



Rhizomatic Forces In Sports

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Institution: New Jersey Institute of Technology

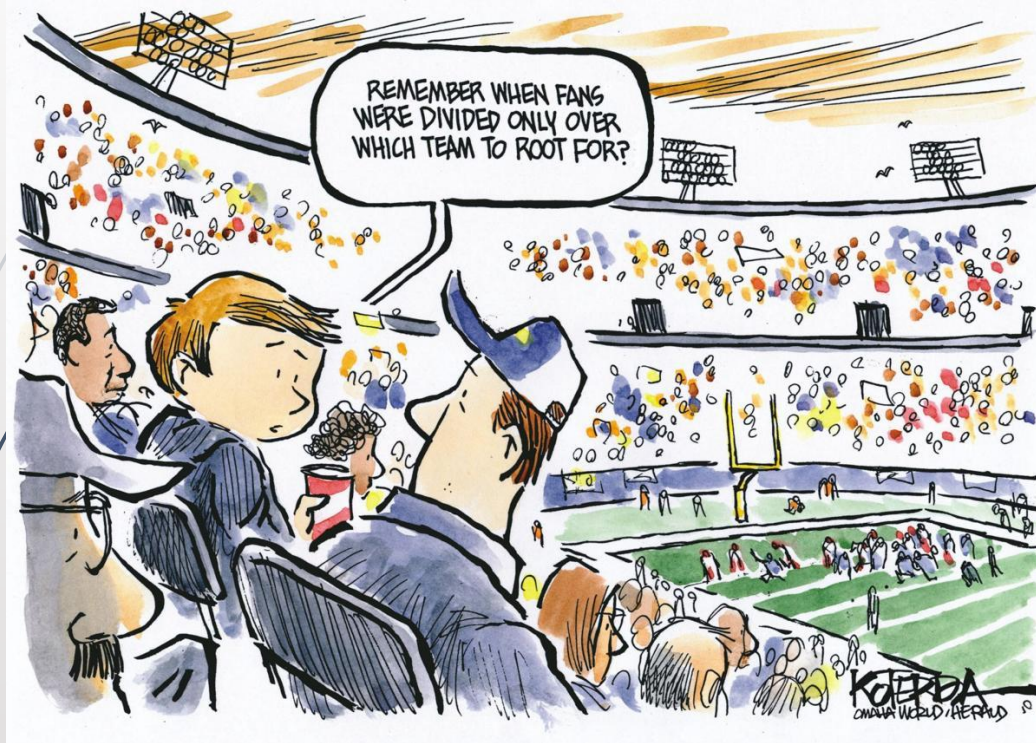
Course: STS 325-003 - Sports, Society and Technology

Instructor: J. Britt Holbrook

Thesis

- Sports are not just about the game.
 - Some people use sports to superficially mask the chaos of socio-politics, even though sports actually laments them.
- Influences on sports include: betting, the LGBTQ+ community, sponsorships, etc.
- **Sports are not an excuse to be superficial of blissfully ignorant to how these things impact society and vice-versa.**

Sports & Politics: A Taboo



- Politics encompasses all social, political and economic turmoils within a governed body.
- Historically sports and politics don't mix.
- Politics by nature are very polarizing and sports are supposed to be social gatherings.

Division Isn't Good For Business



- It's usually best for athletes to stay neutral on certain issues.
- Having people disagree with an athlete's stances or values compromises the bottom-line.

Protests [Contemporary]

- Continuing a long, prolific line of civil activists before him, Colin Kaepernick has become the forefront of civil rights protests in sports, for better or for worse.

Liberal

Left-Leaning


Moderate

Right-Leaning

Conservative

5 Broad distinctions
of differing views





Sports are not an excuse to be superficial or
blissfully ignorant to how these things impact
society and vise-versa.

Underground Betting, Gambling, and Scandals

Underground betting can impact the outcome of sporting events when people who are participating are betting on that specific event.

