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## Has Sporting Celebrations Gone Too Far?

By **Nick Fortier**

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It's the middle of the second quarter, inside the opposing teams 20 yard line. Aaron Brooks throws a strike to Joe Horn for his second touchdown of the game. But instead of giving the ball to the ref and running back to the sideline, Joe runs over to the goal post, lifts up the pad and pulls out a cell phone! Horn dials his home phone number and calls his son. That call may have been the most expensive call of Horn's life.

"I had told my kids to be at home, watching the game, and I told my momma, Mom, if I score the second one, I'm going to get my cell phone out." Joe said. But the NFL didn't see it as a joke and fined Horn \$15,000 for exclusive celebrating. Horn said he was sorry, but later said it was all worth it.

A similar incident came in a game last year between the San Fransico 49ers and the Seattle Seahawks. Terrell Owens had his second touchdown grab and then did the unthinkable; he pulled a sharpie out of his sock, autographed the ball, and gave it to a nearby fan. T.O. said it was all in good taste but the NFL fined him \$5000. The game was on Monday night so the whole nation was watching and that was when he decided to make his mark. You have to remember, Terrell scored earlier in the game and didn't do any celebration, so that means Owens was so confident that he would score again that he held off until later (as with the case of Joe Horn, he pulled out the cell phone on his second of FOUR touchdowns that night). That touchdown celebration may have been the greatest and most original of all time.

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As memorable as those are, no one can forget about Tony Gonzales' "slam-dunk" over the goal post, and teammate Johnny Mortin's "Worm." Bengal wide receiver, Chad Johnson, also stepped into the spotlight with a nice touchdown catch then running over to grab his letter. Chad holds up an orange poster-board that reads: "Dear NFL, Please don't fine me AGAIN." They did, that letter that contained no vulgarity and didn't hurt or offend anyone cost Johnson \$30,000. For professional athletes \$30,000 isn't such a big deal, but why fine someone that much for something so innocent. If the NFL is going to fine anyone that amount of money, make it Warren Sapp when he shakes his 300+ pound "booty" after he makes a 1 yard touchdown grab. No one cares to see that anyway. Oh well, with professional athletes doing more and more to gain attention, it looks like the NFL will have to put up with it or find a new way to stop it. By the way, can't wait for T.O.'s next touchdown celebration to see if he tries to top Joe Horn's.

Written by: Fortier

Fortier is 15 and soon to become a stand-out cornerback for Michigan. Leading his division in interceptions and tackles, Fortier will be the player to watch in the near future.

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## **The Importance Of Celebration**

**By Kirstine Palette**

There are many important things in life. Learning, growing, loving, and exploring are all things that each person should take time for. Celebration is another thing that everyone should take time for. Celebration adds an excitement and a lot of fun to life.

Celebration can happen for a variety of formal or informal reasons. Probably most people have gone to a celebration in honor of someone's birthday, wedding, or the birth of a new baby. There is something deep inside humanity that loves to celebrate the best things in life. We love a good Christmas or Fourth of July celebration or other celebrations that mark special holidays or family traditions. Celebration doesn't have to be reserved for the biggest events or holidays of the year though. Because the majority of our days are spent doing trivial tasks like working or cleaning our homes, we all need things to look forward to. Celebrations of all kinds give us the excitement to keep making it through days that seem purposeless. Have you ever felt like life was a little too routine? I'm confident that by the time the next holiday or birthday celebration rolled around you were grateful for the change of pace.

Celebration allows us to relax and unwind in the midst of busy and crazy lives. We use celebrations as an excuse to gather with the friends and family that mean that most to us. We also enjoy celebrations because they allow us to remember the things in life that truly matter. As we celebrate, we allow the stresses of life to fall behind and we spend our time doing things we love with the people we love. There is something about a great celebration that reminds us of the purpose of our life and of the power of our closest relationships. Think of ways to incorporate celebrations of all kinds into your life. Make a big deal out of birthdays, weddings, or anniversaries. Throw huge celebrations for Thanksgiving, Christmas or other holidays that are important to your religious beliefs. One of the

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biggest keys to getting the most out of life is to have celebrations for no real reason at all. Just invite your friends over, cook great food and spend a few hours playing games that cause laughter and build friendship. Perhaps the best thing about celebration of any kind is that it makes our lives richer and more full.

Kirstine Palette loves to celebrate with her friends and families for reasons big and small. She encourages everyone to make time for fun. Learn more about celebrating well at

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