

*By - Kyle Schimmoeller  
Class of 1999*



It seems like just yesterday that I was sitting in the St. John's gymnasium in the spring of 1999 preparing to graduate and head off to college. Nine years later I sit here in my townhouse in Baltimore, Maryland reflecting on what I have done over the course of that time. I am currently employed as an assistant certified athletic trainer for the Baltimore Ravens organization.



Certified athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in preventing, recognizing, managing and rehabilitating injuries that result from physical activity. As part of a complete health care team, the certified athletic trainer works under the direction of a licensed physician and in cooperation with other health care professionals, athletics administrators, coaches and parents. In order to become a certified athletic trainer, one must earn a degree from an accredited athletic training curriculum.

Immediately following graduation I went to Ohio State University ready to embark on new adventures and start pursuing my studies in the field of athletic training. Throughout the course of my four years at OSU, I was able to gain valuable field experience by working with numerous OSU varsity athletic teams such as football, lacrosse, volleyball, track and field, and swimming and diving. The education and work experience I acquired at OSU laid the foundation for the next couple of years as I strived to reach my goal of working as a certified athletic trainer in the National Football League.

My first step towards working in the NFL came in the summer of 2001 when I completed a summer internship with the New Orleans Saints. During that summer I spent six weeks in Thibodaux, Louisiana working training camp. As an intern I was responsible for players' rehabilitation, treatments, and pre-practice preparations. At the conclusion of my six week internship, the Saints athletic training staff invited me to come back the next summer and work training camp again. I returned for the summer of 2002 and that experience further enhanced my desire to work in the NFL.

The second step I took towards my goal was when I decided that I needed to further my education beyond a bachelor's degree and receive a master's degree. I enrolled at the University of Tennessee in the fall of 2003 where I worked as a graduate assistant athletic trainer in the Men's Athletic Department and worked my way toward a master's degree in Sports Management. During my two years at UT, I worked as a certified athletic trainer for the men's swimming and diving and football varsity teams. In the summer of 2004, my

experience working with the UT Diving team allowed me the opportunity to attend the 2004 United States Olympic Diving Trials and assist in providing medical coverage for the event. Additionally, my work with the Tennessee football program enabled me to work the 2004 Southeastern Conference Championship Game and the 2005 New Years Day Cotton Bowl.

After graduating from UT in the spring of 2005, I packed my bags up once again and headed to Baltimore where I had earned an internship with the Baltimore Ravens. I spent the 2005 season working as an intern in the Athletic Training Department. Shortly after the conclusion of the 2005 season, I was asked to join the organization as a full time employee as an Assistant Athletic Trainer. I continue to enjoy my experiences here in Baltimore working with the Ravens organization.

As I have just spent the last hour reflecting on the last nine years of my life, I can honestly say I would not change a thing. I have been fortunate to be presented with some of these opportunities but I could not have done it by myself. Only with the help of others (my family, OSU athletic training staff, and the UT athletic training staff) have I been able to reach my dream of working in the National Football League. I just want to thank them once again for helping me reach my goal of becoming an assistant athletic training in the National Football League.

