



THE NFL OR NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Kerry Schmidt 04-15-2007

Yes, the top sport in our country is pro football, or simply, the “NFL.” But now, I believe that each month they should publish a new “Sub title” for the league. It will be called the “Newest Felony List.”

The league could combine their telecasts with other hit shows for still bigger ratings. Shows like “Criminal Minds, Law and” Order” and its knock off, “Law and Order, Criminal Intent.” That would be a big hit.

How about “DOG?” As in “Dog, the Bounty Hunter.” Even stretch it to “Animal Planet,” since so many of these offending players act like animals.

Maybe they should bring in Don Imus to teach them about Nappy Headed Ho’s. That would add that to their resumes to expand their idiocies.

Over 50NFL players have been arrested on various crimes since 2006. Than means last season, since this season has not begun yet, although several players have already gotten a jump on the jail bit.

The coaches, managers and owners have taken note of this. We all know of the combine and individual tryouts players get, and all the various tests they are given. Now I don’t know how much detail these teams delve into the backgrounds and character of these kids, but they damn sure should spend a whole lot of time on this aspect. Once you have singed a Pacman or Chris Henry, you have already given him his huge up-front sign on bonus, and those millions are gone, regardless of what he does immediately afterwards. I could write 10 pages listing every detail on their various offensives, but a few are so far and above the others as to be named in detail.

Of those 50 players, a few really stand out. The Tennessee Titans take the top individual player prize. Adam “Pacman” Jones. He has only been in the league 2 years, but he has managed to get charged and/or arrested 10 times. And he is not confined to geography. Those arrests were in four different states.

Not far behind him, is his old college teammate from West Virginia, the Bengals' Chris Henry. He has been arrested four times in three different states. The “minor” charges were possession of an illegal, concealed firearm, aggravated assault with a firearm, DUI and providing alcohol to minors.

Also, let me mention here that the Bengals win the top team offenders contest. Nine of their players have managed to get themselves fitted with police blotters. In just the last 14 months. See the above character tests above. Guess what? None, not one, of these fine young men were drafted without the team giving them a single hint of a background check! Now that is smart. Give out many millions of up-front dollars and then find out later what type of animal you handed this cash to.

Now before we get into some of the really good stuff on these upstanding individuals, lets look ahead at perhaps a movie that can be made out of this. How about “The Longest Yard III.” Man, what a team the convicts could field for that game!



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Another player whose story I love is the Bears' Tank Johnson. You may remember he was convicted of having a number of unlicensed firearms in his home as well as thousands of rounds of ammunition.

The best part of this is that he had already been convicted and sentenced to house arrest prior to the judge handing down the jail penalty. To keep him house-bound, he had to wear an ankle bracelet.

Well surprise, surprise. Somehow, a Chicago judge was found who would let him take the bracelet off so he could go to Miami for a few days, the same days the Bears just happened to be playing in the Super Bowl.

After they lost, he was quickly given a 4 month jail sentence. Gets him out just in time for the mini-camps.

My man, Pacman, Of his 10 run-ins with the law, one was pretty cool. He went into a Las Vegas strip club during the NBA All-Star break and apparently threw around \$80,000 on some of the strippers. The fun started when he decided he was going to get the money back. The felony that he is charged with is inciting a riot, in which a security guard was shot and paralyzed. Minor stuff.

He also faces felony charges in Georgia and West Virginia. Cool, think of the frequent flyer miles he can rack up.

San Diego added a couple of new twists to their arrests. Linebacker Steve Foley was shot three times by an off-duty policeman following a high-speed chase. His blood-alcohol test was .233, three times the legal limit.

He did not have to be suspended, since he was unable to play that season due to the shooting.

And his teammate, Terrence Kiel was charged with transporting and possession of a controlled substance, codeine-based cough syrup. He finished the season, pleaded guilty and then both he and Foley were released by the team.

At least the Chargers are creative. DEA officials learned that several players were sending large sums of money to China and believed they had a steroid-smuggling case on their hands.

Instead, the authorities came to believe that the money was buy knockoff athletic shoes that could be passed off and sold as name-brand merchandise here in the US. The case has been turned over to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, which has jurisdiction over this type of stuff. Million dollar players picking up a few extra bucks that could cost them their careers.

I wonder if these guys were business majors in college. Pretty cool.

Commissioner Roger Goodell has invoked a strict and new policy of behavior, which, of course, the players union is screaming about.

Anyway, Jones was suspended for the entire 2007 season, which will result in a loss of about \$1.4 million. It could be longer depending on his continued behavior. Jones attorney, Manny Arora has stated he would explore all options if the league suspended his client before the court cases were resolved. Also, team owner Bud Adams said, "Until we see a change in behavior through his actions and until he shows the ability to avoid controversy off the field, we will move forward with the possibility that he may not return to the team."



Henry, who already was suspended by the Bengals for two games twice last year, was given an 8-game suspension to start the 2007 season.

Several of the owners of these teams, along with their coaches, have said that the offenders future behavior will be closely watched, and that any further infractions my well cause the player to be released from the team. But keep in mind, that if that happens, depending on each individual contract, many of the players will receive all or much of the monies remaining on their contracts.

Now, I'm sure many readers are wondering how and why the players can do all this criminal stuff and, basically get away with most of it.

Goodall just recently implemented these much stricter enforcement rules, but he is having to still confront some of the Player's Union reps and the players themselves.

Gene Upshaw, president of the PU, at first stated that there should be no real action taken until the court system is finished.

After talks with Goodall and other members of the league hierarchy, as well as conversing with his own attorneys, has decided to go along with the new, get tough policy.

Raiders defensive tackle Warren Sapp, while admitting that "these new-jack kids" sometimes act like they are walking on water, he expressed bewilderment that Jones was disciplined before his legal case(s) were resolved.

"What the hell rule did he break," Sapp asked, showing his high intelligence level.

When Sapp was told about the new "Conduct detrimental to the game rule," he even called it the league's "whatever the hell we want to do" rule.

But he did actually say something halfway logical. "This is all about patching things up with our sponsors."

Well, fat Sapp, without the sponsor's millions of dollars, you and the other big mouth idiots would not have the salaries you have.

Goodel made it clear that the rules also applied to coaches, management and all other individuals associated with the team(s).

I think that besides handing down such harsh suspensions, that the league should also fine the teams themselves for allowing such behavior. The coaches and managers are the bosses. They need to police these kids more than they have. Remember, many of these kids come from broken homes and/or bad backgrounds, and all of a sudden they find themselves with several million bucks, and they just go off the wall.

Even though the league has meetings with the new players, wherein both coaches and seasoned veterans talk to the rookies about their behavior, you still are not going to have all of them be Peyton Manning.

But we can just hope that these new rules, and maybe even tougher ones, will put somewhat of a stop to this totally reckless and misguided behavior.

I mean, over 50 players earning rap sheets in less than two years? That's pretty damning. Anyway, we shall see.

I think that all teams before games should not play that "we will rock you" song, but rather something like Elvis Presley's Jail House Rock, or Johnny Cash's Folsom City Blues.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

And, I think that all the fines that are levied on the players should go to charities. Like me, for instance.

Well, time to go. Guess I'll go pretend I'm an NFL player and go hold up a liquor store or something,

Stay tuned for next month's New Felony List.