



A WHOLE LOT MORE WRONGS THAN RIGHTS IN SPORTS

By Kerry Schmidt 05-18-2008

Reading through a week's worth of newspapers, Sports Illustrated and spending too damn much time on the internet, I am convinced sports, at least at the moment, is heading into the crapper. Don't know if this first one is a "right or wrong," or just a "who the F knows."

Before Friday's NBA playoff game, the home team has won an unbelievable 22 out of 23 games! Now I know "home field" and "at home" and so forth are commonly taken into the equation when the ever important "Spreads" are set.

For example, in the NFL, home field almost always gives the home team 3 points (more in a couple of stadiums).

But how can you explain 22 of 23?!

And in many of these series, after the home team wins by 15, then the other team, at home, wins by 15. I have never seen this much inequity in a sport.

It has long been whispered that the home team gets the benefit of the doubt from the refs in fouls called. Sometimes, the difference is as many as 20 foul shots.

Brain Surgeon Manu Ginobili of the Spurs said, "Ah, I guess the fans scream so loud we bet pumped up."

Well, I'm sure glad that explains everything.

Anyway, this stat is sure hard to figure.

Speaking of the playoffs, did you see in game 3, Celtics vs. Cleveland, where LeBron James was pushed into the stands (where his mom was sitting) and she jumped up and yelled at Kevin Garnett, "don't you hurt my baby" (all 6'8" and 260 pounds of baby).

Well, James was caught on TV as madly yelling at his mom. He later said he was just telling her to sit down and be quiet, but he admitted using some "words I should not have."

Poor Baby.

Since we're on basketball, one big wrong.

Michael Avery, a hotshot 6'4" guard from Thousand Oaks, CA, just gave a verbal commitment to the scholarship Kentucky offered him.

But Avery's first decision was to decide where he would go to high school! Avery is just finishing up junior high!

Kentucky's coach, Billy Gillispie also made an offer to "old" Vinny Zollo. He's already in the 9th grade.

Several other college coaches have done likewise. In fact, to date, seven Jr. High and/or freshmen in High School have been offered college scholarships.

Now none of the players can actually sign until after their junior year, so Avery must wait until 2011. But just the fact that this is happening is not only wrong, it's insane.

The win at all costs saga is down to kids just 13 or 14 years old!

And then, this logically leads us to the "One and Done" program in College Basketball.

You may remember when, two years ago, NBA Commissioner David Stern made the rule that a player may not go to the NBA until he is at least 19 and one full year removed from his HS graduating class.

So, what happens? The really good players go to their scholarship college for, often, just the fall semester – and some of them may actually take a class or two – and then bolt to the big bucks of the NBA.

The latest examples of this are O.J. Mayo of Southern Cal (who is also involved in an alleged deal wherein he got money from "agents" while still in high school as well as at USC).



Cross town UCLA freshman Kevin Love is also heading for the bucks.

This trend was pushed when Kevin Durant went to college for the 2006-2007 season (semester?), then went pro and was rookie of the year.

So, perhaps because of his success, after seven freshmen bolted after one year last season, 13 have done so this year.

As usual, the media and all the college types went crazy on defending/criticizing this process. NBA management and most colleges want to make it at least two years in college, but it is doubtful the NBA players union will go along with that.

I think they should either do at least the 2-year deal, or just plain go back to drafting them right out of high school.

I mean, for the very few that are good enough for the NFL after just one year of college, hey, they were good enough to play at 18. And, for damn sure the one semester is not going to give them much of an "advanced" education.

Kobe Bryant and LeBron James did OK right out of high school, and one year of college would not have made a difference.

For those good enough, actually being exposed to the level of play in the NBA so early will bring them along more quickly than one year in college.

So, is it wrong to rob the cradle? Hell, why not just not just start paying the kids right away. But, make them finish the 8th grade before they start being shown the money.

Still on the win at all costs deal, NFL commish. Roger Goodell interviewed Matt Walsh, the man who filmed opposing team's defensive practices from 1997 through 2003, for the New Englanders.

Goodell then said the matter was closed, no new info and there will be no further punishment to the Pats.

But wait, sports fans!

Senator Arlen Specter R- PA has called for an independent investigation of the matter, basically saying that he thinks the NFL swept this thing under the rug.

Walsh did say that videotaping the defensive signals gave the Pats an advantage. "If you know what defense a particular team's gonna run, if you're essentially in their huddle...that's quite an advantage to have on offense."

But not enough of an advantage, apparently, for Goodell.

