Diego Castaneda: December 2010 Baylor Sport Management graduate from Bogota, Colombia

What characteristics do you like about Baylor?
I liked the atmosphere on campus and the Christian environment.

Why did you decide to pursue Baylor’s Sport Management graduate program?
I was familiar with the program and really liked what it had to offer.

Describe the caliber of professors and their teaching style.
Overall, all the professors were great, very knowledgeable and always willing to challenge me but at the same time give me the tools to succeed.

Briefly describe Dr. Petersen in relation to the program he is building.
I was only able to enjoy Dr. Petersen for a short amount of time (not my entire program) but I certainly enjoyed his teaching style and the vision he has for this program. I know I can come by his office whenever he is available and talk about issues in the profession or just general life. He is a really good mentor and I was lucky to learn from him towards the end of my program.

What are the Sport Management graduate program’s strengths?
I think the many opportunities to see how the major actually works in real life through projects and assignments and internships.

What did you do for your internship/thesis?
I was the Director of Operations for Baylor’s Volleyball collegiate team.

- Did it turn into a job opportunity?
  Yes!

How did the Sport Management graduate program prepare you for your current profession?
I had general knowledge of how collegiate athletics works so the transition to my job was fairly easy. I learned about it during my sport marketing and sport management classes while in the program.

What is your current profession?
I am currently the Director of Operations for Baylor University’s volleyball collegiate team. My primary responsibilities include managing the volleyball office, organizing travel, keeping everything under budget, and helping with the day-to-day operations of a Division I volleyball program. I recently accepted the Assistant Volleyball Coach position at the University of North Texas and will start the 2011-2012 school year.

What advice or encouragement would you give to future graduate students in the Sport Management program?
Hard work pays off!!!