

# 'KABOOM': USI alum Jevin Redman balances life behind the mic and in stripes

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(Photo: Submitted / Jevin Redman)

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The first 3-pointer made by a Western Kentucky University women's basketball player also nets the same call by its play-by-play radio broadcaster.

"KABOOM"

Jevin Redman also used it to break the ice the past four years at the University of Southern Indiana. He realizes it's not distinctive, but it stuck during his sophomore year and who's to say it hasn't worked out for him?

"Some people like it. Some people probably get annoyed by it," he said. "I thought it worked for me and continued to use it. I'm not big on cliché calls, anyway."

Neither are those who have an ear for talent.

Redman twice finished in the top 20 for the Jim Nantz Award, which recognizes the nation's top collegiate broadcasters. Typically comprising that annual list are students from the most prestigious radio and television schools like Syracuse, Arizona State and Missouri. But, there was the Mount Vernon native from Division II Southern Indiana who checked in at No. 16 (<https://staatalent.com/all-america-program/2017-rankings/>) and 17 (<https://staatalent.com/all-america-program/2016-rankings/>).

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He's been on the rise since graduating last spring. The 23-year-old parlayed all the above into an internship as the No. 2 broadcaster for the Louisville Bats, the Triple-A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. Over the summer, his partner with the Bats alerted him to the WKU opening. A week after the season ended in September, he was chosen through a national search to be the next voice of the Lady Hilltoppers (<https://www.courierpress.com/story/sports/2017/09/13/usi-grad-jevin-redman-named-wku-womens-announcer/663620001/>), replacing Barry Williams after 33 seasons.

Chris Bloomfield, his hiring manager, said Redman knocked it out of the park in the interview process.

"He's such a young guy, but fairly accomplished given his age," said Bloomfield, the General Manager of Hilltopper IMG Sports Marketing. "He's got a voice that I'd say he's a fast-riser potentially in this business. He's got a very good play-by-play, professional announcing voice and has done a nice job for us here at WKU."

The voice: An important attribute for someone in radio to have.

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Redman has a natural set of pipes.

There is minimal difference hearing him speak through the airwaves or in person. His voice is deeper for his age, but not too deep. He occasionally raises or lowers his pitch using different voice inflections, but nothing too fancy. It's just professional and ahead of the curve.

It's crisp and he doesn't sound winded even while doubling as color commentator during WKU road games. That ability to properly describe the action without being rushed stood out in a [2016 interview with Evansville native Brandon Gaudin \(https://www.courierpress.com/story/sports/2016/02/27/usi-junior-jevin-redman-an-upandcomer-in-sports-radio-broadcasting/86971150/\)](https://www.courierpress.com/story/sports/2016/02/27/usi-junior-jevin-redman-an-upandcomer-in-sports-radio-broadcasting/86971150/), the voice of "Madden NFL" who does work for Fox Sports 1, Big Ten Network and Westwood One.

There isn't a secret to Redman's early success. No odd quirks or pregame tongue-twisters. He sticks with water or a similar light beverage to clear his throat. A Jeff Lyons course at USI taught him that it also helps to run the day of going on air to clear the mind and condition the diaphragm.

Above all, preparation is the name of his game.

"I forget which broadcaster once said this, but your prep work should be like you're building a canvas," said Redman, named in 2016 as the state's top play-by-play voice by the Indiana Broadcasters Association. "Once a game starts, you're painting your canvas with different colors. Stats are your colors and base work. Depending on what the game is like, you use certain colors and paint the picture."





Murray Minto, a Tell City native who has refereed for 30 years, gets a kick out of it.

“Whenever I first started, I’d go to Mount Vernon and see these two little blonde kids running around the gym,” said Minto, 52, referring to Jevin and one of his older brothers, Jace. “Now, every once in a while, I’m working with both of them. They grew up in that gym.”



**Jevin Redman, left, and his brother, Jace, have a few moments to visit at half-court before the start of the second half of basketball at Gibson Southern Thursday night. The two often call games together. (Photo: DENNY SIMMONS / COURIER & PRESS)**

Redman’s father, Gary, was a longtime athletic director at MVHS and hall of fame baseball coach at USI. His mother, GERALYN, is a teacher's assistant at the school.

Minto said Redman took to officiating like a duck to water. Like his other passion, it's seemingly come natural to him.

“We’ve gotten so comfortable with each other,” said Minto, who estimated he’s worked 20 games a season with Jevin. “He’s gotten so good at it because he works hard. He has good judgement and always wants to learn and get better.”

That experience aids him as a play-by-play man.



**Referee Jevin Redman officiates a home game between Gibson Southern and Southridge Thursday night. Redman is one of Indiana’s youngest varsity officials. (Photo: DENNY SIMMONS / COURIER & PRESS)**

He won’t throw referees under a bus. If there is a missed call – against either team – Redman won’t insert himself into the game. Instead, he’ll point out that a player, coach or fans aren’t happy with a whistle. Some would prefer if he were more of a homer, but he knows from officiating that you can’t please everybody.

“I’d be the same way even if I weren’t a referee,” he said. “When I’m broadcasting, I certainly want people to know it’s a Western Kentucky broadcast. I don’t want to be completely neutral because you have to know your audience, but it’s important to be fair to give listeners a true vision of what’s happening.”

Redman is among the state’s youngest varsity basketball officials.

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He could have a future in that profession, as well. He’s knowledgeable about the industry and makes it a daily routine to check where NBA and its developmental league’s officials are assigned. He enjoys their craft as much as those behind a microphone.

“It’s an even split there,” he said. “Broadcasting is more laid back. Refereeing, you work hard and don’t make as many friends as you do broadcasting. But, I feel like it’s more rewarding.”





**Jevin Redman, right, and his brother, Jace Redman, discuss the first half of action from the Gibson Southern locker room Thursday night. The referees were kept busy in the game which Southridge won on a last-second shot. (Photo: DENNY SIMMONS / COURIER & PRESS)**

Redman will go to a couple of college instructional/observational camps this summer to see if he has the potential to make it to the next level and if it's something he wants to do.

He looks up to veteran NBA officials Ed Malloy and Scott Foster. Normally quiet unless around close friends, Redman said it's fun to be in a position of authority on the court and defends the more flamboyant refs like Ted Valentine and Joey Crawford.

"I can relate to them a little bit," he said. "I'm never trying to be the show by any means, but when I get on the floor I kind of light up a little bit. It's like you're a different person. If you enjoy what you do, you're going to be passionate about it, express emotions and have a good time."



**WKU women's basketball radio play-by-play broadcaster Jevin Redman speaks with Hilltoppers' coach Michelle Clark-Heard after a game in January. (Photo: Pat Hickey)**

That is what he's doing now. It's been a dream-like balancing act.

Redman has an apartment in Bowling Green and stays there for home games and to host the coach's show. He travels with the team for road games, then drives back to Indiana to referee and stay with his parents. He's going to keep doing both jobs until he's forced to choose, but knows college sports is where he wants to be if broadcasting wins out between the two.

"Being at WKU, the following there with their sports is unbelievable," Redman said. "They're very knowledgeable with their history and what's currently going on. I love knowing the people are listening and care about what you're doing.

"Really, if you said draw it up any better, I don't know if I could at my age and where I'm at with broadcasting and refereeing," he said.