



THE STING



"The purpose of history is a better world"
--Herbert Hoover--

THE STING

The Sting is a newspaper published by the student body of Herbert Hoover Middle School. We report news events in our school and our local, national and global communities. We believe that the more informed we are as individuals, the more prepared we are to create a better world for everyone!



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The Global Warming Crisis

By: Agastya P. Chinchankar

One of the most pressing crises our world is facing is the problem of greenhouse gas emissions, which cause the temperature of the Earth to increase as well as the atmosphere to become more and more polluted. This crisis poses an existential threat to humanity, and it is becoming ever increasingly important for our generation to solve it once and for all.

What is the greenhouse effect and why should you care?

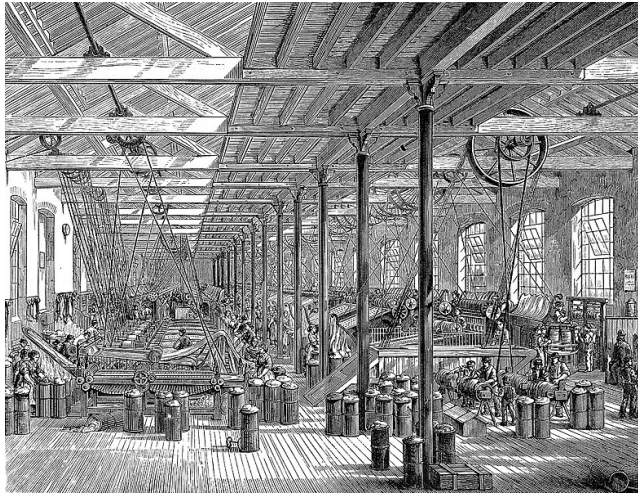


Greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide, methane, and water vapor all are a part of the greenhouse effect, a phenomenon in which these types of gasses trap heat from the Sun, heating the Earth even when it is not being directly heated by the Sun. This is called the greenhouse effect because it is similar to the glass walls of a greenhouse trapping heat from the Sun during the day and maintaining the internal temperature of the

greenhouse during the night using its stored heat. Carbon dioxide is an essential greenhouse gas because without the Sun's trapped heat, the Earth's temperature would not be stable and would vary from high to too low because of night and seasons.

“If the greenhouse effect is vital to maintain a stable global temperature,” one might ask, “then why is everyone saying it’s such a big problem?” The answer to this is that while the perfect amount of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere is good for the planet and its inhabitants, too much is not.

Ground Zero? The Industrial Revolution



The Industrial Revolution began in the late 1700s to early 1800s when the economy shifted from being primarily farming to being dominated by industry and machinery. Many technological changes occurred during this time, including energy and power sourcing. Energy sources like coal and petroleum (oil) became popularized, and these fossil fuels would be burned in order to power machines. Burning fossil fuels causes carbon dioxide to be emitted, and as these fuels become burned more often, more CO₂ is emitted.

During the Industrial Revolution, agricultural and industrial developments took place, providing many people easier access to things like food, water, shelter, and clothing. Due to these developments, the global population exploded.

From the dawn of our species, *Homo sapiens sapiens*, around 200,000 to 300,000 years ago, to 1804 CE, the global population increased to one billion people. Since 1804, around the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the population has increased from one billion people to around 7.9 billion. This drastic increase in population, which was essentially caused by the Industrial Revolution and the increase in the burning of fossil fuels, leads to the increase in demand for even more food, water, shelter, clothing, and other assets, which leads to even more emissions.