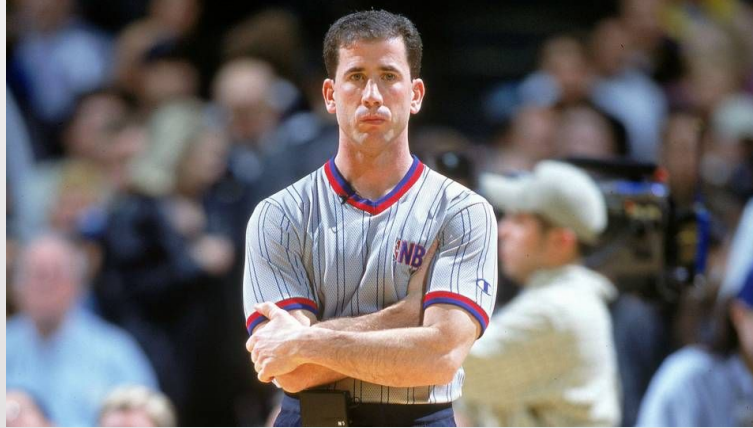
1919 Black Sox World Series Scandal

- Eight White Sox players threw the 1919 World Series for financial gain after being bribed by gamblers.
- Players indicted: Eddie Cicotte, Oscar Felsch, Arnold Gandil, “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, Fred McMullin, Charles Risberg, George Weaver, and Claude Williams.
- All eight players banned from baseball for life.
- Shoeless Joe Jackson found guilty despite:
 - .375 Batting Average
 - .394 On-Base Percentage
 - .563 Slugging Percentage
 - 1.000 Fielding Percentage
 - All equal to or better than his performance in the 1917 World Series.



2007 NBA Betting Scandal

- NBA referee Tim Donaghy gambled on games in which he was referee.
- Banned from refereeing.
- Sentenced to 15 months in prison.



Pete Rose

- Pete Rose banned from baseball for betting on games he played in.
- Major League Baseball Rule 21 (d) states: “Any player, umpire, or club or league official or employee, who shall bet any sum whatsoever upon any baseball game in connection with which the bettor has a duty to perform shall be declared permanently ineligible.”
- MLB career hits leader with 4256 hits.



1978-1979 Boston College Point Shaving

- Multiple players on the Boston College Men's Basketball team paid by gamblers to shave points on games.
- Unsure how many players involved.
- Orchestrated by Rocco and Anthony Perla.
- Shows that scandals go past the world of professional sports.



Impacts of Fantasy Sports

- Greater focus towards individual player analysis in team-based sports/competitions (Football, Basketball, Baseball, League of Legends)
- Viewership (and its relationship to viewer engagement)
- Out-of-game engagement and bolster to social media

What Matters to Fantasy Players

- Injuries
- Player mentality
- Player activity
- Skill by position (in team-based sports)
- Peak and floor performance
- High and mid-level players
- Trends
- Prizes

COMBO BREAKER 2018
FANTASY STREET FIGHTER V: ARCADE EDITION
 Draft your team. Compete for prizes.
 You're the manager! Build the strongest roster from the entire field of COMBO BREAKER 2018 tournament entrants with a fixed salary cap. Players score points based on the performance of their roster in the actual tournament.

[View Leaderboard](#)

PRIZES



1st Place
 Custom smash.gg hoodie, black
 smash.gg snapback, & smash.gg bottle
 opener



2nd Place
 black smash.gg snapback & smash.gg
 bottle opener



3rd Place
 smash.gg bottle opener

POINT GUARDS

PLAYER	RATING	LAST WEEK	CHANGE	GP	MPG	PPG	RPG	APG	FG %	FT %
1. Stephen Curry, GS	81.10	N/A	+81.10	43	33.1	22.8	4.7	8.2	49.1	92.1
2. Damian Lillard, POR	79.06	N/A	+79.06	45	36.2	22.0	4.7	6.2	43.9	86.4
3. Chris Paul, LAC	78.62	N/A	+78.62	45	34.4	17.4	4.7	9.8	47.1	89.3
4. Kyrie Irving, CLE	76.88	N/A	+76.88	43	38.1	21.3	3.1	5.2	46.6	84.4
5. Kyle Lowry, TOR	76.36	N/A	+76.36	45	34.8	19.6	4.9	7.4	42.8	80.8
6. John Wall, WAS	76.00	N/A	+76.00	46	35.7	17.3	4.3	10.2	46.5	76.3
7. Ty Lawson, DEN	74.80	N/A	+74.80	43	37.1	17.1	3.3	10.0	44.4	71.9
8. Kemba Walker, CHA	72.16	N/A	+72.16	42	35.6	18.8	3.8	5.2	39.9	82.3
9. Eric Bledsoe, PHO	71.79	N/A	+71.79	46	33.6	16.9	5.3	6.0	44.5	81.6
10. Monta Ellis, DAL	71.64	N/A	+71.64	46	33.8	20.3	2.5	4.4	45.6	77.8

