

Brave new world

Love of baseball, TV combine for summer at The Diamond

BY ROBIN FARMER

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Mitchell Bradley and Greg Abernathy have the best views of the Richmond Braves' home games. The 16-year-olds should. They shoot them.

Juniors at Patrick Henry High School, Mitchell and Greg are two of three camera operators at The Diamond, where they feed live images to the large Diamond vision screen and nine concession stand televisions.

"I always loved baseball and I figured this could be a good way of combining a hobby and education," Mitchell said between innings.

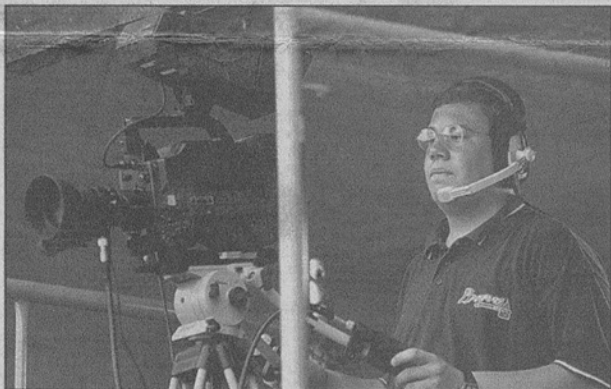
"It's a great job. I come to all the games for free and see all these players who may be in Atlanta one day.

"There are plenty of advantages and no disadvantages," said the aspiring radio announcer.

"When the best things happen, we're right there on it," said Greg.

For him, the job is not only a wonderful summer gig, but also a possible stepping-stone to a career.

He's interested in becoming "maybe a pro-



JOB EXPERIENCE. The task of taping games usually goes to college students, but Greg Abernathy (above) and Mitchell Bradley had a wealth of experience at Channel 36.

ducer and director of a newscast and maybe move into directing movies or becoming a movie editor."

Usually the jobs are given to college students, but the teens came with solid experience and a strong recommendation from Jennifer Scott, manager of television production and utilities at Channel 36 in Hanover County.

Both teens had interned at the cable ac-

cess station last year. They produced monthly news packages that required them to interview, write, report, shoot and edit, Scott said.

"For high school students they are very, very responsible. And they have a love for television and both are so interested in sports, I thought this was the perfect oppor-

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Summer at Diamond is a gem

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tunity for them. I just think it was a perfect fit," she said.

Greg and Mitchell will continue the internship at Channel 36 this school year, too.

The teens began working as camera operators for the Braves on July 13 and will continue until the end of the season.

"I love the field of communications and I love sports just as much. To be able to combine the two is a great experience," Greg said. "And to work for a professional baseball team is just great."

As camera operators they get to zoom in on the crowd, which at times is quite exuberant.

"The crowd and the music help keep you alive. It kind of keeps you on track," Mitchell said, moments after a youngster of about 11 raised his glove and yelled "Hit me a ball! I don't care if it goes into my mouth."

Whether the action takes place in the stands or on the field, the teens agree they have the best seats in the stadium.

Even if they have to stand throughout the games.