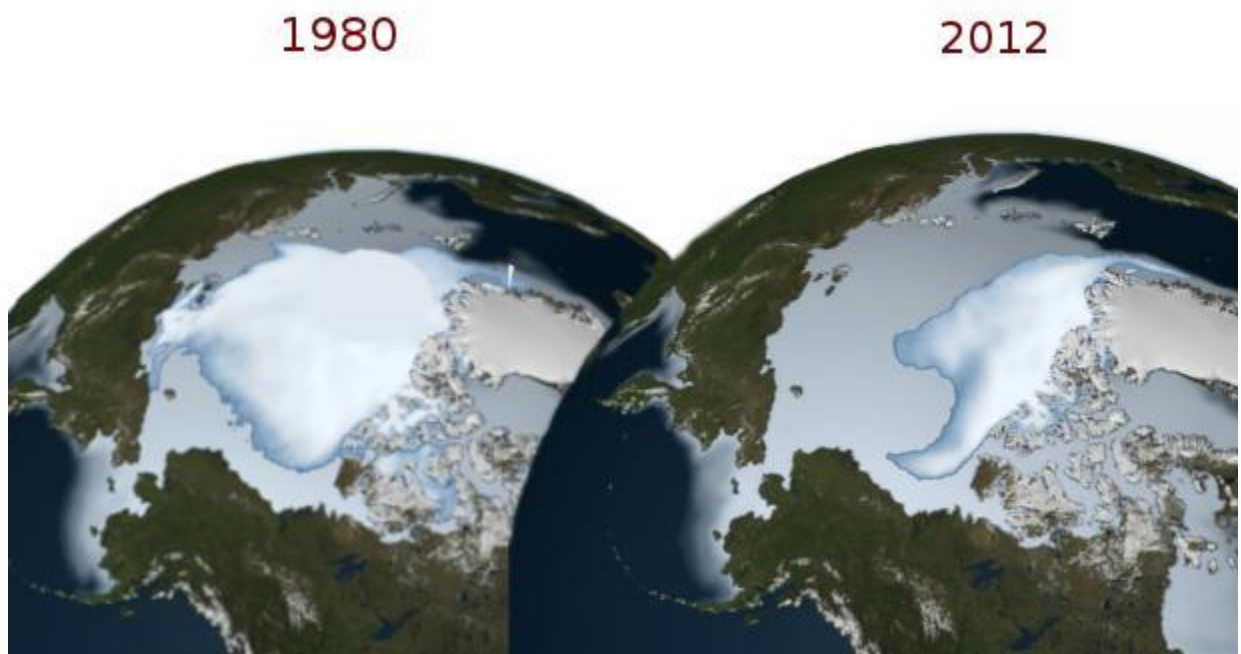
The Crisis



In 1750, the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere was 280 ppmv (parts per million volume). In 2019, it was 411 ppmv, a 46% increase. Other greenhouse gasses such as methane and nitrous oxide's atmospheric saturation have also greatly increased. This is an adverse trend since air pollution can be the cause of problems such as health issues from breathing in pollutants.

The increase in these greenhouse gasses have also accelerated the greenhouse effect, which has increased the Earth's temperature by at least 1.1° Celsius (1.9° Fahrenheit). Furthermore, the 10 warmest

years on record have all occurred since 2005. The increase in global temperatures have led to various issues, such as the melting of ice caps/sheets, especially in Greenland and Antarctica. According to NASA's GRACE satellites, the ice sheets in Antarctica have melted approximately 152 billion metric tons per year. This has caused sea levels to rise around 8 to 9 inches since 1880, and it is estimated that it will rise 12 inches by 2100. It is also possible that the Arctic Ocean will become virtually ice-free in the summer of 2049. This rise in sea levels can cause flooding, soil contamination with salt, destructive erosion, more dangerous hurricanes and typhoons, more powerful storm surges, and other issues like people having to move farther inland because of flooding. Scientists also predict that weather patterns will become more exaggerated due to a rise in global temperatures. For example, many types of natural disasters such as droughts, heat waves, storms, and floods will worsen.



NASA Images of Icecaps at Greenland melting from 1980 - 2012

Net-Zero and Other Solutions

Many countries in the UN, including the United States, as well as certain organizations and companies like the PSEG (Public Service Enterprise Group - electric company based in NJ) have set the goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 or 2050. Net-zero is often used to describe the ideal environmental state in which the greenhouse gasses that enter the atmosphere are balanced by the extraction of the same gasses from the atmosphere. Many scientists predict that time is running out to significantly reduce our emissions, and one day, if there is a lack of action taken towards limiting emissions and attempting to achieve an environmentally friendly state, then the atmosphere will become so polluted that it will be close to impossible to achieve

net-zero and to eradicate the problems that have arose due to the global temperature increase and atmospheric pollution.

Net-zero can be achieved by reducing humanity's footprint. Renewable and environmentally friendly sources of energy such as wind and solar should be popularized and become more affordable than harmful fossil fuels so that people are more motivated to pay for them. Maglev trains should be popularized not only since they emit zero greenhouse gasses when run, but are incredibly fast. Public transit in the United States should also be more reliable and derive their energy from renewable, eco-friendly sources. Stricter policies and regulations should be passed to limit how much vehicles can emit, and it should soon be reduced to zero. Individual people can also join the fight against the climate change crisis by walking, biking, and taking public transport instead of driving their car when possible, using reusable items such as reusable cutlery, water bottles, and shopping bags, and purchasing electricity from companies that use renewable, eco-friendly energy sources.

Call to Action: What Can You Do?

Although it may seem like an impossible challenge to fight climate change, if an informed world unites with the goal to achieve net-zero or net-negative (when the extraction of harmful or excess greenhouse gasses is more than the rate of them entering the atmosphere, as oppose to net-zero when it is equal) emissions, we can achieve a green Earth, once and for all. It has really come down to the wire and we need to take action now!