Fantasy Critics

- Influx of casual fantasy players has brought about viewers who only care for highlights
 - Increase in interest in social media and sports shows on TV/YouTube, but detracts from actual games
- Sport event attendance decreased
- Looking at players as a means to an end
- Cases of drastic measures in person to bolster roster performance
 - Marlins became hungover in 2007 in a cause to boost John Maine's play for a fantasy team



Football-NFL TV Viewing: % by Frequency of Viewing

Item	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1-2 times/yr.	15.7	16.0	15.6	14.8	14.8	17.6
3-11 times/yr.	42.6	42.2	42.9	42.8	43.6	44.6
12+ times/yr.	41.7	41.9	41.5	42.4	41.6	37.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base: # of NFL Fans Viewing Games on TV (+ 000)	136,361	146,066	138,653	130,295	136,279	128,481

Source: [SBRnet](#)/Tag: Frequent

Football-NFL Attendance: % by Frequency of Attending

Item	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1/yr.	58.0	61.5	63.6	56.6	59.1	55.1
2-3 times/yr.	33.1	27.8	24.6	29.9	28.7	31.5
4+ times/yr.	9.0	10.8	11.7	13.5	12.2	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base: Total # of NFL Fans Attending Games (add 000)	20,336	19,190	19,643	18,205	20,438	17,933

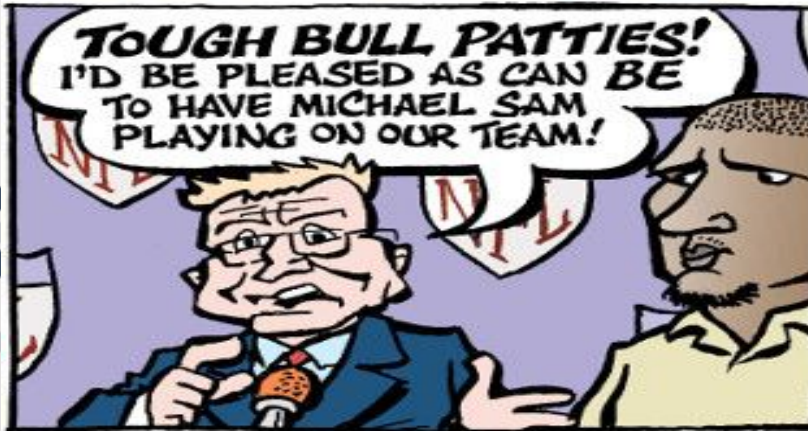
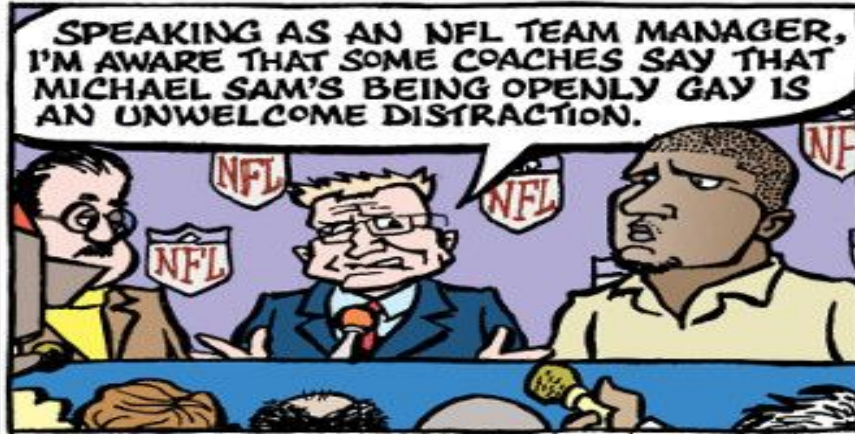
Source: [SBRnet](#)/Tag: Frequent

Argument for Fantasy Sports' Positive Impact

- Gets viewers interested beyond just their favorite teams
- Benefit for ESPN sideshows, YouTubers, other forms of media
- Extra motivating factor to cheer for players during big games



