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Sports Ethics paper

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In this paper I will be discussing professional sports and cheating. I picked this ethics topic because you see more and more of this every day. I have picked three articles all relating to professional football and three types of cheating scandal. Showing that the NFL and other professional sports have cheating in them all the time and how they do it to keep it in their favor to win or be the best team to keep the most fans. In this paper I will be talking about two coaches in the National Football League, providing information, and how ethical it really is.

The first article is about the New England Patriots and their cheating scandal in 2007, where they were caught using a video camera to steal other teams signs, when they signal their players of a certain play. Both video assistant Matt Estrella and head coach Bill Belichick were the main suspects in this case. Belichick was fined \$500,000 and the Patriots were ordered to pay \$250,000 for spying. They also had to give up their first round pick if they reached the playoffs or 2nd and 3rd round picks if they missed the playoffs. NFL rules states, *"no video recording devices of any kind are permitted to be in use in the coaches' booth, on the field, or in the locker room during the game."* They also say *all video for coaching purposes must be shot from locations "enclosed on all sides with a roof overhead."* After whole thing happened, the Vice President send out a paper to all coaches and general managers stating, *"Videotaping of any type, including but not limited to taping of an opponent's offensive or defensive signals, is prohibited on the sidelines, in the coaches' booth,*

in the locker room or at any other locations accessible to club staff members during the game." This cheating involved the coaches, someone in charge of the team, he knew about the whole thing the whole time and when he was caught he acted like he didn't care. It's sad to know that a professional sports organization has to cheat in order to win a game, that says a lot about the team. The NFL did nothing to anyone but a fine, Belichick made \$4.2 million dollars, was nothing for him. This shows that even the higher ups get in trouble and once again nothing happens, fans wouldn't be happy if they suspended him for his wrong doing. NFL and any other professional sport have to please the fans before doing what's right.

The second ethical article I found was on the New Orleans Saints and their cheating scandal, the Saints paid defensive players to hurt other players on other teams for money. The NFL stated, *"They violated the "bounty rule" in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Specifically, the NFL has concluded that between 22 and 27 defensive players along with at least one assistant coach maintained a "bounty" program. It was funded primarily by players, with \$50,000 or more available during the 2009 playoffs."* In my readings, I found there to be no punishment. This statement from Rodger Goodell, *"At the time, those interviewed denied that any such program existed and the player that made the allegation retracted his earlier assertions. As a result, the allegations could not be proven. We recently received significant and credible new information and the investigation was re-opened during the latter part of the 2011 season."* Professional sports are not about playing the game anymore, it's sad to think they you have to pay your players to play "dirty." And once again, you see the NFL has no real rules so no one can technically be proven guilty because there is nothing to go on, it just seems like

they could also be covering up a fan favorite team. But they do know it is cheating, they will discuss and the punishment could be fines, suspensions and forfeiture of draft choices.

In thinking about ethics for all of this, I find that professional sports have none. You see teams doing wrong all of the time and very little punishment happens. The punishments they hand out are nothing compared to what they should do. I've always been told, if someone cheats they get thrown out. No matter what situation, cheating is never right. You see being league teams and their coaches helping them cheat. It's like we aren't watching a sport, you're watching a fixed game. The pro side to this is their name is out in the media. Any news is good news, you turn on Sports Center and there is always something on there about cheating. The ethics in sports has changed over the years, now you have to wonder what other team is cheating but just hasn't been caught yet. Makes you think when will it stop and teams go back to just playing the game.

In conclusion, the ethics on cheating means nothing to professional sports. Cheating is bad, but yet here it is on major headlines, and the NFL fines here, like it will do something. Their ethics are all wrong and so are the teams for letting this go on. They just turned their backs and let it happen. This isn't teaching our young views how football is really played. It's showing them cheating is okay. You have to think of all the younger viewers that see this and wonder why it's okay for them but not for themselves. The ethics in professional sports is minimal, over the years they have cared less and less. With all the athletes getting in trouble, scandals, and even run ins with the law they just brush them away and let them come right back into the pro sports world as nothing had happened. It just goes to show you what the professional world of sports really is.

James Joyner, (Wednesday, September 12, 2007). New England Patriots Cheating Scandal. Retrieved from http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/new_england_patriots_cheating_scandal/

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