

## Sports Week2

Understand the context of sports and the impact on the world

- What is a sport?
  - Sports are games.
  - Player skill plays a central role
  - Usually physical, with focus on athleticism.
    - Your body is your controller
    - Your input into the system
  - Large scale institutional structures
    - Leagues organizations tournaments
  - Global, official, shared, universal language of what the sport is
    - You can play with anyone around the world
- SPORTS ARE ABOUT CONTEXT
  - NY Yankees beat the Red Sox tells me nothing
    - This isn't about one moment, one moment leads into another
    - This was about decades worth of rivalry
  - This is generational, passed on like a culture of religion
  - Yankees beat the Red Sox more often than not
  - It meant something when they FINALLY beat them.
- **Chicago Cubs haven't won a World Series since 1908**
- **Sports get people to identify with something beyond themselves**
- Fanatic: marked by excessive enthusiasm and often intense uncritical devotion
  - Where "Fan" comes from
- Sports are largely about competition
  - Who is the best?
  - What is possible?
  - Sports are contests
    - Objective
  - Competition for it's own sake?
  - What do we value? talent ? hard work?
  - Why do we root for the underdog?
  - What does it mean to cheat?
- Experience versus Spectacle
  - Some people love playing
  - Some love watching people play
- Decision versus action
- Drama Machines
  - When you're playing fantasy football you're looking at NUMBERS
  - But it matters, cause the sport creates drama

- Sometimes it's about the performance
  - Professional wrestling
- Sometimes a moment can be bigger than the game
  - Sometimes a moment or play, and individual act of athletic beauty, can overcome the point of the whole game
- **Key Game: BASKETBALL**
  - 1891CE, James Naismith, Ball Game, USA
  - We know all these exact details
    - This is rare
  - Made in the Springfield, Massachusetts
  - We have audio recording
  - There was a blizzard and needed to keep students busy
  - Rough housing in the halls caused basketball
  - Called boys to gym, divided them into teams of nine, gave them an old soccer ball, and the idea was to throw the ball into peach baskets
  - He lived long enough that he saw professional games played
  - We still have a copy of the original rules of basketball
  - Game as originally played had tons of differences
    - NBA official rulebook is over 200 pages, versus the original 2
  - A living game
    - WHY
      - Can be traced to exact original
      - Tremendously popular
      - Action
      - Basic rules are simple, but allows for complex strategy
      - Different roles (classes) based on skills, size, and strength.
      - 5 v 5 game, 18 inch hoop, shot clocks, fouls
  - FOULS
    - Different from cheating
    - Can occur from playing the game very hard
    - Each player gets a certain number of fouls
      - If you reach your limit your out
    - HACK A SHAQ- making shaq throw a free throw
    - Emerged on top of the basic rules
  - It looks so damn cool
  - Basketball passes the test on the athletic beauty scale
  - Sports are about competition and attempting to beat them, you can only be really great when you're playing against another great competitor
  - Built on strategy
    - Hard to see strategy if you don't understand it

- Pick and Roll
- **Key Game: FOOTBALL (American)**
  - 1868CE, ca. Walter Camp (creator), Ball Game, USA
  - Comes out of other games like rugby and soccer
  - Played on 300 yard field
  - 11 on 11 game
  - When it was originally created, offense and defense were the same players
  - Football originally looked very chaotic and painful
  - Nov 6th 1869, Jersey vs Rutgers
    - One of the first recorded football games
      - 6-4
      - Rutgers won
  - Walter Camp was an avid football player
    - Walter Chauncey Camp is considered “the Father of American Football”.
      - Introduced
        - line of scrimmage
        - The snap
        - Distance requirements
        - Scoring
  - Pop Warner
    - Little kids football
    - A coach at the Carlisle Indian school, bringing native Americans into American culture
    - Half the rules in football were made to thwart Warner's attempt to cheat the game
  - Part of the appeal of football is its savagery
  - Kept men from getting too soft
  - Teddy Roosevelt saved football!
    - Saw the articles about football and was worried
    - Vowed to civilize or destroy football
    - Figured out a way to make football safer
      - Banned the flying V
      - Players had to be spread along the line of scrimmage
      - The forward pass was introduced
      - You can throw the ball to spread the game out
  - 95.6 percent of deceased NFL players tested positive for CTE (concussions).
    - People are colliding at high speed often
  - WHY American Football?