LGBT Practical Impact On Sports



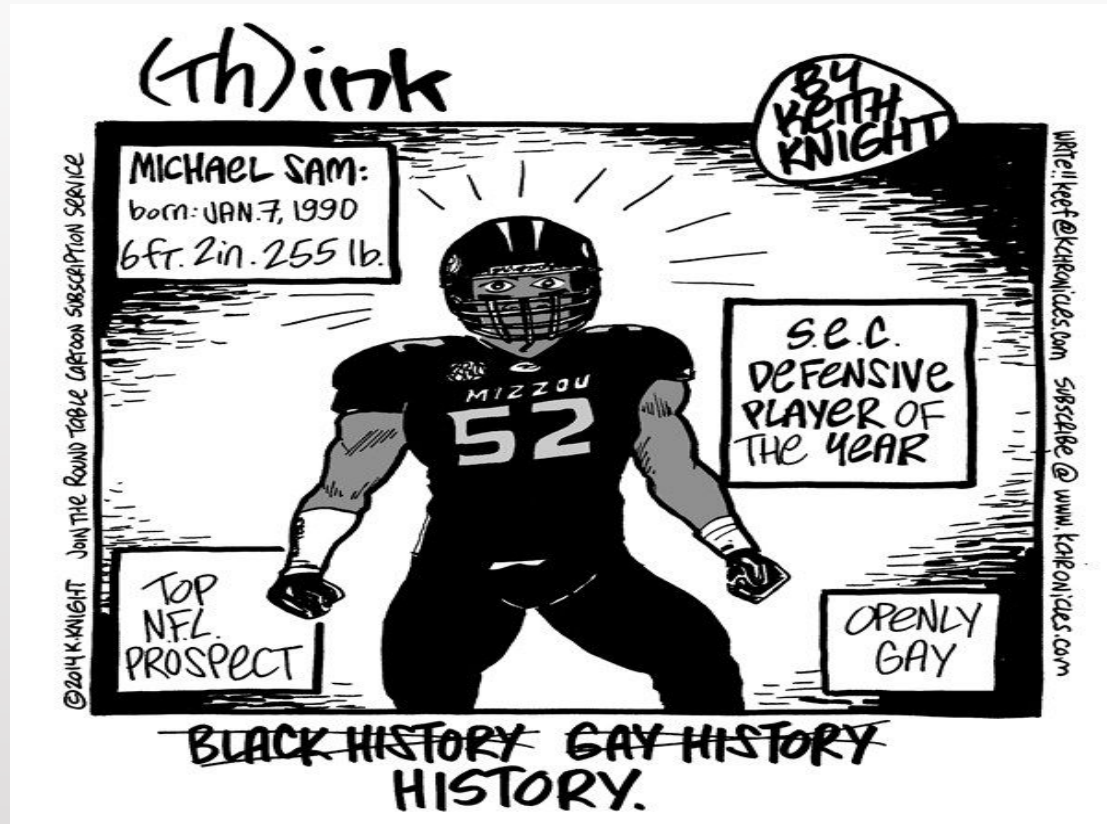
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Boyz

LGBT Practical Impact On sport

- Stigmatization towards LGBT soccer fan during games (e.g 2018 World Cup.)
- Alienating Athletes