Covid Vaccines

By Yashvi Bhavsar and Sophia Wu

COVID-19

Our globally known pandemic, COVID-19 started in December 2019. It is caused by a type of coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. This type of coronavirus has never been seen before, but depending on the symptoms, it can be similar to other illnesses. The COVID-19 virus spreads through contact. Depending on the person, symptoms can range from mild symptoms to severe illnesses.

COVID-19 EFFECTS

If you have the COVID-19 illness, symptoms can be nonexistent to severe. After exposure, symptoms will take 2 - 14 days to appear. Some symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. Long-term effects can include fatigue, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, cough, joint pain, chest pain, memory, concentration, or sleep problems, muscle pain/headache, fast or pounding heartbeat, loss of taste or smell, depression/anxiety, fever, or/and dizziness. Other than this, the COVID-19 illness can greatly affect the organs, causing long-term breathing problems if it affects the lungs, heart complications if it affects the heart, chronic kidney syndrome if it affects the kidney and other health effects.

VACCINE

Thanks to the scientists of the world coming together, there is a new type of vaccine out in the world, and just like the novel coronavirus, it is new and something that the public has never seen before. These mRNA vaccines are now available for all people aged 5 and up. But how does a vaccine help decrease the chances of getting COVID-19? mRNA vaccines are inactivated vaccines, rather than live vaccines. The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines-vaccines that teach your body to make a protein that makes your immune system respond if it meets the virus. The J&J/Janssen vaccine is made with a viral vector. This vaccine uses a different harmless virus to create a non infecting piece of the COVID-19 virus in your body. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and recommended for anyone with a condition such as cancer or even for someone pregnant. More than half of the United States population is

vaccinated and you can increase the percentage by getting vaccinated too! It is one step to getting rid of COVID-19!

BOOSTER

Booster shots are shots that are given after you have fully received your vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines are given through two shots with a month between them. However, a booster shot could be a 3rd shot or a shot after that. If you received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine, you could get a booster shot if you are 50 and older, or if you are 18 and older and live in a long-term care setting. You could get a booster 6 months after fully receiving your vaccine. However, if you received a J&J/Janssen vaccine, a booster is advised sooner, if you are older than 18. After two months, you may receive any of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. Even if you receive a vaccine from a certain company, when an individual gets a booster shot, you can choose any COVID-19 vaccines that the United States has authorized.

VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

Although the vaccine may have side effects, the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the known and potential risks. Getting side effects is a normal sign that your body is building protection. Serious side effects and long-term health problems are unlikely after taking the covid vaccine. Side effects may affect their ability to do their daily activities but should go away in a few days. Some people may have no side effects. However, this doesn't mean that their body is not building protection against the virus. Side effects include pain, swelling, and redness on the arm where you took the shot as well as tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea throughout your body.

Key reactions from key companies:

“COVID-19 vaccination is one of the strongest of the tools we can use to fight this pandemic together.” - CDC

“There are three key areas where, as with all vaccines, we must demonstrate success in order to seek approval for public use. First, the vaccine must be proven effective, meaning it can help prevent COVID-19 disease in at least a majority of vaccinated patients. Second and equally important, the vaccine must be proven safe, with robust safety data generated from thousands of patients. And finally, we must demonstrate that the vaccine can be consistently manufactured at the highest quality standards.” - Pfizer

“We should know about the ability of the current vaccine to provide protection in the next couple of weeks, but the remarkable thing about the mRNA vaccine, Moderna platform, is that we can move very fast.” - Moderna

“We believe the Johnson & Johnson single-shot COVID-19 vaccine is a critical tool for fighting this global pandemic, particularly as it shows protection across countries with different variants. A vaccine that protects against COVID-19, especially against the direct outcomes of hospitalization and death, will help ease the burden on people and the strain on health systems worldwide” - J&J/Jassen

If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit CDC’s FAQs web page, which we also used to gather relevant data about the facts in this article:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>.

The Green Machine: A Revolution in the Fashion Industry

By: Shriaditi Kancherla

92 million tons. That's how many clothes get thrown away each year. The fast fashion industry has a great impact on the environment. Based on trends and fast production, fast fashion doesn't seem as good as it seems. One of the main problems with the fashion industry is that it is very difficult to recycle and reuse clothes. Methods may make the fabric unusable or the methods themselves use harmful chemicals creating hazardous waste that may be disposed into ecosystems and put many organisms in harm's way.

Swedish retail company, H&M is one of the biggest fast fashion companies in the world. In 2019, they had more than 4.1 billion dollars worth of unsold clothing and were working to try to combat the problem. The Persson family, which were the founders of the company, created the H&M Foundation 7 years ago to help invest money and resources into solving environmental issues in the competitive fashion industry.