- Most popular American Sport
  - Strategic, turn based, like chess with people
  - Raw aggression vs aesthetic beauty
  - Violence, balancing rules for safety vs staying true to the game
  - Super bowl is the most watched “annual” sporting event
- **Key Game: The Olympic Games**
  - 776BCE, Unknown developer, physical games (various), Ancient Greece
  - Founded by Heracles a Greek demi-god
  - Original sports were foot races, pentathlon, boxing, wrestling, and various horse racing events
  - Originally ended in 393 BCE when abolishing pagan practices
  - **ARETE**
    - **Virtue of excellence, reaching your highest potential, courage and strength in the face of adversity**
  - Olympics are the mini-games of sports
  - Simone Manuel, tied for Gold in swimming
  - Largely about national pride
  - Skeleton and Bi-Athalon
    - Weird games
    - We care about it because our country might win
  - We care about metal counts
    - Michael Phelps has 28 gold medals, greatest Olympian ever
  - **WHY**
    - **International competition**
    - **Amateurism?**
    - **Nationalism**
    - **Sports as a proxy for politics/war**
      - City-states would sometimes STOP fighting for the Olympics
      - 1936 Nazi Olympics
        - Took place in Nazi Germany
        - Germans believed they were the absolute best
        - Jesse Owens OWNED them and won 4 gold medals
          - Celebrated as an American Hero
  - **Eero Mäntyranta**
    - Finnish Cross Country Skier
    - Olympic Medals (3 Gold, 2, Silver, 2 Bronze)
    - Had (Primary Familial and Congenital Polycythemia) PFCP, a genetic disorder that helped him be better at his sport

- Doping, putting your blood in a centrifuge and making you better
- **Key Game: Soccer (Association Football)**
  - 1848CE, Unknown Developer, Ball Game, England
  - Formation in Cambridge rules
  - Chesterton vs Cambridge Uni, that ended in brawl and led to a ban on football on college grounds
  - In 1848, meeting at trinity college, Cambridge rules addressed this
  - 2 x 45 minutes periods
  - WHY
    - Most popular sport in the world
    - Very team oriented
    - Very simple for a team sport
    - Elegant, ease of play
    - Side effects of simplicity
      - The offside rule
        - In opponents half of field
        - In front of ball
        - Fewer than two people in the pitch
    - Soccer can be extremely beautiful
    - Soccer has a weird foul system
      - If you get one red card, you're out and no one can replace you
      - If you get two yellow cards that = a red card
      - You'll usually get a warning before you get a foul
      - People play up pain to get fouls
    - Hooliganism, people form gangs around teams and fight
      - Fandom gone too far
- **Key Game: Cricket**
  - Ca. 1700's CE, unknown dev, bat and ball game, England
  - National sport of England in 18th century
  - WHY
    - Second most popular sport in the world
    - Team sport, but very very individualized
    - Slow paced, long match (5 Days Standard)
    - Spirit of the game (it's just not cricket)
      - The standard of sportsmanship is so high
      - Don Bradman
        - Greatest sportsman of all time by statistical standards
        - Better at his sport than others at their sport

