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# League Expansion:

As a member of the NFL Executive, Troy Vincent has been an advocate for the expansion of the NFL into new markets, allowing for the organization to grow and become even more influential in the future. However these expansions remain muddled.

The latest expansion made by the NFL added the Houston Texans into the organization. The Texans however ate up market share of existing football clubs such as the Dallas Cowboys. While the new club did eat up market share of an existing team, it did not have enough of a market to actually finance a high-tier football team due to the fact that it had to be competitive with one of the most well established franchises in the NFL. Any expansion of the League ought to economize on an undecided fan base, so as to be able to grow without competition and so as not to hinder the growth of current teams.

As stated in the background guide, Mexico City offers one such solution to this problem. Mexico City has the seventh largest football fan base, an enormous percentage of which shares no allegiance to any teams. Proof of concept has already transpired given that attendance at the Estadio Azteca has already broken attendance records. This new expansion opportunity offers the NFL to economize on an untapped demographic by offering the City an expansion draft (similar to that of the Texans) to start their own team. The major problems facing this expansion is that in order for the NFL to take place over the course of the same time frame, a minimum of three other teams would need to be started. Simply adding this new team would cause for one division (preferably the AFC South) to be a five team division whereas all other divisions would be four, putting them at a notable disadvantage in terms of competing for a playoff spot. In an ideal world, the teams in that division would be able to see this as an opportunity for economic growth considering the Tampa Bay, and Jacksonville have some of the worst home game attendance records in the league because it would allow for this entire new demographic to be willing to purchase tickets within those unfilled stadiums. Concerns that individuals would have would follow the international aspect of the expansion. Significant investment in the creation of an NFL team in Mexico City would clearly cause for economic booms within the city. Manufacturers could gain exclusive rights to produce team goods. This, along with even more job opportunities, would offer the Mexican government to sanction the NFL as being one of the many organizations that is allowed to operate cross borders without trade restrictions. Regarding the potential language barrier, it would be the equivalent of how hockey takes place within Canada. Interactions or communications would have to be bilingual with games or trades with this new Mexican team. Documentation would have to be translated, but such issues should not pose to much of a threat for the deep pocketed owners of each franchise.

# Concussions:

As a former player and former president of the NFL Player’s Union, Troy Vincent has made it his mission to induce change in the way that the NFL treats and prevents concussions, league wide. He has worked with NFL rule makers to expand on the definition of a defenseless player. A defenseless player is an individual who, because of his lack of preparation or his preoccupation with another individual, is unable to change their current position to prepare themselves for an impact. The NFL has ruled that wide receivers would be deemed defenseless for an additional second longer so as to allow for those players to brace themselves for an inevitable impact.

Beyond expanding on rules to prevent concussions, other measures have taken place to identify when the concussion occurs so as to be able to effectively treat them. Currently, physical therapists occupy the skyboxes of stadiums and have the right to call for a dead play given an impact occurs that could potentially cause a concussion or if a player begins to show concussion symptoms. Furthermore, the team physicians are to be on stand-by at every game so as to be able to diagnose and treat potential concussed players on the scene.

While current action has led to decreases in concussion rates across the NFL (Down by 36% in in-game concussions from 2012-13 and 25% from 2013-14) more can be done. For example, the effects of a concussion are not completely apparent from the moment the impact occurs. A player can find himself capable one moment, and dizzy and disoriented the next. This is sufficient cause for a new system of a repeat neurological examination done by a physician on stand-by, so as to be able to see if a player’s condition were to degrade as the game goes on. Notice how the word physician was used and not team physician. This is because an independent physician must be the one charged with evaluating the health of players, as physicians have previously acted more lenient regarding this so as to allow for more players to play so that the team would look upon them favourably. The task of administering treatment must be bi-partisan. As for the recuperation of concussed individuals, while team physicians should offer treatment to hasten the recovery of a player, they should not have the permission to discharge them from treatment to hasten their on-team impact. Before being cleared to continue playing, individuals ought to be tested by an NFL physician who will then determine the viability and extent of physical activity that that player should undergo given his previous medical condition. Players also tend to rush back into games early because their pay is directly linked to the amount of games they play, ultimately causing them to undergo physical contact before they find themselves ready. This is why the NFL ought to mandate a guaranteed minimum salary that each player should receive even if they are not playing, thus allowing players to focus on a hasty recovery rather than all the games and paychecks they could potentially be missing.

# Criminal Offences and Domestic Abuse

Troy Vincent is the recipient of numerous awards in the prevention of domestic abuse as well. As a child, domestic violence was commonplace in the Vincent home when his father would drunkenly abuse and assault Troy’s mother, this began Troy’s lifelong quest against abuse. Troy Vincent can be seen on multiple occasions in the press and media spreading awareness of the issue and inciting activism to bring it down beyond football. Beyond this, he helped advance regulations regarding substance abuse to preserve the integrity of the game and to send a positive message to all viewers of the sport.

While a comprehensive in all matters illegitimate, the current mechanisms in place to punish players who have broken the law rest primarily on the shoulders of the commissioner. It is for the most part up to the commissioner to determine the length and degree of many punishments regarding these criminal offenses, which begs the question: Is the commissioner qualified to make these judgement calls? While under the current commissioner, the answer is clearly no, but a standard must be set in place for the future to make sure that players do not get off scot free from misconduct.

What could be proposed is an amendment to the NFL constitution putting mandatory minimum consequences for given crimes and maximums so that the NFL will have set guidelines to be able to deter criminal offenses, rather than arbitrary calls made by a single individual, where the process to challenge the play is lengthy and costly to say the least. Furthermore, these mandatory sentencings must be stricter than what is currently common practice. When an individual commits acts of domestic abuse they pose they become a burden on society and are deplorable, we cannot allow these individuals to continue to be idolized by our viewers because they propagate abhorrent norms that are not in line with the NFL’s ethical policies. The NFL needs to hold itself to a higher standard and needs to set a brighter example for every single viewer of the game.

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