

## TIM LANG

*Sports Photographer*

*Photographs courtesy of Tim Lang (@timlangphotos)*

The world of sports photography was a space Tim Lang became passionate about in the most unexpected way. For this Ocean Grove, New Jersey native, photography was a hobby he turned to during his early years in high school. After focusing on landscape photography consistently for a year, he learned about an opportunity to photograph two nationally-ranked, All-American high school basketball players from New Jersey—Scottie Lewis and Bryan Antoine. After attending their first playoff matchup and photographing the event, Tim discovered his interest in sharing stories in sports through his photography. **It has only been up from there!** Since transitioning to sports photography, Tim has captured the journey of some of the industry's top high school athletes, and has connected with fellow photographers in the space through organizations such as the Black Glass Gallery—a social media-based photography community, founded by Suzanne Spitaletta, where he has strengthened his camera skills, established his style, and solidified his interest in a career in sports photography. **The best part of it all is...he is just getting started!**

### How did you get started with sports photography?

I got started in landscape photography initially, and was doing that consistently for about a year. One day, I saw online that Scottie Lewis and Bryan Antoine from Ranney School—two of the best players to ever come out of New Jersey—were entering their playoff competition. Even though I was only doing landscape photography at that time, I thought it would be a cool idea to go take photos of them and have that connection with them. I went to their game and was really expecting it to be one basketball game. I didn't expect (that experience) to be the full shift for me to go into basketball photography, which is all I am doing now. Scottie came up to me at the end of the game, which was really cool, and I went back to the next game to take more photos. After the second game, I had contact with both Scottie and Bryan and they were really liking the images I was (capturing). Looking back (now), I don't think they were the greatest photos, but I was still just getting started. I decided to keep going with sports photography after that and see where it took me.

**"It may sound cliché, but I would say "Just shoot. Shoot as much as you can." If you can go to games and workouts, whatever opportunities you have, try to go to as many events as you can. Try to work with them all because each opportunity leads somewhere in terms of connections and experience.**

*- Tim on a piece of advice he would give to someone who is interested in pursuing a career in photography within the sports industry*

**Throughout this journey, you have started to foster your personal brand over the past 2-3 years. What was that process of creating your brand like? What was the biggest challenge that you faced early on?**

In the beginning, people really followed me for the landscape photos because that is all I did when I started. When I switched over to basketball, not everyone liked it at first. Just starting to add little details like my watermark on my photos and a specific editing style has allowed me to start building my personal brand (in the space). The biggest challenge that I faced (early on) though was connecting with the bigger players, and getting opportunities to shoot their games. It was something that I slowly (had) to work on—to build (those) relationships to get the opportunity to photograph them.

**What are some things that inspire you throughout this journey?**

A lot of these players work really hard to try and make it out of where they are. A lot of them don't live in the best situations, so they are just trying to work hard to go pro. That inspires me. I love shooting high school players a lot because they are working their hardest to get to the next level. Some people that inspire me photography-wise are Johnnie Izquierdo and Cameron Look. Johnnie has helped me since the beginning with questions about photography and everything. I look up to his work, it's pretty cool what he does—everyone from New Jersey knows him for his work as well. He started photographing high school games like me and now he is working with people like Anthony Davis, Kawhi Leonard, and other big-time players. Cameron Look is really cool too because he has a unique style of editing like I do. He has some really cool videos and being able to ask him a couple of questions when I needed help (is inspiring).

**What is a piece of advice that you would give to someone who is interested in pursuing a career in photography within the sports industry?**

It may sound cliché, but I would say “Just shoot. Shoot as much as you can.” If you can go to games and workouts, whatever opportunities you have, try to go to as many events as you can. Try to work with them all because each opportunity leads somewhere in terms of connections and experience. If you just shoot as much as possible and critique your work, you have (that) opportunity to try to perfect your editing style.

