**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
      * Rutger won
  + Walter Camp was an avid football players

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 Warners 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 Mantyranta
      * 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 Wimbleldon 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 legitimatize 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.