up the tools. This wasn’t too bad, but I’d rather not do it. This work has very little things I dislike about it.

Over this past semester, I’ve learned a lot. Hard-work pays off, respect goes far, and always wear sunscreen. I really enjoy working at Peoria Sports Complex and learning from all the great people that I work with. If I had to intern anywhere, I’d definitely pick Peoria Sports Complex again.