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# GazetteXtra



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| Thursday, January 28, 2016

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## Local coaches and administrators weigh in on Fagerli's retirement

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GAZETTE STAFF  
Wednesday, January 27, 2016

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I was always impressed with Al and the hours that he worked. He's up at 2:30 a.m. and does his morning show. He'd come up and see us (coaches) after 10 o'clock to interview us for his broadcasts, and then do the game. It's amazing.

The other thing that always impressed me is in all the years, never once did he ever have a bad word about a kid. They might have deserved it, but he always said something positive or he

didn't say anything.

— *Longtime Janesville Craig baseball, basketball and football coach Bob Suter*

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The Janesville sports community was blessed to have been served by a man as passionate for high school competition as a person like Al. Al Fagerli raised the presence of high school sports in our community with the infectious enthusiasm that carried through his voice in each and every broadcast.

Al literally brought the game into the living rooms and vehicles of the countless listeners that followed his WCLO play-by-play because he displayed so much passion for the game. Al made listening to the coverage provided by he and his colleagues a treat for all who had tuned in.

The community of Janesville was most fortunate for a gentleman with his ability to have worked in this capacity for all the years that he did. Al's enthusiasm for Janesville sports was the defining part of his career at WCLO. Al will be missed by his many followers on game nights. Al had a career in broadcasting that not only covered all four quarters but clearly countless overtimes based on his longevity. We truly wish Al the very best as he moves forward.

— *Former Parker football coach and current athletic director Joe Dye*

He just seemed to be everywhere. He was at everything.

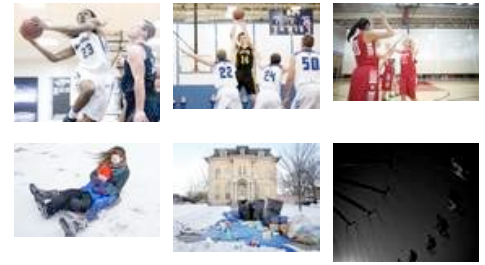
He was a true professional and dedicated so much of his time. That's who he was really, and I think that's what people recognize him for.

He has a great memory. I couldn't remember somebody's name, and he'd have it in a second. He's very into pop culture, too, and knows songs and actors. He's just a really well-rounded individual, and I think we're lucky to have him here in Janesville.

Every week I looked forward to talking to Al. When you talked to him, you could be yourself. He made you feel comfortable. It was a pleasant break from the day to get to visit with him.

— *Craig football coach Ben McCormick*

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Wednesday, January 27, 2016

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Wednesday, January 27, 2016

### Beloit police arrest one, seeking two in shooting of 5-year-old

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

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Saturday, January 23, 2016

## Trending now

Everyone at WCLO-WJVL and throughout our listening area will really miss Al Fagerli. Al brought his A-game every day in every way. He shared his talent for 36 years and deserves a fun fulfilling retirement!

All the best to our friend Al Fagerli!

— *Mike O'Brien, general manager of WCLO-WJVL*

Al and I would be like two ships crossing in the night. I'd be getting ready to finish here (at The Gazette), and Al would be coming to work at 2 or 3 in the morning.

There isn't anybody who cares more about Janesville and Janesville kids than Al. It's reflected in everything he does. He is Janesville sports.

We did a radio show for several years, and that was a good time, too. We started out doing it in the afternoon and then moved it to the morning. I enjoyed it very much. My association with Al has been nothing but positive for as long as I've known him. He's just very special.

Al was there for a lot of the most important games. But he often made sure that neither side of town was being short-changed. I listened to him as often as I could.

He's also been the very popular emcee of the Janesville Sports Hall of Fame and does a great job. That typifies his caring for the community. He gets involved, that's for sure!

— *Dave Wedeward, longtime Janesville Gazette sports editor*

He's just an icon for Janesville and Janesville high school sports. When you think of radio, the first person that comes to my mind is Al Fagerli.

