

CHEAT
SHEET

Drug problems in NFL



Want a complicated news story explained?
Email pendulum@elon.edu and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

New England Patriots defensive end Chandler Jones (95) is blocked by Miami Dolphins tackle Bryant McKinnie Oct. 27, 2013. Jones was hospitalized Jan. 10.

New England Patriots defensive end Chandler Jones was hospitalized Jan. 10 after suffering a reaction to synthetic marijuana.

The athlete reportedly arrived at the rear entrance of Foxboro's public safety building that Sunday morning, shirtless and anxiously seeking aid from police. Jones was "polite and cooperative," according to a report made by Officer Foscaldo, and was rushed to Norwood Hospital by Fire and Service Paramedics.

Though technically Jones' use of the substance breached none of the NFL's substance abuse policies, it has opened a league-wide debate on what should be done to address the increase in use of synthetic cannabinoids.

What is synthetic marijuana?

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, "synthetic cannabinoids refer to a growing number of man-made mind-altering chemicals that are either sprayed on to dried, shredded plant material so they can be smoked (herbal incense) or sold as liquids to be vaporized and inhaled in e-cigarettes

and other devices (liquid incense)."

Related to the chemicals found in marijuana plant species, they are marketed as harmless alternatives to their natural cousin. Despite their legal status, these cannabinoids actually affect the brain more powerfully than those found in marijuana — and with unpredictable effects.

Effects include elevated mood, relaxation, altered perception, psychosis, extreme anxiety, confusion, extreme paranoia and hallucinations. In some instances, the drug proves fatal.

Why synthetic marijuana?

There is widespread belief that synthetic marijuana does not appear on drug tests, an ideal alternative for those under strict substance scrutiny, such as Jones. But this is not necessarily true, proven by Louisiana State University players Tyrann Mathieu, Tharold Simon and Spencer Ware, who tested positive for synthetic cannabinoids in 2011. Regardless, their legal status tempts players to use them, as seen in the case of

New York Jets player Kellen Williams in 2014.

Synthetic marijuana and the NFL

In an excerpt from the NFL's drug policy, the league sets fairly vague standards. According to the policy, players are prohibited from "the illegal use, possession, or distribution of drugs including but not limited to cocaine; marijuana; opiates and opioids; methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA); and phencyclidine (PCP)."

The policy states that players are also prohibited from abusing alcohol, prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs as well. It states that "the use of amphetamines and substances that induce similar effects, absent a verified and legitimate need for appropriate dosages of such substances to treat existing medical conditions, is prohibited."

Given the spike in public popularity, and Jones' recent snafu, the NFL is preparing to take a hard stance on synthetic cannabinoids and make an example of Jones as a reference for future infractions.

Elon Police search West Trollingler Avenue house

Officers uncover possession of marijuana during party trash search, no arrests made

Bryan Anderson

News Editor
[@bryananderson](https://twitter.com/bryananderson)

Town of Elon Police executed a search warrant Jan. 16 at 309 W. Trollingler Ave. after uncovering possession of marijuana during a routine 8 a.m. town ordinance party trash search.

"Every morning, officers come out and look for the town ordinance violations, [including] excessive trash in the yards and they address it by 8 in the morning," said Patrol Lt. Jim Giannotti.

After noticing excessive trash on the West Trollingler house front lawn, an officer approached one of the students in the home and discovered drug paraphernalia on the coffee table. According to Giannotti, the student told the officer he would need to get a search warrant before entering the house.

"The important part was it was a minor violation that turned into having to do a search warrant for minor drug violations," Giannotti said.

While Giannotti could not confirm the identities of the individuals inside the house at the time of the search warrant execution, he said there were students inside. He added that individuals would be arrested at this time.

A police report is scheduled to be made publicly available later this week.

NEWS BRIEFS

New performing arts production premieres Thursday, Jan. 21

Elon's Department of Performing Arts is putting on its production of William Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well" Jan. 21 -24 and Feb. 3-6. Professor Fredrick J. Rubeck, chair of the department, is directing the play, which will take place in the Black Box in Roberts Studio Theatre at Arts West.

The play will be shown 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$13 or free with an Elon ID.

Upcoming winterfaith session to foster discussion of Sikh traditions

From 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. today, members of the Elon community are invited to learn more about the Sikh faith during the latest installment of the winterfaith Lunch Series. Previous sessions Jan. 6 and Jan. 13 covered Friends (Quaker) and Buddhist beliefs.

The discussion will take place in the Community Life Center at Elon Community Church. Elon students who choose to attend will receive a free lunch. These events are sponsored by the Elon Community Church and the university's Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life.

Elon announces new director of annual giving

Steve Codner, former associate director of the annual fund at Bucknell University, has been named Elon University's new director of annual giving. He began his duties at Elon Jan. 4.

Codner will lead a team of six people focused on increasing annual giving to the university. His other responsibilities will include reaching out to the Elon alumni community and other demographics with connections to the university.

In addition to his time as director of Bucknell's annual fund, Codner has served as senior manager of annual fund marketing at Bucknell and director of annual giving at Elmira College.

'Tapped Out!' performances Friday, Saturday

Gene Medler, adjunct instructor in dance will direct faculty and student dancers in a tap-dancing performance Jan. 22 and 23.

The 2016 Tap ensemble will perform various pieces of tap dance at the Black Box Theatre. The performances will take place at 6 and 8 p.m. Friday, then again at 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday.

Admission is \$13 or free with an Elon ID at the door.