

Professional sports changes rules and regulations

by Andrew Feldman

A lot has changed over the past couple of weeks in sports. A new sports club has joined the city of Philadelphia. New rules implemented in sports are modernizing these timeless games. Even more surprising are two young basketball teams that stand a chance competing with the likes of LeBron James and Kobe Bryant.

On the banks of the Delaware River, PPL Park, a fútbol pitch was created as part of an urban renewal project. This is not a rival to the already established Eagles, but the 16th member to Major League Soccer. Wearing the blue and gold

of the Continental Army, this new soccer team is hoping to establish themselves as a premier soccer team. This soccer club almost did not get a chance to show off their kicks when weeks ago, a strike seemed imminent without a collective bargaining agreement. Fortunately they came to terms and the Union's season began on April 10th with a loss. Hopefully, their inaugural season is quite different from the Triple A baseball team, the Lehigh Valley Ironpigs.

The NFL and American football have also gone through a recent change. With a somewhat controversial move, the NFL owners have decided to reshape overtime rules. Rather than a kicker being able to win the game on a clutch field goal, the loser of the coin toss is given a chance to play offense unless a touchdown is scored. This rule nullifies the strategy of settling for field goal attempts once the offensive team enters field goal range. Before this rule, about 60 percent of coin toss winners also won the game. Expect lots of complaints next year if these overtime rules

affect the outcome of any games.

Certainly, the new NHL rules will not be turning any heads. Of course, that is because blind side hits to the head are prohibited. This rule will at least temporarily exist throughout the end of the regular season and the postseason. The goal is to prevent some serious injuries that have occurred throughout the year. This newly prohibited hit caused Florida Panther, David Booth, to miss 45 games this season. Head injuries have become a serious issue with hockey and are making a lot of noise around the league.

Speaking of noise, if the Thunder are the noise around the NBA, then the Bucks are the lightning. First off, everyone is talking about the Oklahoma City Thunder. The Thunder, in just their second season, have appeared in title contention. A team, with an average age of 25, just so happens to contain one of the league's top scorers, Kevin Durant, who at weeks end was averaging about 30 points, 8 rebounds and 3 assists. But all of this hoopla seems to be overshadowing another up and coming team, the



photo courtesy of Yahoo Sports

The rookie Buck soars past a defender for an easy layup.



photo courtesy of Yahoo Sports

The overtime game winning field goal is a site that will no longer be seen due to the new NFL overtime rules.

Milwaukee Bucks. No one could have predicted this team's recent success. Even more of a mouthful are the never-before heard names on the back of these jerseys, ranging from Mbah a Moute to Ilyasova and Gadzuric. Yet these players, along with the rookie phenom Brandon Jennings, have managed to claw their way into playoff contention as well.

There you have it, sports changing right in front of fans' eyes. Whether it is new rules, franchises or dominant teams, something is changing. Do not blink folks, or fans will miss out on the rapidly changing flux that has become professional sports.

I will make history.

I will bring out the best in people. I will stay true to myself. I will meet my destiny with open arms. I will make a lasting difference. I will have faith in myself. I will have faith in humanity.

I will never look back. I will look forward to the future. I will enjoy the loneliness at the top.

I will zig when others zag.

I will put a chokehold on greatness and never let go. I will collect accolades, not dust.

I will dance on the edge of the void. I will have more real friends than virtual ones. I will never stop asking hard questions. I will say what I mean and mean what I say. I will learn the rules, then break them.

I will speak for my generation.

I will take risks and reap the rewards. I will make the footprints for others to follow. I will learn lessons in failure.

I will look truth in the eye and face the consequences. I will write a success story where I'm the main character.

But first, I will go to LCCC for two years then transfer.



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