

# Parsons Sun

## **Parsons' Emery honored by NASPAA**

By Chris Dukes

Sun Sports Editor

It may have taken Rob Emery years to hone his skills and become the kind of announcer he wanted to be, but from the beginning he knew what kind of announcer he didn't want to be.

"I knew I didn't want to be one of those announcers who screams and yells for the home team. I wanted to be as professional as I could by being kind of neutral and showing respect," Emery explained.

From that simple idea a career has blossomed for Emery, who has spent the last 28 years calling Labette Community College games.

"When I first started at LCC, all we had were women's basketball, wrestling and baseball."

From there, not only did LCC's athletic catalog expand, so did Emery's career. First into Parsons High School and eventually to Pittsburg State University, but none of the high-profile gigs could fully prepare Emery for the announcement that he had been named Junior College Public Address Announcer of the Year by the National Association of Sports Public Address Announcers.

"I am truly humbled to be the recipient of this award," Emery said. "Being a P.A. announcer is more than just sitting behind a mic and talking. It takes dedication, desire and love of the profession. I hope that I can be a great ambassador for all P.A. announcers. It is an honor to represent the thousands of men and women who announce for their respective junior colleges."

To be honored, an applicant must first be nominated by the respective school's athletic director, sports information director or a head coach. Emery received overwhelming support of the LCC coaching staff with athletic director Aaron Keal, men's basketball coach Armando Johnson, women's basketball coach Jamie Green and wrestling coach Joe Renfro all writing letters of recommendation for Emery.

Then Emery sent in a sample of his welcome announcement, introduction of the National Anthem, introduction of the starters for home and opponents and live samples from a game. The samples were sent all over the country to a board consisting of high-profile P.A. announcers, who voted for Emery.

“The NASPAA P.A. Announcer of the Year Awards Program is intended to pay tribute to the P.A. announcers who demonstrate a high regard for professionalism,” said NASPAA Executive Director Brad Rumble. “Rob Emery represents the very best in P.A. announcing. We could not be more pleased that he is our junior college announcer of the year.

While Emery waits for his ring, he must also prepare to go back to the grind.

“My schedule is pretty much packed from football season through May,” Emery said.

Emery’s schedule includes Pitt State, LCC and Parsons events, as well as local events such as parades.

“The part of the job I love the most is getting to know the kids that I am announcing,” said Emery. “I still have friends to this day who wrestled at LCC over 20 years ago. I think that is pretty neat.”

This award will certainly go in the trophy case for Emery, who lists announcing the NHPAA National Track and Field Meet and the NJCAA National Women’s Basketball Tournament among his biggest career accomplishments.

For anyone looking to break into the P.A. announcer profession, Emery has simple advice.

“Be professional and be prepared,” Emery said. “Some announcers are so biased that people walk away with a bad taste in their mouth. It always means a lot when a visiting coach or fan will come up and compliment me after the game.”