

Media row lacks women in sports  
By Leah Johnston  
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While it may seem like women are making strides in the sports reporting world and beginning to dominate the field, that is just not the case.

Sports reporting is still a male-dominated field, and according to the Associated Press, 90% of sports editor are white males.

Ava Wallace, a sports reporter at the Washington Post, who was one of three women out of about 50 reporters covering the Big East Basketball tournament Wednesday, said being a female sports reporter can be alienating.

“Being the only one, you have to be confident and you have to believe in yourself,” Wallace said.

Between 2008 and 2014, the percentage of female sports reporters was steadily rising. But, in 2017 there was a steep drop. The percentage of female sports reporters fell from 12.6 in 2014 to 11.5 in 2017, according to The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports (TIDES).

Not only are women statistically less represented as sports reporters but, when they are represented, they are severely less respected.

A quick Google search of female sports reporters brings up lists of the top 10 hottest sports reporters. While a search of their male counterparts brings up lists of, the best sports reporters, about me pages, and how men reporters feel about women reporters.

“When I come to events I’m like ‘Oh right we’re the outliers here,’” Wallace said. “But you also have to use what you can to your advantage.”

Some news outlets like ESPN are leading the way when it comes to diversity. According to a TIDES profile of 75 sports desks, out of the 89 women who were assistant sports editors in 2017, 75 were employed at ESPN.

According to Wallace the Washington Post is one of the few daily national newspapers that has a woman on every beat, except baseball.

“We’ve got somebody covering basketball, we’ve got somebody covering hockey, football, we’ve got it all covered,” Wallace said. “We are really unique in that we have a lot of women on our staff.”

While sports reporting is still mainly a male-dominated, news outlets like ESPN and the Washington Post have made female sports reporters more visible and prominent.

To those looking to get into sports reporting, Wallace says not to be shy and go for it full throttle.

“I would say to start writing as early and as often as you can, start going to games,” Wallace said. “The more experience you have the more you kind of know what you’re doing when you get there.”

