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## Spygate

Posted by Evan - 2008/04/24 21:51

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<http://sports.espn.go.com/nfl/news/story?id=3365225>

Frankly, I'm tired of hearing about it. But I'm curious as to what everyone thinks the punishment would be if it is proven that the Patriots taped the Ram's final walk through before the Superbowl. I personally would like to see a retroactive forfeit with the Rams made the winners. I honestly think that it would take a punishment of that magnitude to be a deterrent to future cheating. Plus I hate Belichick.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by CMJ - 2008/04/25 00:50

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I'm not sure what a proper punishment would be, but stripping the title would be ridiculous IMHO.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by Aaron - 2008/04/25 06:38

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I don't think they should forfeit that game, but it's not crazy, it was a very close game and they obtained information by cheating, and any advantage could have been the difference.

Fine Belichick, and the organization, heavily. Take away more draft picks, and make them wear the old minuteman snapping the football uniforms for two years.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by SUMG - 2008/04/25 16:55

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Championships are "of the moment" events. So years after the fact, if you strip teams of titles....the "new" champion doesn't really get the exhilaration they would, if they won the title originally.

I mean, does anyone think St. Louis would celebrate now, if all of the sudden they were given the title? I don't.

What if the NBA found out something about the Heat, that gave the Mavs the 2006 NBA title. At this point, it wouldn't mean crap to me.

So, stripping the Pats of their title ....would be stupid. And, it won't happen.

What I'd do? Take a lot of draft choices from them. Maybe make them forfeit their entire draft one year. That'd get the point across.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by Evan - 2008/04/27 12:08

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Some former Rams that were apart of that team have already filed a lawsuit against the Patriots, so I think it would be safe to say that they give a crap. If I lost in a championship game at any level and found out after the fact that the other team cheated, I would fully expect to be made the winner. Doesn't that happen in the Olympics all the time?

<http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2008/02/15/rams-sue-patriots-for-videotapes/>

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## Re:Spygate

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Posted by CMJ - 2008/04/27 14:49

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Olympics stripping of medals is usually different because alot of those events it's a you against the field scenario so sure...everyone moves up a notch. Stripping team titles in a sport with playoffs is a bit harder. Are we gonna assume NE videotaped that whole season? Who's to say Pittsburgh wouldn't have won the Superbowl if they had made it(Steelers lost to NE in the AFC title game).

Now if you want to totally vacate the title, sure. But you can't strip it from the Patriots and award it to someone else, because what about the other teams NE beat on the way?

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by Evan - 2008/04/27 20:15

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Is there proof, or rumors of proof, of NE cheating to beat the other teams on the way to the Superbowl? Your argument about the Olympics doesn't translate to team sports at all, especially if a team is found to be cheating specifically to beat another, such as filming practices that other team's practices. I would think that would be even worse than taking performance enhancing drugs and being stripped of a medal in the Olympics.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by CMJ - 2008/04/27 20:31

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Illegal substances to alter performance goes beyond viewing practice game film. In my opinion, it's not much worse than every single team in baseball trying to steal signs. And they do that 162 games a year.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by Evan - 2008/04/27 21:03

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Filming the final walkthrough before the Superbowl is a tad more than stealing signals in baseball. That final walkthrough basically was a dress rehearsal for what the Rams were going to do in the Superbowl. Being able to study that would have given the Patriots a huge unfair advantage. In baseball, everyone on both teams know that they are each probably going to try to steal signs if given the opportunity, and they are able to try to mask what they do. Knowing that someone is going to cheat against you on a minor thing like signs in baseball, and being able to do the same yourself, doesn't even come close to comparing to filming the final walkthrough of a team before the Superbowl.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by SUMG - 2008/04/27 21:51

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You say in your first post Evan, that you hate Belichick...and one can assume the Pats, as well. So, I think anything less than a forfeit....is going to be disappointing to you.

I don't care for New England either. But I don't think the NFL should take that title away from them.

And, as to your point that some Rams players want to sue...does that surprise you in this litigious world? Hell some Jets fans sued the Pats this year.

That championship is in the past...way in the past. Want to punish the Patriots....screw up their future. Take away more draft picks....

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## Re:Spygate

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Posted by Evan - 2008/04/27 22:36

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That has nothing to do with it. It just seems to me that if a team is found to have cheated to win a game, they shouldn't get credit for winning the game, the same as when Olympics athletes don't get credit for winning medals that they won while cheating. Having the title stripped and being punished by having draft picks taken away or being fined are not mutually exclusive. Sure, those would be a good punishment, but to still give the Patriots credit for winning a Superbowl that they cheated to win is just wrong. Disagree with me all you want, but no one has made any arguments to make me think otherwise.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by CMJ - 2008/04/28 10:07

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And I doubt it had much bearing on the game. Walkthrus may be what was initially planned....but I honestly doubt many coaches follow their first battleplan past the opening minutes. Games are organic...you change on the fly. Sure you have principles you set in practice, but if something isn't working - a good coach changes it.

It's not like if someone is swimming a race and they are just stronger because they pumped some substance into their blood stream to boost oxygen levels.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by Aaron - 2008/04/28 18:25

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First of all, when this first came out, the media was reporting the walk through was the Rams red zone packages, in which case, knowing their red zone plays would definitely have an impact on the game. As a primarily defensive football coach myself, I would LOVE to have a film of the opposing teams red zone plays from practice, it would help prepare our defensive players tremendously.

Another thing about good coaches change things if they aren't working. That is true to some extent. You can make minor tweaks here and there, but in football more so than other sports I would say, getting away from what you have spent hours upon hours practicing is not a good idea. A good scheme on either side has enough flexibility that a dramatic shift should not be necessary anyway. I doubt very seriously that in the Super Bowl, the Rams ran plays that they had not practiced until perfection, which would have been plays included in that walk through.

At some point, we will know what plays were practiced, what plays the Pats prepared for illegally, and how those plays developed in the game.

Until then, it would not make any sense to claim that it had no bearing on the game. And I am speaking as a coach on this one. Having that film would be a bonanza for a defense preparing for a game.

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## Re:Spygate

Posted by CMJ - 2008/04/28 19:20

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If there's anyone's opinion I'd respect on this it's yours Aaron.

It's been years and I can't totally recall the flow of the contest. However, from what I remember the Patriots COULDN'T stop the Rams in the Red Zone. They stopped St. Louis a bunch between the 20's(for nearly the whole game), but when Warner got them in close in the 4th quarter, they scored.

Martz basically forgot to use Faulk enough. That had nothing to do with anything NE may or may not have seen on a taping(IMHO).

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## Re:Spygate

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Posted by Aaron - 2008/04/29 06:41

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I don't remember many particulars about the game either. I just think that in time, it will all come out and we can truly evaluate the edge the Pats gained.

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