Atlanta Falcons Position Paper

Committee: NFL

Topic: Head Safety

Team: Atlanta Falcons

School: Lower Canada College

One of the most controversial aspects in American football, in particular the NFL is head safety. In fact, over the years concussions and mental health issues have really shed negative light on the NFL. Because of this, the league has actually lost millions of dollars in lawsuits and also it has created a long-term problem of attracting players into the sport. To resolve this issue the delegation of the Atlanta Falcons think that the NFL needs to approach head injury in a different direction. The delegation finds that not only should the league try to prevent concussions which is what we are presently doing, we should create an organization that focuses on improving the recovery process of the players after suffering a head injury as well as fund different research projects aiming towards the same goal.

To support this proposition, the delegation of Atlanta Falcons has come up with several points that not only has concrete evidence but also counterarguments to why what we are presently doing is not enough. First of all, presently, the NFL is funding many different projects in effort to reduce and even potentially eliminate brain injury. This quite good, however one might be able to argue that concussions may never be prevented, since we already know that the skull and cerebrospinal fluid aren’t biologically designed to fully protect the brain during high speed collisions. This is why in addition to the funds for prevention; the league should implement a group that focuses on rehab as well. With this new organization, there could be many discoveries that would really be able to help the league. For instance, if faster methods of recoveries are found, then players would start speaking up about the injuries they sustain without being worried of having his position on the team replaced. In addition, with this rehabilitation research funding, there might be ways that will lower the long term effects of CTE and with these positive results, more kids will start picking up football, increasing the talent pool of potential players.

In conclusion, it is clear that by adding an organization within the NFL and funding research to improve the recovery process of players, the results will be completely positive. Notably, with this addition, the league will gain a good image since they are trying to improve the health of its players. Also it will potentially reassure athletes to play this sport with new research that is coming out and increase the talent that the NFL has to offer.