

THE UNFORGETTABLE BASEBALL GAME

How a singular baseball game became an integral childhood memory in this up-and-coming journalist's life.

By Sydney Burzynski

Crack! The sound of a wooden bat hitting a baseball rings loud in the stadium as cheers grow to a deafening roar for the Washington Nationals. All the bases were loaded and in that one run alone, the Nationals gained four points.

Sports is an integral part of many Americans' lives and Katie Callahan is no exception. That one Washington Nationals game serves as one of her earliest and fondest memories of her childhood. But it was not the prodigious run during the game that stood out to Callahan, rather it was her reaction to everything. Callahan recalls "striking a little pose in front of anything she possibly could," whether that be a statue or the stadium's front gate. Despite her brothers, who were well into their teenage years by then at age 15, they appeased her by taking enough photos to fill up a scrapbook.

Growing up in Manassas, Virginia, in the suburbs of Washington D.C.,

Callahan and her family would frequent the Washington Nationals baseball games only on special occasions. The combination of a 45-minute drive, paired with city traffic, and three children, her family treated these days as "all-day excursions". Despite how rare these outings were, they ended up becoming the core memories of Callahan's childhood.

As the youngest child, with an age gap of 10 years between herself and her two brothers, she found that sports served as a bridge to connect with her family. Callahan learned this early on in her youth. "They weren't interested in my elementary school drama," Callahan explains about her brothers, "but they were always interested in discussing sports". While they differed in sports, until Callahan reached high school, the three siblings would always watch baseball or basketball together. Even today, those two sports are Callahan's "absolute favorites".

Following the footsteps of her brothers, Callahan was inspired to join the lacrosse team in high school. Even as Callahan grew, the conversations revolving around sports with her brothers stayed constant. They discussed “strategy despite the difference between boys’ and girls’ lacrosse”.

While her lacrosse career started and ended in high school, her passion for dance continues well into her college years. Callahan is a journalism and electronic media major at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Though she is only a sophomore, she has a clear picture of how she wants her life post-university to be. With her degree, she hopes to go into sports media and communications.

She jokes about getting a sports media job from her sister-in-law, who currently works with the Denver Nuggets baseball team. But she claims that it would be perfect given that her brothers live in Colorado and California now. With that future, she would be able to have her dream career and be able to see her brothers in person more frequently, where they can talk sports and attend games in person, together. Pictured above left is Callahan with roommate, Becca.

Pictured below left is Callahan with her family at the Washington Nationals baseball game.