The Foundation collaborated with scientists and researchers from Ehime University and Shinshu University in Japan, along with the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) to create the Green Machine. The machine's goal is to recycle fabrics with a no-waste method. The team decided to work with blended fabrics, such as cotton

blended with polyester. This fabric is a hard fabric to recycle since they are blended so tightly that it's a challenge to separate them which ruins some of the fibers. Some of the methods ruined one fiber but recycled the others. Other methods resulted in both fibers being unusable. Some created chemical waste which was hazardous. But, the team was able to come up with a solution with extensive research.

The method entailed using hydrothermal energy (heat and water energy), air pressure, and a simple biodegradable green chemical to break down fibers which then can later be reused to

make new clothing. In addition, the water, heat, and chemicals can be safely reused again and again as it is a closed-loop system. According to an article by Fast Company, “When it’s fully up and running, it will be able to process at least 1.5 tons of fabric a day” (Segran). This means that the process is quick and can recycle large amounts of fabric in a short amount of time.

While there are many concerns about the cost of investing into recycling clothes and fabrics, the Green Machine did not add much to the cost. The CEO of HKRITA, Edwin Keh said in a Fast Company article that using recycled polyester to make a garment was just 2 cents (USD)



more than using new polyester to produce one garment. To elaborate, HKRITA has stated that they are working to reduce the price even further to make recycled fabric cost the same or even less than using new fabric.

While this was done due to a collaboration between H&M and two Japanese Universities, HKRITA wants to create more Green Machines and allow more companies to have access to the machine. To help with that goal, the H&M Foundation donated more money to HKRITA to help manufacture the appliance. Because of the donation, HKRITA was able to produce another machine to Kahatex, which is a leading garment company in Indonesia. Their goal is to spread this technology to other corporations and to recycle and end a stop to the tossing of clothing and fabric.

Call to Action: What Can You Do?

While this is happening, we can all work on becoming more aware of our shopping habits to help make a difference. It can be hard as many of us have a passion for fashion, but some actions can make a difference. For example, just shopping less can reduce our carbon footprint. Shopping less can be a struggle, but if that’s not achievable, limiting the amount of clothing you buy from less eco-friendly brands is a great idea. The number of affordable, sustainable brands is growing every day, and just a little bit of digging can help you find golden eco-friendly brands that don’t break the bank and make you feel good when purchasing clothes. Thrifting is also a green way to upcycle clothes and find hidden gems that are fabulous. Just a mass effort of these single steps can help reduce the amount of carbon emissions that are released by the fashion industry, reduce the amount of clothes dumped in landfills, and help combat climate change.

We can make a difference, one step at a time.

Sources:

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<https://hmfoundation.com/project/recycling-the-green-machine/>

Recognizing 7th grade Guidance Counselor: Mr. Rich!

By: Yuvansh Bahri

Over the past 2 years, schools nationwide have realized the importance of students' mental health and their ability to deal with other crises. Since the recent departure of our 7th-grade counselor, Mr. Rich has been doing a fantastic job in helping the 7th graders here at Hoover reach their full potential. Mr. Rich is originally from South Jersey, and he enjoys playing video games, hiking, and sports. He completed his undergraduate degree in psychology from Rowan University and completed his graduate studies in Westchester, which is located in Pennsylvania.

There are a few messages that Mr. Rich would like to share with the student body. One of them is that all the conversations that you have in the room with Mr. Rich **will** stay in that room, in normal conditions. In an interview, Mr. Rich stated, "As uncomfortable as it might be, I'm here for you." Mr. Rich wants to watch the students of our school aspire and grow as a person. Some people ask what exactly is the job of a school counselor. A school counselor is a person who implements SEL, or social-emotional learning, to maintain good mental health. The counselors also help in implementing good study and work habits and/or ethics that are efficient and allow you to work faster.

In conclusion, Mr. Rich is a kind, caring, and helpful counselor who has helped many students over this past year at Herbert Hoover. To contact Mr. Rich by email, you can reach him at jesse.rich@edison.k12.nj.us. Another faster and more user-friendly way is to go to the guidance room and get a pink slip from the secretary. Remember, should you ever need help, the door to guidance counselors such as Mr. Rich will always be open!

An Interview with Mr. Cunningham, our Band Director

By: Shriaditi Kancherla

Mr. Cunningham is our extremely talented music instructor, band director and a very talented musician. We are so fortunate to have him at our school! I took some time to get to know him a little bit better:

How long have you been teaching band?

I have been teaching for 25 years, this is my 25th. Herbert Hoover was the first school I taught at and I'm still teaching here. I believe I'm the 3rd band director at this school.

What inspired you to go into the music industry/education?

I have loved music since the time I was in middle school, especially in high school. It was my favorite subject at school. I decided to go into education because I wanted to share my love of music with others, especially students.

