**Title:** NFL Facing Attacks On All Fronts Over Concussions

**Subtitle:**

**Meta Description:** The NFL’s handling of concussions continues to spark lawsuits and debate over whether the league should have done more to protect players.

**Date:** 0-6-2012

**Author:** Anthony R. Caruso

**Formatted Content:**

The National Football League’s handling of concussions continues to spark lawsuits and debate over whether the league should have done more to protect players. Even if the league is able to fend off the lawsuits, many speculate that the harm to its reputation could be equally as damaging.

As reported by the New York Times, more than a dozen suits have been filed since July on behalf of more than 120 former players. The suits contend that the NFL and helmet manufacturers purposely hid information regarding the harmful effects of repeated head trauma. Some lawsuits also maintain that even if the NFL was not aware of the risks of permanent injury, it should have known.

It is only recently, the players contend, that the NFL began taking steps to address the long-term effects of concussions. They argue that for decades the NFL rejected the growing body of scientific evidence showing the long-term effects of head injuries.

According to several lawsuits, the NFL distributed a pamphlet about concussions in 2007. It said, “Current research with professional athletes has not shown that having more than one or two concussions leads to permanent problems if each injury is treated properly.”

Despite the compelling stories of big name players like Jim McMahon and Jamal Lewis, the players’ likelihood of success is uncertain, as they face a number of significant legal obstacles. The league has already been successful in convincing one court that any claims by the retired players should be subject to their collective bargaining agreements. In addition, players will have to prove that the concussions they suffered while playing in the NFL caused their current health issues.

Of course, these are just some of the legal issues raised by the player lawsuits. For both football players and organizations, this legal fight is likely to have significant implications. We will keep you posted.

**Raw Content:** <p>The National Football League’s handling of concussions continues to spark lawsuits and debate over whether the league should have done more to protect players. Even if the league is able to fend off the lawsuits, many speculate that the harm to its reputation could be equally as damaging.</p>
<p>As reported by the <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/30/sports/football/nfl-faces-retired-players-in-a-high-stakes-legal-battle.html" target="\_blank" rel="noopener">New York Times</a>, more than a dozen suits have been filed since July on behalf of more than 120 former players. The suits contend that the NFL and helmet manufacturers purposely hid information regarding the harmful effects of repeated head trauma. Some lawsuits also maintain that even if the NFL was not aware of the risks of permanent injury, it should have known.</p>
<p>It is only recently, the players contend, that the NFL began taking steps to address the long-term effects of concussions. They argue that for decades the NFL rejected the growing body of scientific evidence showing the long-term effects of head injuries.</p>
<p>According to several lawsuits, the NFL distributed a pamphlet about concussions in 2007. It said, “Current research with professional athletes has not shown that having more than one or two concussions leads to permanent problems if each injury is treated properly.”</p>
<p>Despite the compelling stories of big name players like Jim McMahon and Jamal Lewis, the players’ likelihood of success is uncertain, as they face a number of significant legal obstacles. The league has already been successful in convincing one court that any claims by the retired players should be subject to their collective bargaining agreements. In addition, players will have to prove that the concussions they suffered while playing in the NFL caused their current health issues.</p>
<p>Of course, these are just some of the legal issues raised by the player lawsuits. For both football players and organizations, this legal fight is likely to have significant implications. We will keep you posted.</p>
<p><strong> </strong></p>