

Kelsey Atcheson with WHJE and Hilite is W-H-J-E's first female Radio staff sports broadcaster in over ten years.

[Kelsey:Yah I was made aware of that when I joined staff last year, uh, the teacher Spilbeler, he's one of my best friends now because of this. He told me, like, you're gonna be our first girl and he was really excited and he put this huge emphasis on my being a girl in the sports department.Because it is a bunch of guys and then Kelsey comes along and disrupts the balance of testosterone. And I mean, I really love everything that i'm doing in there and i really love the guys, it's just, it is, you are aware that you are the only girl in there and a lot of people are really surprised um, when they first met me. They were like what section are you gonna be in, what are you doin and I said sports and they were all very surprised because all they've really known for the last four years are the main guys that have really been big components in the sports department here.]

In hilite she is the editor of the sports department and in radio she has been the color announcer for three different sports. Although she is well on her way to becoming a professional sports broadcaster, she has run into a little bit of trouble being herself around the guys.

[intro]

[bed]

[Kelsey: Here we go.

Uhm, last year,and i would even say more sophomore year, I moved here sophomore year so I didn't really understand what a public school was like, so I wore makeup everyday, heavy makeup. I had my hair straightened every day, I woke up at five thirty just to get ready for school and i would have my outfit set out the night before. A lot of skirts, and dresses, and cute little

clothes that I found in stores but then junior year, that's when i really started to like, kind of deny who I was as a sports person because a lot of guys had brushed me off, and i also started dating that year, and it was like, a weird year for me, and I made sure I looked cute every day for whoever I was trying to impress or whatever guy I was talking to or something. And senior year, everything just kind of let go when I did become a sports broadcaster.

Personally I decided to kind of change my style in order to really prove to some of the guys around me, who are really discrediting me for the longest time about being a sports fan, um, that

I do know what i'm talking about and that I do know sports. I know last year whenever i mentioned my favorite football team or basketball team, where I'd mention the score of a game.

A bunch of guys would look at me, and I'm wearing a skirt and they'll be like, you really don't know what you're talking about and I would feel discredited a lot.

And I knew I would be faced with a bunch of guys, that I'd really have to prove myself, and I just kind of wearing, you know, leggings and a guy's shirt everyday, or a hoodie and some shorts. Crocs are definitely my favorite, little accessory to wear with my outfits. But I really try to downplay, you know, my body and my face and my hair. And not really look like a girl and just become a sports person that if a guy was just turning around and talk to and mention, you know, a game or something, they wouldn't be like, oh it's a girl talking about the game, they'd just be like oh it's someone talking about the game, no big deal.

However now that I've realized that like, I've hidden my like, personal style and my personal self and everything, and i've really just let this sports person come forward and take the reigns.

But they have been respecting me a lot more and they will listen to me. They will notice what I'm saying and they will take really, believe in what I'm saying and sports facts that I say. But I have lost a little bit of me, I know the other day my mom forced me to go buy a bunch of dresses because she realized like, she was like, kelsey you need to actually, you know, start dressing like a girl. You can't go around wearing guys clothes everyday. And it's been kind of an ego blow to me because for the past two years I put such an emphasis on, having straightened hair everyday, on wearing makeup every single day, and looking cute everyday. And now I'm just kind of wearing a hoodie and shorts and I'll come to school, just so I can talk about sports without someone looking at me like, I'm literally the craziest person they've seen, 'cause that's what a lot of guys seem to do. I mean I could definitely be like, "Ah it's senior year I'm just trying to be lazy" but that's really not what it was. It was becoming a sports person. And I think this year's the only reason I've kind of really accepted who I am as a sports person, and I've accepted that I am a more masculine type of girl. And I like things that are normally deemed a masculine interests. Especially sports. Uh, mainly hockey, which is my favorite sport, and that a lot of girls don't really like and get into. And I definitely think my change in style has just, come about because I really have to, blend myself in.

One of the guys in the sports department the other day, I made a joke and he was like, "Why are you antagonizing me?" Like, I'll always dab when he's near me and it annoys him and I just really like to annoy the boys as much as I can, and he was like, "Why do you always do this to me?!" And I said in response, just out of nowhere, and I was like, "'Cause I have to prove

myself.” And that’s when I kind of had to do some internal looking into my life, and I had to realize that, a lot of the things I do aren’t because it’s my personality. It’s just because I have to let the boys see me as a boy and not a girl.]

After this was created I sat down with two more sports broadcasters for whje to discuss their viewpoints on what Kelsey has done within this last year. Here’s what they had to say after listening.

[Well, I mean, after listening to that, I do, in my personal opinion I feel like it’s kind of ridiculous that, um, people in sports would look differently at someone, in their passion as a sports broadcast, because of their gender. I mean, like, personally, I’m not even into sports. I’m in the sports department. I don’t even like sports at all. I’m the producer. I think that, just looking at someone and judging them before you even know anything about who they are, what they do, and even if they’re good at doing it, I think it’s kind of just ridiculous.]

[Um, I think it’s, I think it’s pretty powerful. I mean, she’s been apart of the sports department for pretty close to half a year now. I think she’s really kind of, she’s one of us, she knows enough to be I mean she is, she’s in the sports department. I think what she said earlier about her having to like, change her approach to having to talk to boys about sports, I think she’s kind of molded that into a friendship mentality. We’re all friends and we all kind of embrace, like, talking about sports you know we all, we all kind of revolve around, around sports. And we really know our stuff and I’ve gotten the opportunity to host a pregame show with her and it’s, it’s really fun. I think it’s also pretty cool because a lot of schools don’t actually do that. I think, a lot of schools, as she was saying earlier, when you think about sports departments in radio, in general, in tv, or any other media departments you think sports you think guys are running the show. I think it’s

kind of cool. It's really diverse, you know, having a girl on the pregame show and I think you look at like professional organizations that are doing, not organizations, but professional stations like E-S-P-N and C-B-S, they have a lot more girl anchors that are doing pretty big things for the media world. I think it's really cool and I love what she's done for the department so far.]

This has been Autumn Larkins with W-H-J-E. More stories like this on W-H-J-E dot com.