Other than teaching, what are your passions and hobbies?

I professionally play the saxophone. I like to cook, hike, and occasionally fish. I love spending time with my family. I played in my first professional band in college. I'm a fan of the NY Mets and NY Jets. I am a HUGE fan of Star Wars, as you can probably tell just by looking at the band room. *(We can tell!)*

What instruments do you play?

The primary instrument I play that I also play professionally is the saxophone. This was the first instrument I played. I would say that my second best instrument is the clarinet, and my 3rd best instrument would be the flute. I've actually learned how to play all the instruments since college as I had to learn how to play all the instruments while studying music... and I, also, learned choir.

What challenges as a band director have you faced?

When I first started, music wasn't looked at seriously in our school. When I started teaching, there wasn't even a strings teacher at HHMS! 20 years ago, music was not looked at like something serious, it was just thought of as a side activity, nothing to put your full effort or strength into. I think the biggest challenge was just trying to break that stigma.

Tell us a bit about your family....

I was born and raised in NJ. I was actually born at JFK hospital in Edison. I am the youngest of 6 children. I have two beautiful daughters, both into music. My younger daughter plays the clarinet and my older daughter is in the chorus. They are both interested in musical theater, and both take voice lessons. I have a lovely wife who is an elementary school music teacher. Family is very important to me.

What life lessons have you learned through being a teacher?

I've learned to be more patient. I've also learned to be more appreciative of the things around us. I feel so grateful that being a band director is my job. The fact that I get to make music every day and help so many kids warms my heart.

What quote resonates with you?

"I deeply regret not having learned a musical instrument. And I regret not having focused more on Spanish when I was studying it in school. I would love to be able to speak Spanish fluently and play an instrument."

-Barack Obama.

"I don't know if I would have been president if it hadn't been for school music" - Bill Clinton.

These quotes resonate with me a lot because it shows how music and playing and instruments develop so many skills such as responsibility, determination, hard work, being humble, and so much more that people tend to overlook.

What is some advice you would give to current music students or students who have just started playing?

Don't quit! Stick with it, you can do it. Even when you're frustrated, don't quit. You'll regret it the most when you quit because you are frustrated. I wanted to quit in 4th grade, but I didn't, and look at me now, I'm making music every day! Music is such a beautiful thing, and you shouldn't let your emotions get in the way of something you love.

Who was someone who is a role model for you or inspired you to go into music?

My high school choir teacher, Beth Amory. I always try to replicate what she did in her classes into mine. Another teacher would be my graduate school Saxophone teacher, Harvey Pittel. He was the best teacher I ever had.

What does music mean to you?

It means so many things....it's such an important thing in life. It's my heart and soul. It's what makes me who I am. I cherish it greatly. Music is a therapeutic thing in life for everyone, even if some don't recognize it. It's something that makes us human.

How do you think the pandemic has affected band and music?

I think the pandemic did have a big impact on band and music. For example, it made more people afraid of playing. Most band instruments require you to blow into something, meaning that you are unmasked. We couldn't do concerts or go on trips, and our 8th graders have never done concerts or gone on any trips. But even with that, my students stepped it up. They were so dedicated and just went above and beyond. We were able to make recordings and so many students were able to do solos. Band is getting back to normal. We had an amazing concert in December and we are excited for future concerts and events that we hope to do. We're getting back to the tradition.

What is the best piece of advice you've gotten?

The best piece of advice was given by my wife. It's to appreciate every day you're alive. Be thankful that you're alive and make the most out of it.

What would be your ideal weekend?

It would first start with a big, hearty breakfast. Then, taking a hike with my family. That would follow with playing some games with my daughters and having a nice dinner with my wife. It would end with having a Saxophone performance at night.

We thank Mr. Cunningham for being such an inspirational and dedicated teacher. Thank you for being an inspiration for your students and pushing them every day to be their best. The nonstop effort that you put into your work every day is something we are so thankful for! Thank you, Mr. Cunningham, for making our lives full of music!

An Interview with Mr. Marshall

By: Kavan Malaviya and Eshan Jhaveri

We are so fortunate to have Mr. Marshall as part of our Herbert Hoover hive! We would like you to get to know Mr. Marshall, a seventh and eighth-grade English teacher, a little bit better and we are positive you will agree that he is incredible!!

At first, you might think that Mr. Marshall is just another English teacher that works at HHMS. Yet, you will see that Mr. Marshall has skills and attributes that extend outside of reading and writing! For example, did you know that Mr. Marshall is an avid wrestler who coaches the wrestling team at HHMS? Wrestling is his favorite sport and he feels that it's what made him who he is today. He has learned many lessons from it. It isn't like any other sport, where you can find a competitive advantage based on your body strength or size. Mr. Marshall says that it is a sport that requires sportsmanship and hard work.

