

The Tony Mercurio Show celebrated its 24th anniversary yesterday on ESPN Radio 1310



On September 15, 1986, the Tony Mercurio Show began at the studio in Todd's Center in Hampton, on Mercury Boulevard. Yesterday marked the beginning of the 24th year of the show on Max Media's ESPN Radio 1310, by far the longest running weekday sports talk show in Virginia, and one of the longest running weekday sports talk shows in the USA.

The public was invited to the anniversary party today at McFadden's on Power Plant Parkway, off Mercury Boulevard, in Hampton. Ironically, just across the street from where it all began in 1986.

"It was a gamble," noted Mercurio, who is also the Program Director of ESPN Radio 1310 in Virginia Beach. "People thought we were nuts. After all, people tried to do a sports talk show just on weekends and it didn't work in Virginia."

Mercurio added, "One publication even said that we would be lucky to last a month, well here we are in our 277th month of the show."

"Our first guest in 1986 was New York Mets player Dave Magadan LIVE from Wrigley Field in Chicago. I was also assistant General Manager of the Tides in 1986. Dave was called up to the Mets and got a big hit that day against the Cubs. We were able to get him on my show, as our first guest ever, which was pretty cool."

"We have really grown," noted Mercurio. "We started the first successful weeknight sports talk show in Virginia, then became the first all-sports radio station in Virginia in 1992 and then became the second affiliate of ESPN Radio back in 1999. It has been a great ride."