

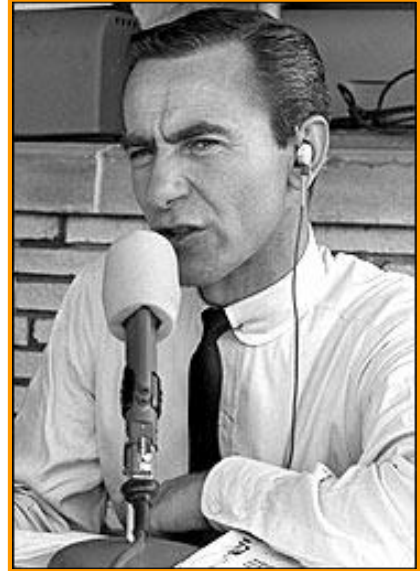
A Good Guy of Sports

As a sports enthusiast, watching my favorite teams play is an enjoyable pastime. And as I see and hear various sportscasters today, I often think of Chris Schenkel (1923 – 2005), who for five decades called play-by-play for numerous sports on television and radio.

Schenkel was silky smooth in his delivery, with a voice that was distinct and pleasant. He was frequently identified as the “good guy of sports.”

People who were close to him said he was not putting on an act when he looked for the good in others. Despite some criticism for being too liberal with praise and not critical or judgmental enough, Schenkel declared, “What I do is who I am.”

Schenkel’s dream to be a broadcaster started back in the 1930s. He listened to baseball games on the radio and studied broadcast styles. His father purchased an early audio disc recorder for him, and Schenkel recorded the games and practiced mimicking the announcer.



When he was a freshman at Purdue University, he took a summer job at WLBC in Muncie, Indiana, for \$18 a week. In 1952, he began as a substitute announcer for the ABC fights on radio. Later, he was a substitute announcer for the New York Giants football games on television. His goal always was to be the best he could be, using his abilities and being himself.

Schenkel became one of the most respected broadcasters in America, and he achieved that status by understanding who he was, being a good-finder, and concentrating his efforts.

That’s pretty good advice for us. And remember the message: What you do is who you are.

– Beecher Hunter