

# NFL Sportscaster is arrested: will it call for a change in NFL DUI policies?

BY JOHN KLUEPFEL  
STAFF WRITER

The man who asked, "Do you believe in miracles?" will answer to the judge. Al Michaels, famous sportscaster, was arrested on April 19 for driving under the influence.

After making an illegal U-turn, Michaels, 68, slurred his speech when pulled over by police.

TMZ reported that Michaels cooperated and tested just above the alcohol limit, blowing a .08 and .09 BAC into two breathalyzers.

Michaels called the play-by-play of the "Miracle on Ice" at the 1980 Olympics, the earthquake delay of game three in the 1989 World Series, and commented with John Madden for Monday Night Football.

He currently anchors primetime NFL games.

"I love watching Sunday Night Football," said first-year Ben Randazzo. "Michaels' voice is synonymous with football. I really hope he keeps his job because he makes listening to Chris Collingsworth bearable."

Michaels' arrest led to a bigger issue concerning the NFL, as his incident will only add fuel to the fire. Players, coaches and now announcers have been irresponsible.

"I think it sucks that NFL players get arrested for drinking and driving," said first-year Liliana Bernhardt. "These guys are role models for kids, and it's not like they don't have the resources to get somebody else to drive them."

The Player Protect program provides a 24-hour driving service to professional athletes. Any player can contact this taxi-like service for a ride home in a limo or luxury SUV.

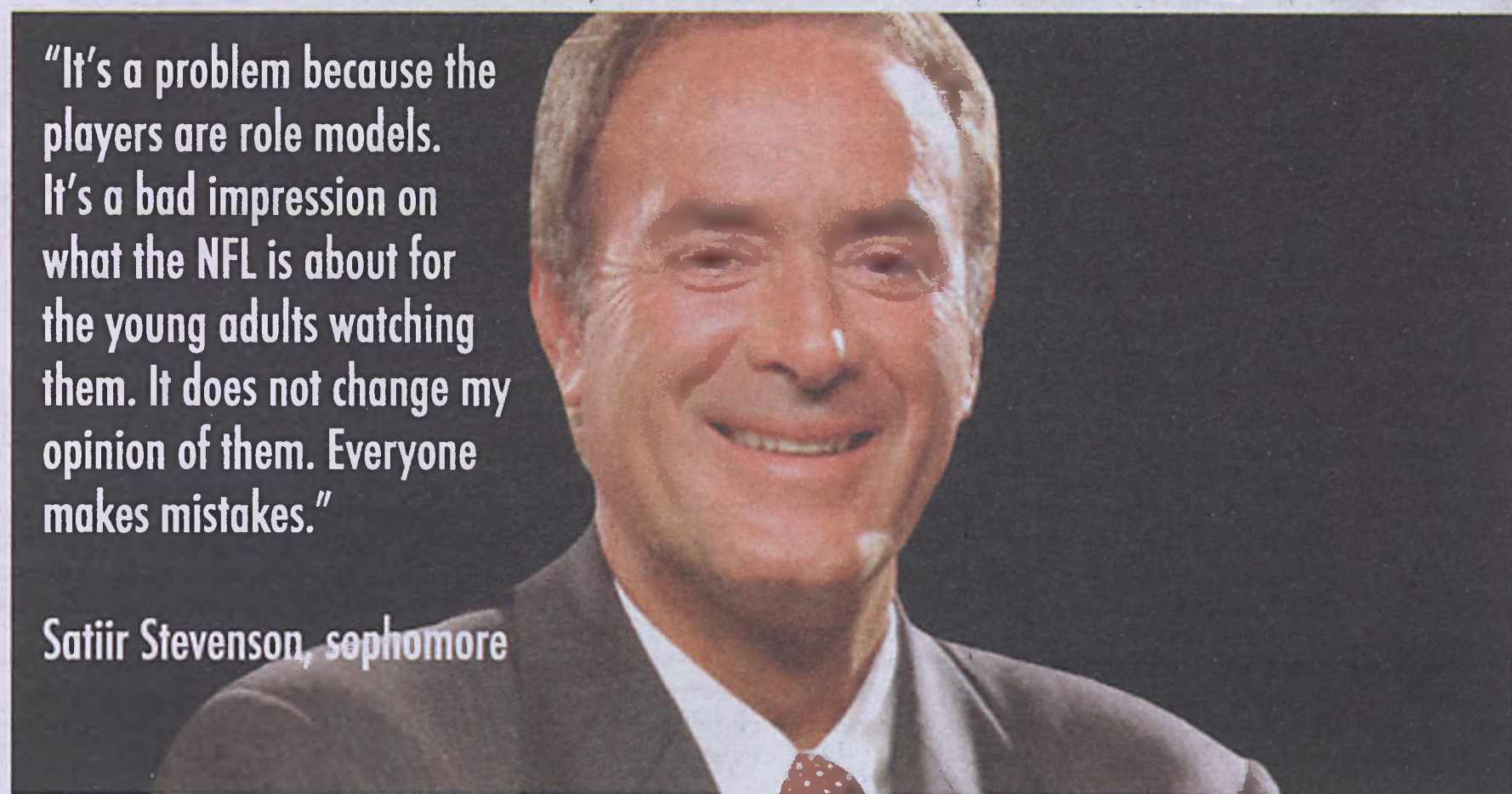
"There is no excuse for professional athletes to get DUIs," said first-year Jeremiah Long. "These guys get paid millions of dollars and still mess up. They could end up hurting or even killing someone, like Donte Stallworth."

