ASU All Access: Behind the mic at Wembley Stadium

By Lisa Robbins, ASU News
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Broadcasting a college football game more than 5,000 miles from home takes more than a microphone. For the Sun Devil Radio Network crew, it meant crossing the Atlantic with half its usual road-game equipment.

In this episode, Shawn Crespin, partnership and radio operations manager for Sun Devil Athletics, provided a behind-the-scenes look at the preparations for the Union Jack Classic against the University of Kansas at London's Wembley Stadium.

The crew included longtime voice of the Sun Devils Tim Healey, former ASU quarterback, color analyst Jeff van Raaphorst and sideline reporter Kevin Turner. Having worked together for years, the crew viewed the international trip as an opportunity to share a memorable experience.

"I mean, we're like a family. Eleven years now, it's been the same group," Crespin said. "So, to get the crew all over the pond, we're all here. It's going to be a pretty special moment."

The trip also presented logistical challenges. After traveling directly from Texas A&M to London, the production crew had to significantly reduce the amount of equipment transported overseas because of weight and space restrictions on the plane.

"I've got about half of my gear that I normally would have for a road game," Crespin said. "Half the gear went back to Tempe. The other half came with me."

Advance planning helped the crew identify its most essential equipment and adapt its setup for Wembley. Despite working with less gear, the crew remained confident that the broadcast would maintain its usual quality.

"It'll sound awesome on the air. The listener will have no idea," Shawn said.

The team also benefited from having additional time to prepare for the unusual travel arrangements, allowing members to plan ahead and adjust their equipment needs.

The Union Jack Classic, held Sept. 19, marked the first college football game played at London's iconic Wembley Stadium. Arizona State defeated Kansas 24-17 in the historic matchup.

Catch episodes of ASU All Access on FOX 10 on Saturdays at 10 a.m., and see more from FOX 10 at https://www.fox10phoenix.com/tag/series/asu-all-access.

(Video: {https://youtu.be/IV6cH-pVy80?si=vxZSjUAJN-Ogb2YJ})

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Main image



For the Sun Devil Radio Network crew, broadcasting the Union Jack Classic meant crossing the Atlantic with half its usual road-game equipment.