

NFL proves its hypocrisy

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have barely been able to walk as their careers end. And, today, we're in an era where it seems almost weekly we hear news of a football player arrested for spouse abuse or assault or something equally criminal. Certainly everyone here remembers the Rae Carruth case.

And the NFL is worried about excessive celebrations?

What a bunch of hypocrites.

You wanna know what violations deserve harsher penalties in the NFL?

Well, the league could start by penalizing itself for allowing people to release those "greatest hits" videotapes that highlight bone-crushing blocks and tackles on the field. What kind of respect do those tapes give to players whose careers have been ended by such hits?

Then, the league could boot athletes who test positive for steroids for at least a year. Then the league could bring real punishment - not slaps on the hand - for players convicted of crimes away from the field. Then, the league suspend guys who "chop block" for at least a season.

And then...

Well, get the picture?

There are far too many serious things for the league to focus on than worrying about whether a guy pulls out a Sharpie when he scores.

And, besides, it's just a stupid rule. Excessive celebration? What, are guys stripping in the end zone these days?

If a guy scores a touchdown, I don't care if he brings a choreographer into the end zone to re-enact the "Thriller" video. Let them dance. Let them pose. Let them have fun.

"Don't call us the No Fun League," Atlanta Falcons general manager Rich McKay, co-chair of the league's competition committee, told the Tennessean newspaper recently. "This has nothing to do with the Lambeau Leap, the spike, the sack dance or throwing the ball over the goal post. But the demonstrations are becoming more sophisticated and more pre-planned than they've ever been."

So let me get this straight:

If a guy catches a touchdown pass over a defensive back, then turns and spikes the ball two feet away from

the defensive back, it's not excessive?

If a guy runs over a defensive lineman and then sprints to the goal posts to dunk the ball, it's not pre-planned?

Whatever.

Mind you, I don't have a problem with any of the aforementioned actions. I say, keep a guy from scoring a touchdown, keep a guy from sacking your quarterback. And if you can't stop a guy from doing those things, you just deal with the celebration.

Having gotten to know a few pro players over the years, I can tell you that those actions are much more tame than some of the things done and said at the bottom of NFL piles.

But what bothers me is the league saying that it will allow celebratory spikes and dunks, while refusing to allow a guy to mockingly pose for pictures. It's such a major contradiction for the NFL.

Then again, as video sales soar, and more and more players get community service, what exactly should we expect?

Columnist C. Jemal Horton at seejemalwrite@aol.com.

Golf outing to benefit A&T sports

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said. "Traditionally black colleges and universities don't have at their disposal the means that are taken for granted at Division I schools. Players on those teams don't have to worry about transportation or equipment. Their athletic departments receive alumni donations that we can only dream about making. However, we realize that what we do does make a difference for our athletes and we're determined to continue to strive to make things better for them."

The golf tournament and awards presentation is expected to end at approximately 3 p.m. A post-tournament dinner will be held at Dave and Fran's Rotisserie at 1520 West Boulevard. The dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature A&T head football coach George Small, Assistant Athletics director Wheeler Brown, and Aggie Club President

Spencer Gwynn.

Small, a native of Raeford, graduated from A&T in 1979. He spent six seasons in the NFL with the New York Giants, Denver, Green Bay, and Pittsburgh. An accomplished defensive coordinator, Small has coached at the collegiate level since leaving the NFL.

Small was named A&T head coach in 2003 and turned around a team that was 4-8 in 2002 into a 10-3 squad and MEAC champs in his first season.

Those not participating in the golf tournament can attend the dinner for a \$5 donation. Door prizes will be awarded. The golf tournament is scheduled for 7 a.m. check-in, with shotgun start at 8 a.m. For more information, call Bloomfield at (704) 568-0531 or (704) 619-7059. He can also be contacted via e-mail at jbloomfield@carolina.rr.com.

Sting adds depth through draft

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IQ, is a great rebounder and passer and is the most versatile player in this year's draft."

"I'm really excited to go to Charlotte, the people on the team are amazing," said Powell. "I'm just really looking forward to it and think I can bring a lot of different skills to the team. Whatever the team needs, I will do."

As a senior, Powell averaged 20.2 ppg and 11.2 rpg as she helped lead the Cardinal to the 2004 Pac-10 conference and tournament title. She also helped her team advance to the Elite Eight where she was named the Most Outstanding Player for the NCAA Tournament Midwest Region.

Powell was named to the Associated Press All-America first team and nominated a finalist for the State

Farm Wade Trophy and the inaugural Wooden award. For the third consecutive season, she was nominated as a finalist for the Naismith Award and was named a Kodak First-Team All-American, the first player in Stanford history to be a three-time Kodak All-American.

Mazzante, a 5-11 guard, averaged 21.9 points while shooting 43.7 percent from the floor during her college career. Mazzante finished her career as the Big Ten and Penn State's all-time leading scorer. She is also ranked ninth all-time in career points in the NCAA with 2,919.

"Kelly Mazzante is a scorer. The bottom-line is she has great size and when she's on the floor you have to pay attention to her," Lacey said.

A 6-3 forward,

Benningfield averaged 13.1 points and 5.9 rebounds per game as a senior. An AP All-American honorable mention in 2003, Benningfield helped lead the Commodores to the 2002 and 2004 SEC tournament championship. She was also named to the All-SEC team in 2003 and 2004.

"Jenni Benningfield is a basketball player," Lacey said. "She has great footwork, she's a good passer and has good range. She's another very intelligent basketball player."

A 5-8 guard, Perkins left the Lady Red Raiders team in January due to undisclosed medical reason and will not be available to the Sting this season. As a junior Perkins was named an honorable mention Kodak All-American and was a first team Big-12 selection.

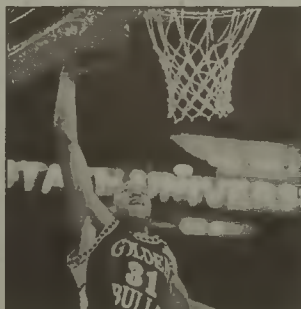
Foggie gives Cobras a lift

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changed coaches three times this season, is a work in progress, but still can make the playoffs with a late-season charge. The odds are stacked against Carolina, but Foggie likes the team's spirit and attitude.

"It's an emotional roller coaster but the key thing is we've kept the nucleus of the players," he said. "We've had the same players since camp. We still feel we have a chance to make the playoffs. It's a long shot, we know that, but we ain't got nothing to lose now."

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