

BlogBooker

Low resolution pictures

From Blog to Book.

cjsblogsite.wordpress.com

Contents

1	2015	5
1.1	September	5
	About (2015-09-30 18:02)	5
1.2	December	5
	Faith and Football (2015-12-02 21:16)	5
	Taking Religion out of Sports (2015-12-02 22:12)	5
	Televising Religious Acts (2015-12-03 18:50)	6
	Athletes Perspective (2015-12-03 19:20)	6
	Role Models (2015-12-03 19:33)	7

1. 2015

1.1 September

About (2015-09-30 18:02)

This is an example of a page. Unlike posts, which are displayed on your blog's front page in the order they're published, pages are better suited for more timeless content that you want to be easily accessible, like your About or Contact information. Click the Edit link to make changes to this page or add another page.

1.2 December

Faith and Football (2015-12-02 21:16)

Anytime you are watching football, whether it be Friday night with your friends at the local high school, Saturday at the biggest game of your college teams season, or Sunday where the best biggest and best in the world go at it at the highest level; one thing that is certain is there will always be a huge group huddled around praying before and even after the game. Now most might not see that as an issue, I know I certainly don't, but in the world we live in now where being outspoken about faith can get you ostracized in a heart beat it seems more and more athletes are being a bit more reserve about their faith. For religious people and people of faith this could be a bit disheartening as athletes have a tremendous pull on what other people do, especially children. Think about your favorite player growing up, did you emulate every move he made? Right down to the pointing to the sky? Or even crossing your heart like him, even though you aren't even catholic. That's the biggest point. In a world that is quickly turning hostile and unforgiving athletes still have a huge impact on young ones lives. For a multi-million dollar quarterback to praise God publicly, in a very public setting such as a football stadium or post-game press conference, that sets the bar for youth athletes in knowing that this amazing athlete knows he owes everything to God and that he is outwardly thanking God for his ability and much more common, a win and good game.

Taking Religion out of Sports (2015-12-02 22:12)

As mentioned in the previous post, the days of blatantly proclaiming your faith as an athlete are dwindling. The pressure to be open to everyone's views or making everyone feel comfortable and welcome even if they don't agree with your views is at an all time high not only in our country but everywhere. That being said, there have been less and less

publicly covered events where an athlete or sports team is supporting a religious entity or showing faith towards a higher being. Owners of teams and coaches are being asked to tell their players to pray inside the locker room and to wait until they're off the field to show gratitude towards God. As a matter of fact, Houston Texans running back Arian Foster has voiced his disapproval for outward signs of faith during sporting events. As a player in the NFL, and athiest, he knows the impact it has on the public and the fans that come watch the game. With the world evolving how it is he believes that during a game with millions of people watching is not the place. In an interview with ESPN, Foster is coming out as an advocate for openly secular people. Could you imagine the NFL, who is closely linked to religion than any other pro sports league on the market, has an openly secular advocate? So with owners getting bashed for players praying on the field and everyone shying away from the star players comments on how God blessed him with the ability to do what he does so well, along with the fact there is now a very popular player in the NFL advocating atheism and non-believers I think it is safe to say we have reached a time not long ago we did not think we would reach.

Televising Religious Acts (2015-12-03 18:50)

Digging a little bit deeper on the downplaying of religion in sports is the fact that with technology and DVR anyone can see anything as many times as they want. Most of the time the public gets wind of breaking news before the athlete does. That's what makes television so prevalent; there is no shortage of news or holding back on an update. So when talking about the NFL and how tied together the league has been with religion over the years people wonder where the prayer went? No more televised convocations or uniformed prayers between both teams being shown before commercial. The prayer was a big deal to the NFL and it used to be broadcasting before each game and that has all changed. One sport that does, however, still televise the prayer is NASCAR. NASCAR has withstood the test of modern society in the fall of Christianity from its perch on this country and that's mainly because the roots of this sport lie heavily in the Bible belt. The southeast part of the country where the values of southern Baptists still ring true to that of thirty and forty years ago. It seems hostile though, because all over the country you hear about the "hill-billy rednecks down south who are so simple minded they can't coexist" or "they won't stop trying to throw their religion on me, mind your own business gossip queen." No matter the circumstance people always have something to say. Even ESPN is trying to downplay the reverance of God on their network. Just this year Clemson University's coach was being interviewed on the field immediately after the clock struck zero in a highly anticipated primetime football game. In the interview he thanked God for the win and ESPN subsequently cut the feed to anchors doing nothing. Come to find out it was exactly what it looked like in that someone didn't want to hear about God on national TV. I might could understand but in my opinion, free speech has gotten a bit one sided.

Athletes Perspective (2015-12-03 19:20)

I've hit on every point from a fan our outsiders perspective on sports or an athlete. In a society where athletes are portrayed the same way celebrities are an athlete is under a gigantic microscope on and off the playing field. That

being said most of these athletes understand the pressure they live under and the eyes that are watching them and picking them out of a crowd in public. With that in mind, athletes know that their voice is extremely powerful and has a lot of pull. For instance, if Lebron James went on record saying anyone who is not a Christian is going to hell, the whole world would know about it as the words were spilling out of his mouth. Any athlete can say or do pretty much anything, of course with guidelines, but just turn on your TV and there's end zone dances and choreographed celebrations that are always a hot commodity for the internet. Although the celebrations and dances are what is replayed over and over, what you don't see is the appreciation the athlete has. How many times do you see a player point to the sky after a touchdown? Or a hitter touch both hands together like he's praying as he touches home plate after a home run? As an athlete they know what the world sees and just as much as they want those intricate fun dances to be talked about they want their faith to be known. That's why the NFL has been linked to prayer for as long as I can remember. Athletes after big wins are thanking God for pulling their team through to victory or acknowledging the fact they are blessed to have the ability to perform at a high level referring to it as "God-given." Athletes know what gets out to the public and how the fans perceive players through the media so the ones that have faith make sure to show that.

Role Models (2015-12-03 19:33)

Picking up where I left off in the previous post, an athlete knows how the world is perceiving him or her and the biggest lesson is to make sure all the media can give the general public is positive and at most times that is extremely difficult. We live in a society where the media is completely liberal and doesn't believe in personal space or privacy. That being said, kids look at everything their favorite athlete does. From where they are from to what school they attending and even who they rooted for growing up so being under that whale of a microscope it's hard to be that perfect role model. One athlete that in my opinion has lived a public life as a man of faith and a high profile athlete is Tim Tebow. I think Tebow embodies everything that I am trying to tie together in these blogs. From the pressures of the secular world to the bigger pressures in holding up that "perfect" image under media scrutiny, Tim Tebow is a model citizen. Any young kid can look up to him and say he's one of the greatest and didn't have to be accepted world wide outside of football and in the rock star life. As a matter of fact it's his proclamation of faith that has put him under such scrutiny. People mock the fact he doesn't have a girlfriend because he remains in celibacy until marriage. He knows the world we live in and the stance he's made against it. Also, knowing that every camera and reporter will be there as soon as he makes a mistake is something that helps keep his guard up because, lets face it, they are not very forgiving. So in the world we live in with how much scrutiny someone receives for taking a stand in what you believe in when it was the norm and not something revolutionary and new, Tebow portrays that man of character and faith and shows that there are star athletes that can be stand up role models for young kids that watch them on TV every week.

gads

BlogBook v0.8,
L^AT_EX 2_ε & GNU/Linux.
<http://www.blogbooker.com>

Edited: December 3, 2015