Mr. Marshall recently graduated from Rutgers University in May of 2021, and started teaching 7th and 8th grade English and accelerated English this year. You may be wondering, what made Mr. Marshall want to become a teacher? Well, actually Mr. Marshall's mom influenced him to become an English teacher. His mom is an English teacher and taught senior year English in high school. When Mr. Marshall was young, his mom took him to *Bring Your Child to Work Day* many times. Seeing all of the fun activities, and the impact that teachers have on the world were some of the key factors that inspired him to become a teacher later on in his life. However, being an English teacher isn't fun all of the time. The hardest thing about Mr. Marshall's job is wanting to read every single word of writing that all of his students write. He loves what his students write, but since he has over 80 students, he can't read everything at the pace he would like to. Mr. Marshall gives attention to detail to all he does and he makes sure that all of his comments are powerful and genuine! He actually wishes he didn't have to eat or sleep because then he would have more time to read his student's work. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated teacher!

Mr. Marshall's favorite quote is from *Young Justice* and said by Batman. It goes: "The mission is what the mission will become." In this episode of *Young Justice*, Batman sends Robin to a covert ops mission, and as he gets into it, he realizes that he has to devise a new plot, or the mission will fail: therefore, the mission is what the mission will become. Mr. Marshall applies this Batman adage to his English classes, enabling him to be flexible and pivot his plans based on events that occur in the day. If he hadn't become a teacher, Mr. Marshall would have liked to become someone who works in public service. In fact, Mr. Marshall has run for office once before. He could see himself becoming a staffer (someone who organizes meetings and

information for the main person in office). Wow! We told you that you Mr. Marshall had a wide range of interests and talents!

Additionally, Mr. Marshall has many interests that you might relate to. For example, In his free time, Mr. Marshall trains in martial arts including muay-thai, jujitsu, and martial arts. He also paddleboards and frequently goes hiking. One place that Mr. Marshall would really like to live in is Albuquerque, New Mexico because it has warm weather and because there are many animals, hikes, and friendly people. Also, Mr. Marshall is an avid reader! He likes to read books by authors such as Toni Morrison and Alice Walker. He likes books that paint a good job of the character's physical and emotional journeys, which is something he tries to teach to his students. Mr. Marshall loves comedies and silly movies. He also loves animated movies. His favorite movie is probably *Pokemon* (2000) Marvel is a movie franchise that he loves to watch as well. His favorite color is orange. He uses oranges on a daily basis. For example, he owns an orange backpack, and his do-now slides are orange as well. Mr. Marshall's favorite restaurant is Chili's, specifically the one at 1655 Oak Tree Road, Edison NJ. His favorite board games are Snake Oiled and Corridor. Mr. Marshall is the proud owner of an 11-year-old basset hound called "Pharoah". He called him that because his fur makes it look like he has eyeliner around his eyes, which is similar to a pharaoh.

Mr. Marshall is an extremely interesting and fun addition to the Herbert Hoover English department. We are so lucky to have such a fun, dedicated, compassionate, talented teacher! Mr. Marshall says that he loves Herbert Hoover and all of his classes are awesome. It is his first year teaching and he already feels he is at home. Mr. Marshall, we hope you stay at home for many, many years to come!

An Interview with Ms. Wenzel

By: Aarushi Pathak & Shriaditi Kancherla

Getting to Know our wonderful teacher: Ms. Wenzel, 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

We are so grateful to have Ms. Wenzel at Herbert Hoover Middle School, an amazing Social Studies teacher. We thank her for all her contributions to the school and the inspiration she's been to her students. We really appreciate her always being there for all the students at Hoover. We love seeing her every day in school where she always shares stories that connect with us and we were eager to learn even more about her, so we met with her to ask some questions!



How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 28 years. I taught 18 years at John Adams and 10 years at Herbert Hoover. I actually didn't like Social Studies in school, but really enjoyed it in college, so I pursued it as a career. I was in banking before I switched to become a teacher! (Wow, Ms. Wenzel has such an interesting background!)

Do you have any role models?

My 3rd grade teacher is one of my role models. (Go teachers!)

Other than teaching, what are some of your hobbies/ interests?

Some hobbies include doing puzzles, which I have many in my classroom (*we know, they are amazing!*), spending time with my dogs (Charlie and Chance), reading, and I love going to the beach as I live by the shore. (*Dogs AND the beach...what could be better?*)

What are some challenges you face as a teacher?

I think a big challenge is teaching the 21st century student. Rules and priorities have changed so much over the years.

Tell us more about your family...