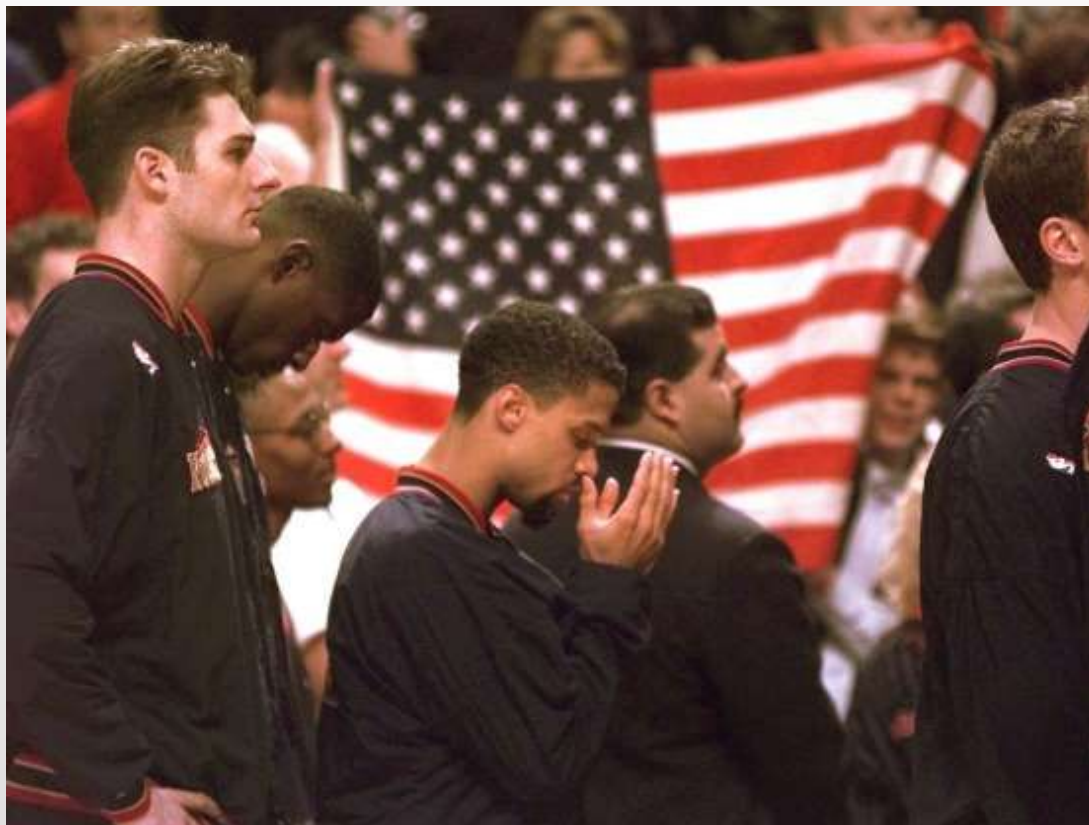


*Carlos and Tommie Smith raising their fists on the podium at the 1968 Mexico City-
Black Power Salute

1967 - Muhammad Ali evades the draft



1996 - Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf suspended



2010- Phoenix Suns immigration protest



October 7th, 2017 - J.T. Brown



Where did this all come from?

“I’m seeing things happen to people that don’t have a voice, people that don’t have a platform to talk and have their voices heard, and effect change.”

- Colin Kaepernick

Notable Events:

- Charles Kinsey: 7/22/16
- Philando Castile: 7/6/16
- Anton Sterling: 7/5/16
- Jamar Clark: 11/16/15
- Tamir Rice: 11/23/14
- Michael Brown: 8/9/14
- Eric Garner: 7/17/14



*Photo taken August 10th, 2016 during training camp.
Via USA Today Sports

Blacklisted From Football? P.E. #1

- It's pretty well understood that for whatever reason, be it bad publicity or polarizing stances from team offices and players, Colin Kaepernick hasn't been offered a contract by any NFL team since his last season with the 49ers in 2016.

Self-empowerment campaigns & social media activism.



- Colin Kaepernick is amidst a lawsuit of the NFL over colluding to keep him out of the league.





Believe in something.
Even if it means sacrificing everything.

 Just do it.

Nike Protests



Never Nike T-Shirt

\$25.00

Color

Black

Size

S

ADD TO CART

Never Nike t-shirt with the American Flag proudly flying on the left sleeve. Display your patriotic support for our country and disgust for Nike and Colin Kaepernick. This is the perfect shirt to wear under your uniform or off duty.

Support police, Fire, EMS and Veterans. They are true heroes, not athletes. Thank you to all those in law enforcement who protect us.

[SHARE](#) [TWEET](#) [PIN IT](#)

nevernike.com - accessed on 9/27/2018





31%

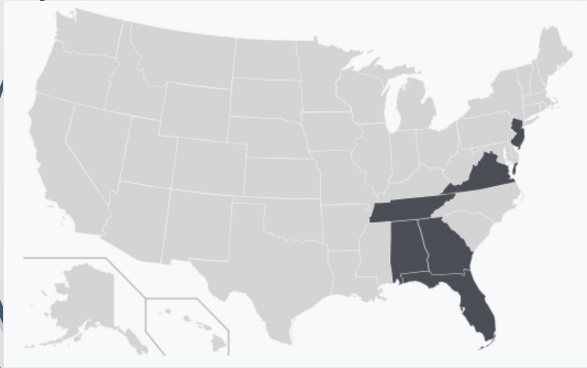
Increase in Nike's sales after Kaepernick ad

Other Sponsorships/Pressuring Athletes



NJIT v. Michigan

- **343/344** Division 1 Men's Basketball programs had a conference - NJIT was the only one that didn't.
- NJIT finally join the Atlantic Sun Conference in 2015



Herb Kirkstreit
@THE_OSU



Michigan has always referred to themselves as the New Jersey Institute of technology Of The West

3:24 PM - Dec 6, 2014

♡ 42 💬 46 people are talking about this



Kevin Clark ✓
@bykevinclark



Congrats to New Jersey Institute of Technology for apparently having a basketball team.

3:01 PM - Dec 6, 2014

♡ 10 👤 See Kevin Clark's other Tweets





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