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It's Time To End The Reign Of The Football Cheats

By Steven Cronin

It's Germany 2006, another World Cup and another outrageous exhibition of diving, gamesmanship and just downright cheating.

The time has come to call a halt on this scandalous behavior and restore the image of the beautiful game.

Sepp Blatter ordered referees to come down hard and keep the lid on unruly players. The problem is the cheats have seen this as an opportunity to take advantage of the hard-line approach.

By diving and conning the referee they know they can get even more of their opponents booked or sent off and banned for forthcoming games.

It seems a ridiculous situation where millions of fans around the world can view replays and know the truth within seconds, yet the only man in the dark is the man in charge and entrusted with keeping the integrity of the match.

With the referees now wired for sound and in constant communication with each other, surely the time has come for an official sat in front of a television replay who can inform the referee of what really happened.

Indeed, cheating has now sunk to such depths that even one of football's finest professionals has succumbed.

Thierry Henry is a player adored both sides of the English Channel and has always showed the greatest sincerity on a football pitch.

Yet this was the same Henry who went down clutching his face as if he had been elbowed, yet suffered nothing more than a firm shoulder to his chest.

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The resulting free kick led to effectively what was the winning goal for France against Spain in the second round of the World Cup.

Now I've nothing but the greatest admiration for Thierry Henry as both a man and a professional footballer, but what chance has the game got when one of its greatest ambassadors sinks to such levels.

Come on FIFA, its time cheating was removed from the beautiful game.

Steven Cronin owns the City Breaks website featuring city break special offers from luxury hotels to budget accommodations. For more information please visit

<http://www.sargas.co.uk>

The Cool Thing About Fantasy Football

By Chris Hinde

Everyone loves fantasy football and get very excited for the fantasy drafts. But, have you ever really thought about why? I mean, beyond the obvious.

Fantasy football is really the only place or way for you, an average person, to create a football team that you have control over. You choose which football player starts, and who is on the bench. You get to draft whatever players you want to your team based on their real life performance record. The really cool thing? Well, you don't have to worry about anything else. You don't have to deal with any money issues except for salary cap. That's it. You don't have to worry about how much money the fans are pulling in by purchasing tickets to your stadium, nor do you have to worry about purchasing the football equipment, such as football helmets like these:

http://www.sports-collectibles-store.com/Riddell_Deluxe_Football_Helmets-p-1-c-3.html

that your team

will be using. Now, that my friends...is very cool indeed.

So you basically have free reign of a team of great football players (if you've done your homework), and now can decide who plays when. Obviously, it is not as in depth as Madden Football, but this is more of a player game. Meaning, you choose your players based on their record in the NFL and create your team and score your points that way instead of making plays, you are making a team.

Now, my question is: What about college football? The enormous fan base across the US would make fantasy college football a huge presence in the sports world. Sure, it would be a lot harder to predict what players to pick because although they are way better than I would ever be at football, they are not always as consistent as most NFL players are. Especially when you are drafting your defense. But, just imagine how much more varied and exciting the world of fantasy football would be if you could create

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your own college team too.

You could go off of the "experts" top college football picks, starting with the team and working your way down. Just think of the huge potential talent that is stuffed away at big 10 colleges because they've already got their star quarterback or wide receiver. This would give little known players a chance to get their name out there before even completing college. You could help them kick start their career!

Chris Hinde is an aspiring sports column writer. If you would like to read more of his articles, please visit:

<http://www.sports-collectibles-store.com>



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