January 18, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am happy to recommend Mr. Stephen Manney for your program. In my role as Director of Athletic Communications at Middlebury College, I serve as a link between members of the media and our athletic department. Stephen and I interacted several times each month during his tenure as a sports reporter in Vermont.

 Serving nearly a quarter century at Middlebury, I have encountered many members of the media, but few have displayed the passion, commitment and determination that Stephen did. He often made it a priority to commit to the hour-long drive down a two-lane rural road to cover the programs at our Division III Institution. As he became familiar with the region, those trips became increasingly fruitful and cast a positive light on Middlebury Athletics.

 Among all the media outlets covering the state of Vermont, Stephen worked at the one with the smallest staff and least resources. As a result, he couldn’t make it to as many of the of our events as his competition, and I know that frustrated him. In an effort to provide the best coverage of our area that he could, Stephen had to make sure that the trips he made to our campus were as impactful as possible. He would work with me and his producers to prioritize the best stories and focus on the events that mattered most to our community. The topics he chose to cover received his undivided attention and the quality of work was among the best I’ve seen.

 Because I knew that Stephen would do a fine job, I was always happy to have him at our facilities. Eager to showcase the best story he could, Stephen frequently made an effort to be the first reporter to conduct an interview or get that “money shot” with his camera. He was a very quick learner, and soon gained the respect of players and coaches across all of our programs. He knew what questions to ask, when to ask them, and when to step back for a moment and leave the athletes alone.

 Today, I am very comfortable granting Stephen full access to any of our wide range of sports teams and events. I trust that he will respect teams and officials at sporting events and recognize that my high opinion of Stephen is shared by many of our most regarded coaches. I understand some of these coaches have even made a point to send personal thank you notes to him for providing such excellent coverage. I strongly believe that Stephen will achieve great success as he embarks on a career in sports business.

Sincerely,

Brad Nadeau