#### Death notices for Jan. 28, 2016

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

#### Beloit police arrest one, seeking two in shooting of 5-year-old

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

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Thursday, January 28, 2016

#### Goats die in Darien fire that destroys pole shed

Thursday, January 28, 2016

#### Public record for Jan. 28, 2016

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

#### Janesville School District adds staff, changes money handling, switches software in wake of \$300,000 embezzlement

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He'd touch base with me and would come up to Craig once or twice a week. I just think what he's done for Janesville Craig and Parker and all the players that have come through has been great. He's one of those guys you'll just remember.

I go to other communities, and I rarely see a radio station (at games). He's on the road, he's at home games, and on his morning show he always does a great job of covering the local teams. I think people appreciate that.

That's the best thing I'll remember, just how much he cared.

— *Craig girls basketball coach Kerry Storbakken*

Al's one of those guys who has been great for high school athletics.

He's been positive for every game he's covered. He wants teams to do well. He's been a good friend to me, and I've really enjoyed working with him. I'm going to miss him.

— *Craig boys basketball coach Mike Miller*

I had the pleasure of working with Al in football and wrestling. He was always the consummate professional. I don't think people in this community have any idea how hard he really worked. It's an impossible job to do. You're talking every Friday night, every basketball game. He's been as committed to sports in Janesville as anyone I have ever known. I'm happy he's retiring, because I hope it gives him some time to relax, because he was a dynamo.

We used to butter him up by taking him my mother's cookies to him and Nevins. He'd always give me flak about how that wasn't going to sway him one way or the other. He'd say it on the air, too. It was no secret. That's the kind of guy who could take something like that and make it fun. He'd come into the coaches room sometimes when you were having a pretty good year, and it was fun. Other years it wasn't as fun, but he was always Al, no matter how the season was going.

I know when GM was open, some of them (the parents or fans) were working shifts they couldn't go to games. So they relied on Al to know everything that was going on. He was always there for them. High school kids do it for four years, coaches do it for however many years, but Al did it for 36 years.

— *Former Janesville Craig football and wrestling coach Bill O'Leary*

A couple of things come to mind when talking about Al. One, being a high school athlete, when I knew I was going to play in a football game at Parker, I would try to record the game on a cassette tape to hear Al say my name on the radio. That was huge for us as high school athletes to hear Al call our name on the radio.

Another huge memory while in high school was, I believe 1993 when our basketball team beat Craig for the first time in a long time when Chad Odegaard hit the game winning shot at the buzzer. The next day at school the gym was set up for the game, we had an all-school assembly and one of things they did at the assembly was to play Al's broadcast of the last minute or so of the game. I will never forget how cool it was to hear the final shot and to listen to the excitement in Al's voice and to hear how loud our gym was in response to Al describing that shot.

I think since I have been coaching, the biggest thing about Al is when he brought high school baseball back on the air at WCLO. He began covering games during our 2014 season, which covered our run to the state tournament. I heard from so many people that even though they could not make it to games, they were able to listen.

Any time I have talked with Al, he has been all about advocating for the student-athletes and our local athletic programs. It has never been about him, but about the student-athletes he was covering. We in the the WCLO listening area have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to listen to him.

— *Parker baseball coach Brian Martin*

It has been a true honor and privilege to have Al covering our Craig spring baseball seasons over the years. His professionalism and enthusiasm that he puts into his coverage is outstanding. The passion he brings for high school athletics and what he has done for so many schools and sports programs will be surely missed.

I have always looked forward to Al's preseason and in-season interviews he has conducted for our program. He gets as excited as our staff and players are during our season.

What a great representative of WCLO and the city of Janesville. Good Luck in your retirement.

— *Craig baseball coach Victor Herbst*

I remember when I was a player at Craig, he was doing games then. I remember after our season he'd give us a bunch of cassette tapes of some of the better games that I had. I still have those, and that's kind of neat to have that as a memory.

He's always been so kind and very supportive. Having a chance to be around as a coach for many years, we obviously had some ups and downs at Parker, but he was always such a great supporter. You could hear it in his morning commentary.

Some of the fondest memories are meeting with him even off the air, when he would come over and interview before a game. You could just sit and talk. He's just such a caring person.

Somebody who is willing to put that much time in for high school sports and for our community, it's been amazing. We're spoiled here in Janesville.

— *Former Parker boys basketball coach and current Craig girls assistant Ryan Masterson*

*Last updated: 8:40 pm Wednesday, January 27, 2016*