

TRANSCRIPT: FERNANDO PALOMO INTERVIEW

Fernando Palomo · Announcer at ESPN

TRANSCRIPT

An interview with Mr. Fernando Palomo, an announcer for ESPN host of ESPN Deportes. Palomo is a Class of 1996 Agricultural Economics graduate from Texas A&M and an inducted member of the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry.

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Please introduce yourself and tell us about your career.

I'm Fernando Paloma, Class of 1995. I studied Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M. I was a member of the track team at Texas A&M, three-time letterman for the track team. I did the javelin throw when I was coming to school here. And after leaving Texas A&M, I went into the marketing field working for an advertising agency. I had had as a hobby done broadcasting but mostly as a hobby, just something to entertain myself or to, pretty much just throw away my, my knowledge or passion of sports. And, and it ended up being my profession. In 2000, I sent a couple resumes out, including one to ESPN, and they replied back. They looked at my broadcasting career, and, and they decided to give it a shot on the guy that, that studied Agricultural Economics but was passionate about sports.

What do you value most about your experiences at Texas A&M?

The network, the friendships, the fact that once you're an Aggie you're always an Aggie. And you leave this place being part of a family, and, and that speaks volumes of what Texas A&M provides you when, when you're going to school here.

What has been the biggest challenge in your career? How have you faced it?

Well, I got to face the truth, the fact that I studied Agricultural Economics and then decided to go and follow my passion which was sports, and there's very that ties one to the other. And, and it was a challenge to prove that my degree would actually help me become a better professional because of what I was taught here. The values, the, the code of ethics at Texas A&M, the expectations for achieving the highest standards, and just trying to prove to everyone that, that my passion and the values that I learned here would lead me to conquer the field or any field that I decide to go to. And I believe that, that I, I've been able to put all the things in line and in order in, in order to, to tell people or teach people that I, that I belong in the field that I now call a profession.

What is your proudest accomplishment in your career?

Well, there's moments where you feel like, like you have made your family proud, and, and those are the ones that make me happy. I went to, to a World Cup being a Spanish-speaking announcer. I went to the World Cup in Brazil to call the games in English. And my kids and their friends would watch the games, and my kids would see me, and their friends would tell them that they saw me on TV. So, I thought that was cool – I thought that the kids understood at that time that their dad was doing something at an important event. And that he was being recognized for it. And I, I still think that whatever makes them happy and proud is what makes me happy and proud.

Besides hard work, what does it take to be a successful professional?

Time management, understanding that there's only 24 hours in a day, and that you need to do with those 24 hours that best that you can do with them. Someone at some point said to me, or I even might have heard it or it was in a class or a book that I might have picked up, that we get the same 24 hours that Mother Teresa or Albert Einstein got. We don't get less than them or they didn't get more than us. It's the same 24 hours we need to try to make the best of them. And, and I think that's only achievable through discipline, organization, and, and placing a value of – the right value to things. And, and I think that has taken me to understanding that a day has a lot of hours in it, in itself. And you can do a lot with it.

What kind of goals do you continue to set? How do they help you to grow?

I, I believe that I have not achieved success, and that is one of the main goals of my life is to be successful at what I do. I think I've done a great, a lot of great things and a lot of things that have made me happy, and that I'm extremely, extremely proud of. But I still look for the next best thing. I still, I'm still striving to call the perfect, the perfect game, the one game that I feel I left everything in it, and, and that I, I was able to provide with my voice and my knowledge the best framework for a viewer to enjoy the full experience. And, and the perfect game is still out there to be called in. And however long I have the energy to, to go out there and find it, I will strive to get it. And once I feel that I found it, I think I'm going to put the mic down and, and go fishing.

What advice do you have for Agricultural Economics students who are about to graduate and start their careers?

To follow their passion. I think we can only achieve success or get close to it by following what we love. I'll tell you a story: I had a dream of becoming an Olympic athlete. I was on the track team here, I told you before, and my dream was to be in the Olympics one day. And I never, because of one thing or another and my two shots I wasn't able to, to go and be at the Olympics competing, but I had a great time trying to make it there. Focus on the path. Don't think too much of the, of the goal. The goal might be, even might be reached without you noticing. You might cross that goal, that finish line without realizing you have done so because it was just right there on your path. It was on your walkway while you were having fun, doing what you love. And, and I never made it to the Olympics, but nobody could tell me that I failed at it because I was really successful at having fun trying to go.

Congratulations, Fernando!

Mr. Fernando Palomo | Transcript
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