I am the oldest of three. I grew up in Union before moving to Edison in 5th grade. I went to Oak Tree School in Edison, then John Adams and then J.P. Stevens. My mom and I went to college at the same time - I went to Rutgers and my mom went to Middlesex County College and then Kean. One of my first jobs was working with my dad at a car dealership in Metuchen. My sister and I live close to each other and I have a great relationship with her teenage kids. My brother, the youngest in my family, has triplets! I often refer to us as "The Wacky Wenzel's" - but those are stories for a different interview. *(That's funny!)*

Switching Careers:

I went to Douglas College at Rutgers University and got a bachelor's degree in economics and history. I was in mortgage banking for 4 years. I then switched careers and achieved my teacher degree. I actually never thought that I would become a teacher, but I did have lots of people in my life who teach...and now, here I am! *(We are fortunate to have you at our school, Ms. Wenzel!)*

Have you ever wanted to give up to pursue another career?

Not until recently, as I've begun to think about retiring. Having experience in mortgage banking, I've thought about corporate training. I'm a huge CSI fan and would love to solve police mysteries. And then there's the obvious - dog walking or training. *(All of these would be a perfect fit!)*

How would you describe yourself?

I would describe myself as caring, compassionate, organized, punctual, someone who follows rules, is reasonable, fair, and sarcastic. *(We have seen all of these attributes!)*

What is something people misunderstand about you?

I think some people think that I hold people accountable because I want to make them mad. But in reality, I hold them accountable because I want them to acknowledge themselves, take responsibility and succeed. *(GREAT life lessons!)*

What are some life lessons you've learned from teaching?

There've been a lot of life lessons I've learned my whole life. But I think that one main one is understanding that everyone doesn't think like me. Not everyone has the same beliefs, mindset, or opinions.

What are some of your strengths and weaknesses?

I think one of my strengths is that I'm very organized. Also, I'm good at keeping secrets. A weakness is that I can sometimes be impatient.

What are three things you cannot live without?

M&Ms (since I love chocolate), my dogs, and my good friends. (*Dogs!*)

What is the best piece of advice you ever received?

To stand up for what you believe in.

How would you describe your ideal weekend?

It would start off with taking care of the household chores. Then it would be taking the dogs for a w-a-l-k and then relaxing at the beach or in the yard with a book. Bad weather weekends would include binge watching the many shows I have fallen behind watching

What is one thing you always wanted to try but you were too scared to try?

Definitely scuba diving.

How would you describe your experiences teaching at John Adams and Herbert Hoover?

Teaching at Hoover has been such a great experience and I've loved all the time I've spent here. But I do miss my friends and colleagues at John Adams! Both schools will have a special place in my heart - for different reasons!

Fun facts about Ms. Wenzel

- Ms. Wenzel was the treasurer of her Girl Scouts troop and is now the treasurer of the Edison's Teacher's Union
- She did cheerleading in high school
- She played flute and piano
- She has two dogs, Chance and Charlie
- Math is her favorite subject
- She taught HHMS English teacher, Mr. Marshall at John Adams! (*WOW!*)
- She also taught the new mayor of Edison, Sam Joshi! (*WOW!*)
- She worked with Mr. Scully, who is now the principal of Lincoln Elementary School at John Adams. He was both her Vice Principal and Principal at JAMS

This Or that:

Heels or Flats or **Sneakers (*sensible shoes*)**

Diamonds or Pearls

Day or Night

Photos or Videos

Silver or **Gold**

(2 and a Half Men, Survivor) TV show or Movie

Introvert or extrovert (*both, depends on circumstances*)

Stay at home or Go out (depends)

Summer or Winter

Phone calls or Texts

Pancakes or Waffles

Phone or Computer

Sweet or Salty (Sweet and salty together...potato chips and M&Ms)

Breakfast or Dinner

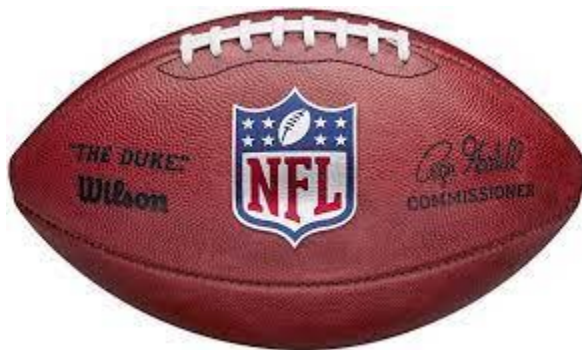
Newspaper Club Sports - American Football and Basketball

By: Parth Shidhaye (Football) and Kavan Malaviya (Basketball)

With everyone getting vaccinated, the sports scene has settled down a little bit and sports are almost back to how they were pre-pandemic. So for you sports lovers or anybody interested in sports, we are some rundowns from the NBA and NFL season. We'll talk about things from injuries, to rookies and new players' debuts, to even the stats of some of the top players from each league.

