



Mike North: Biography

Mike North, President of Lucky Dog Productions, was raised in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. He landed his first job in 1969 as a hot dog vendor at Wrigley Field and Comiskey Park. After a stint in the military and several jobs with the City of Chicago, North capitalized on his talent for serving hot food and spicy sports talk and, in 1985, opened his fast-food restaurant, Be-Be's, on Chicago's Northwest Side.

Among North's frequent customers was the staff of Diamond Broadcasting, owners of WXRT-FM and WSBC-AM. After suggesting the idea of a sports show to the Diamond management team, North launched his own "NFL Handicap Show" on WSBC in 1990. Two years later, in 1992, Diamond launched the first Chicago-based sports radio station, WSCR, The Score Sports Radio 820, and offered North a job. North was teamed with former Chicago Bear Dan Jiggetts for *The Monsters of the Midday* radio program delivering a unique brand of opinionated, street-smart, sports talk to Chicago sports fans. The show became a huge hit.

With his broadcast career going full throttle, North and his wife, Be-Be, closed their restaurant and opened their own production company, Lucky Dog Productions, in 1996.

In September 1999, North was given his own radio show, *The Mike North Show*, broadcast weekdays from 12-4 pm. North moved from midday to the coveted morning drive slot in September 2004 before finally leaving the Score in 2008.

To date, North has conducted more than 13,000 interviews. In fact, noted broadcaster Steve Stone has referred to North as "one of the best one-on-one interviewers he has ever heard." As producer and host of Lucky Dog Productions, North has interviewed many of sports' greatest celebrities including Pete Rose, Dick Butkus, Walter Payton, and Wilt Chamberlain.

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Mike North and Lucky Dog Productions have been honored with many awards including Emmy Awards for his *North Side* segments on Fox TV, and *Prime Time with Mike North* weekly television series. North has also won four Achievement in Radio Awards: He was named Radio Broadcaster of the Year in 1996; Mike North and Dan Jiggetts received the Best Midday Show in Chicago and Best Sports Show in 1997; and North was named Best Talent on a News, Talk, Personality, or Sports Station in 2002.

Some of North's other accomplishments include receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for Individual Achievement, Entertainer of the Year Award by the Special Children's Charities, The Irv Kupcinec Award by the Ed Kelly Giant Awards, and the Richard J. Daley Award by the Red Cloud Athletic Fund. North's persistence in bringing 16-inch softball to the Chicago high school system as a varsity sport, a game he himself loves to play, earned him Man of the Year in 1999 awarded by The Softball Hall of Fame. Together with Jesse Jackson, North persuaded the Chicago Cubs to erect a statue to honor Ernie Banks. In 2006, North became the first radio broadcaster ever to be inducted into the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame.

North became the first broadcaster to produce and host a live web show from a private business website, wildfirerestaurant.com. He was the executive producer and co-host of *The Monsters In the Morning* on Comcast SportsNet, and co-hosted CBS's *Monsters and Money in the Morning* on WBBM-TV.

North hosts several radio programs for *Fox Sports Radio* and contributes video interviews and content for Tastytrade.com, a financial network. North also delivers a daily "30 in 5" news show for AM 560 WIND, and is a featured contributor to *The Big John and Amy Show* (Tuesday mornings) and *The Steve Cochran Show* (Friday evenings) – also on AM 560 WIND. All of North's video segments, as well as a variety of other programming, can be found on *The Mike North Entertainment Network* at NorthToNorth.com.

Currently, Mike is a columnist for the Daily Herald with twice weekly columns- "*The Rebel Inside*" and contributes videos three times a week for their website.

North and his wife Be-Be live in the Northwest suburbs with their dog Lucky, a black lab mix from the Anti Cruelty Society.

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