- Bodyline, hitting the player with a ball
    - The English players are trying to hurt the other team
      - That's not cricket
        - Second biggest controversy ever
  - Biggest controversy ever:
    - New Zealand needs a homerun on one pitch to win
    - Other team rolls the ball on the ground
      - Impossible to hit homerun
    - SO NOT CRICKET
    - Prime Minister of New Zealand called it disgusting
    - Australian minister called it contrary to the spirit of the game.
  - Primarily played in England's former colonies
- Baseball
  - Brought by Irish immigrants
  - Abner Doubleday created it (NOT)
  - Stats of baseball effected fantasy leagues
- **Key Games: Tennis**
  - Ca 1100CE, unknown dev, Ball and Racket, France
  - 1860 Wimbeldon created
  - Royal game, played by French royalty and members of the court
  - Not for commoners
  - Enclosed courts in original field
  - Different surfaces effect game
  - No clock in the game, you play until the game is over
    - ENDLESS GAME
  - Women only play 3 sets versus men who play 5 sets
    - The more sets, the better your chances
    - Makes Serena Williams THAT much more impressive.
  - WHY
    - Player vs player (rivalries)
    - Popular for men and women
    - Old sport, the "game of palms" played by Royalty
    - Game defined by contemporaries
      - Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras
      - Nadal and Federer
      - You're defined by who you play
    - Match fixing in tennis has reached "shocking" levels
      - Gambling becoming an issue

- Boxing
- **Key Games: Golf**
  - Ca. 1400CE, unknown dev, Ball and Club, Scotland
  - You want the lowest score
  - WHY
    - **Player versus physics**
    - **Player versus nature**
    - **Indirect competition**
    - **Nature modified to fit the game (level design)**
    - **You're taking nature and shaping it, and find different layouts and challenges**
    - Quiet sport, you can play by yourself
    - Meditative aspect
    - Babe Didrikson
      - Greatest golfer of all time
      - Started LPGA
    - Focuses precisely on mechanics
      - You have as long as you want to hit the ball
      - How hard to hit, how to move your body, which club, etc.
      - Lots of math in golf
- Sasuke (Ninja Warrior)
  - 1997CE, Ushio Higuchi (producer), Obstacle Course, Japan
  - Two seasons a year
  - 32 seasons in Japan right now
  - World's Strongest Fisherman Makago Nakago
  - Women compete on the same course as men
  - First woman to complete, Casey something
  - Jeff Britain, first American ninja warrior
  - There's a constant arms race so the dynamic is CONSTANTLY changing
  - Sport?
  - Reality TV?
  - Game Show?
  - Trying to legitimize it as a sport
  - It's a television sport, easier to find videos than screenshots
  - Terrible commentators
  - No real insight like actual sports announcers
  - They make them submit casting videos, so your story has to be really interesting
  - There's a weird balance between selling your story and physical fitness

- They have wild cards, so even if you don't qualify, you can run because you have a good story
- **A sport that's edited for TV**
  - **Contrary to our perception of sports**
  - **The Natural quit because he didn't like how he was being portrayed.**
- **E-sports**
  - RTS
  - Action/Strategy
  - Fighting Games
  - Shooters
- **Key Game: Formula 1**
  - 1946, Federation International l'Automobile (FIA), Motorsport, Western Europe
  - Purpose built paved roads
  - Circle tracks, straight tracks
  - Roots in Grand Prix where people would racers would race from town to town
  - Marcel Renault, racer and large manufacturer
  - Formula 1, Monaco Grand Prix super famous
    - **Why Monaco?**
      - Very wealthy city
      - A wealthy cigarette baron starts racing friends
      - Realizes it starts to be super expensive
      - Almost exclusive purview of the wealthy
      - In auto racing you can buy a good car
      - In Monaco, it's more than the car
  - Tool assisted sport
    - **The ability of the athlete is augmented by the tool**
  - If there was a computer controlling the car it wouldn't be the same
  - So why is it a sport?
  - The sport demonstrates the spirit of the athlete
  - We race because through it, we can express ourselves
  - We watch humans race, not cars
- No matter how good or bad shape, you can always be in better shape. Your body is important, try to use it to play a game.