Anyway, Specter is on a mission. Note: the Pats upset his Steelers in SB XXXVI on February 3, 2002, thus within the "Walsh years."

Specter says if the NFL does not investigate further, he will push for a congressional hearing.

According to Specter, Walsh told him that he (Walsh) had spoken to a Pats QB and said QB had told Walsh "the knowledge of defensive signals provided were fruitful." Fruitful?

He further told Specter that he had said the same to Goodell and that the QB had said, "that the first time it was used, it was 75% successful."

Regardless of what went on, like charges of steroids, there now will forever be some doubt about the Pats' excellence.

Now, if he somehow could have gotten video of the cheerleader's locker rooms, THAT would be worthwhile!

Another thing that I think is definitely wrong, and really pisses me off, is when a player in any sport makes a good play, they pump their fist, jump around, whatever.

Last week, Yankees' pitcher Joba Chamberlain struck out David Dellucci.

Chamberlain then pumped his fist, went into pirouettes and screamed, "YEA!"

Listen you freakin idiot, what the F were you doing. Your freakin job is to strike out opposing batters, dumb shit.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

If it had been game 7 of the WS, OK, but in only the 36th game of the regular season?!

You get paid huge amounts of money to get hitters out. Get a life.

Now NFL players are perhaps the worst.

Some LB will make a nice tackle for a yard loss, he then proceeds to squat and gorilla walk around the field, thumping his chest and screaming.

You make one damn tackle, and you feel like you won the SB. Get a frickin life, jerk off.

Maybe it was because said tackle was worth about \$50,000 to him, given his salary and how few tackles he probably makes.

I call your attention to Jerry Rice, best WR of all time. He scored well over 100 TD's and each and every time he simply just dropped the ball in the end zone or gave it to an official. Even in the SB!

OK, all you 9 – 5 slobs, send a cohort an email, then jump up and down and pump your fist and yell, YESSSSSS!

Not only wrong, but also REALLY stupid!

Speaking of stupid. The owners belong to that not so exclusive club.

It happens in every sport, but MLB seems the worst.

A player has a real good year (they refer to it as the “walk year”), in the last year of his existing contract (or they simply give him a new K), and then they give him an obscene amount of money on his new contract.

The results? In 71% of the time, the player has a much less successful season, and sometimes never reaches that plateau again.

There are any number of examples. The most recent major bomb-out was Barry Zitto. The Giants signed him after a great year in 2006 for a zillion dollars. He went 5-16 with an ERA of over five in 2007.

This year, he is so bad they sent him to the bullpen. He has yet to win a single game.

So wrong, and so stupid.

Note: In MLB and the NBA, contracts are guaranteed, i.e. even if a player is injured or cut, the team must pay him the entire amount of money, whether it's for one more year or 15.

In the NFL, not so. You get hurt, tough poop. You will get the rest of that year's salary, perhaps a tiny bit more, but, unless you are one of the very few in the league that has a guarantee, your out of luck, baby. Tough titty said the kitty, and the milk is spoiled.

Speaking of money.

Seems loveable Charles Barkley made a wager or two on the Pats-Giants SB last year. I guess he figured the Pats had the Giants' defensive signals, so he gave the 12 and took the Pats.

Well, the Wynn Las Vegas sued him to get back the four, \$100,000 markers they gave him to wager.

He says he just forgot, and he will pay it back. Good thing this is not the old days. Charlie chuckle may have been capped, or at least knee capped.

Man, I sure wish I could just forget my debts.

Sergio Garcia, sans Tiger, won the TPC tournament last week end.

I only mention this, because the 28 year old Garcia could have been a potential perennial challenge to Tiger. Problem is, Garcia's life style is more akin to John Daly's than Tiger's. Ole Serge loves his partying women, and is known to take a drink or six. God bless him.

Demo Pres candidate B'raaaak (passed gas) Obummer, was showing off his bowling skills a month or so ago and rolled a 39!

Some have a handicap that large.

Only bring this up to show, in my opinion, how bad he is. Period.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Dale Davis, 78 and legally blind, rolled a perfect 300 game during a league playoff on May 3. Old, blind? Hell, he'd make a better presidential candidate than all of them.

Finish with a not so wrong, but good, interesting deal.

Rochelle High School won the Texas I-A track championship.

Mention this because they only had one, yes one, participant.

Bonnie Richardson won the high jump and 200 meters, was second in the 100 and third in the discuss.

Her combined points were more than any other school in the meet.

Imagine how bad the other schools had to feel. Your entire team was not as good as one player. I know one thing for sure. Single Malt is NOT wrong!