Stallworth killed a 59-year-old construction crane operator while driving drunk in Miami.

Josh Brent, nose tackle for the Dallas Cowboys, killed teammate Jerry Brown Jr., a 25-year-old member of the Cowboys practice squad, last December. As Brent rocketed down the highway at speeds exceeding 110 mph, he struck a curb and flipped the vehicle.

"It's a problem because the players are role models. It's a bad impression on what the NFL is about for the young adults watching them. It does not change my opinion of them. Everyone makes mistakes."

Satiir Stevenson, sophomore



Famous NBC sportscaster **Al Michaels** is best known for his commentary of the 1980 Olympics and current primetime NFL games.

Did Michaels not learn anything?

"DUI in the NFL is not a new occurrence," said senior Howard Hurt. "But, I hope the death of an NFL player will help change league policies."

Although many are quick to criticize these NFL players, some believe that famous athletes are no worse than other people.

"I don't think they do any more than athletes of other sports or other people in general," said senior Alex Berzon. "You just hear about them more because they happen to be known athletes."

But, many think the NFL should crack down on players.

"It's a bad impression (of) what the NFL is about for

the young adults watching them," said sophomore Satiir Stevenson. "It does not change my opinion of them. Everyone makes mistakes."

The NFL has pushed to improve player safety and limit head-to-head contact. Changing the rules of the game stirs controversy, but increasing the penalty for DUIs should not.

"The only way to get it through these player's heads is by increasing the suspensions," said sophomore Cameron McDowell.

Michaels will appear in court on June 26. Even though Michaels is not a player, he is a symbol for the league. It is not yet determined whether NBC will penalize this football icon.

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Sarah Cutright**, senior, two-year softball captain: Nereus C. English '26 Athletic Leadership Award

**Kent Peterson**, senior, captain of the baseball team: Nereus C. English '26 Athletic Leadership Award

**Brittany Atwater**, senior, three-year starting point guard: George Wynne Most Improved Student Athlete Award

**D.J. Phillips**, senior, four-year starter for the baseball team: Richard Joyce Sportsmanship Award

**E'leyna Garcia**, junior, attacker for the lacrosse team: Guilford's Best Female Athlete Award, Dick Dyer Outstanding Athlete Award

**Noah Ratner**, senior, three-time ODAC Golfer of the Year: Guilford's Best Male Athlete Award

## ALSO, CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**John Macon Smith**, junior, for winning the Old Dominion Athletic Conference/Farm Bureau Insurance Baseball Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors this past Friday, April 26. Smith, as well as senior **Kent Peterson** and junior **Corey Wallace** earned First Team All-ODAC honors while first-year **Nathan Fulbright** rounded out Guilford's honorees, claiming Third Team All-ODAC honors.

Guilford honored its top student-athletes on April 14 at a year-end ceremony. Six award winners were nominated and selected by members of the school's athletics department to be recognized at the ceremony.