(American) Football - Parth Shidhaye

Within the NFL season we have seen a lot of surprising wins and a lot of surprising losses. We're also seeing many teams on the rise this year and many teams which just aren't as good anymore. So let's take a deeper look at the stats, the teams, the injuries, and the players in this section of the article.



Injuries this past season

American football is a very physical sport, so there are many injuries almost every single week. Some are small injuries such as an ankle sprain. But many times an injury can make a player go out for the season. In this part of the article, we'll take a deeper look into that.

Christian McCaffrey - The Carolina Panthers star running back in week three faced the Houston Texans. During the game, he suffered a hamstring injury. Since then he has missed

multiple games because of it. After he returned back for week 9 he got injured again. It was then announced on November 22, 2021, that Christian McCaffrey would be out for the rest of 2021.



Dalvin Cook- The Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Dalvin cook has a shoulder injury during practice. Due to this injury, he could only do limited participation during practice. People are now questioning if he will return to play for the Pittsburgh steelers which are doing just slightly better than the Vikings right now. So without Dalvin Cook results of the game could change drastically.

D’Andre Swift - Detroit Lions Runningback D’Andre Swift also suffered an injury as he was ruled out of the game against the Bears after a shoulder sprain. The Detroit Lions head coach Dan Campbell said it was a “wait and see” in how serious the sprain was.

Rookies/Debuts for 202/2022

The 2021 draft has been huge for some teams. It has provided a new start for some and has added great players to an already great roster. Although rookies can be great additions to some rosters, sometimes rookies that did very well and had amazing stats in college don’t perform so well in the NFL. So let’s take a look about how rookies have been doing this season

Zach Willson- In the first round of the draft the New York Jets chose quarterback Zach Willson for their second pick in the 2021 Draft. So where is he today? So far in this season the rookie has passed 1539 yards, has 6 touchdown passes, and has thrown 11 interceptions. On average his completion rate this season is about 58%.



Trevor Laurance- In the first round of the 2021 draft the Jacksonville Jaguars chose quarterback Trevor Laurance from Clemson. How is he doing now? Well now he has in total 2514 passing yards, he also has 9 touchdowns, and has thrown 10 interceptions.

Najee Harris- Also in the first round of the 2021 draft the Pittsburgh Steelers chose running back Najee Harris from Alabama as the 24th pick of the draft. So how is the 6'1" 229 pound running back doing now? In the 2021 season Najee has 217 rushing attempts, 779 rushing yards, an average of 3.6 yards per carry, 5 touchdowns, and 57 total receptions.

Joe Tyron- Linebacker Joe Tyron was selected by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the first round as the 32nd pick from Washington. So where is the 6'5" 229-pound linebacker? Well, he has 18 tackles, 4 assisted tackles, and 3 sacks.

Patrick Surtain jr- The Denver Broncos selected cornerback Patrick Surtain jr from Alabama in the first round as the 9th pick of the 2021 draft. So how is he doing? Well Patrick isn't doing so great this season he only has one 1 tackle and 1 pass defended.

Top Players

There are a lot of old faces and new faces in the NFL. Some players breaking records, and other players being highest in the league for certain stats. We'll look at all the top players and their stats in this section.

Wide receivers- Coming in at third place for the best receivers statistically right now would be Davante Adams from the Green Bay Packers. His stats are impressive as he has 80 receptions and 5 touchdowns just this season. On top of that, he also has 1083 receive yards this season and he has not fumbled at all this season! In number two we have Justin Jefferson from the Minnesota Vikings. Justin has 78 receptions but he has 7 touchdowns! To add to that he also has 1209 receiving yards having only 1 fumble this season. On average he gets 15.5 receiving yards on average! Last but not least we have Cooper Kupp from the Los Angeles Rams. He has been doing phenomenal this season with 100 receptions and 11 receiving touchdowns! His yards are the highest in the league at 1366 receiving yards and he has 0 fumbles this season! On average he gets 13.7 yards per reception.

Quarterbacks- In third place is Mathew Stafford from the Detroit Lions. He has really good stats with 292 completions, 438 passing attempts, and a completion rate of 66.7%. He has thrown for a total of 3611 yards this season with 30 passing touchdowns, and he has only thrown 9 interceptions this season. Third place and Second place were very close with Dereck Carr from the



Las Vegas Raiders. He has 306 completions with 451 attempted passes. He has a 67.8% completion rate. He has 3663 yards with 17 touchdown passes, and he has thrown only 9 interceptions this season. The best quarterback statistically in the whole NFL is Tom Brady. The 7-time Superbowl winner is still topping the charts 21 seasons later! He has 347 completions with 508 attempted passes. He has a completion rate of 68.3%. He has also thrown for 3771 yards and has 34 passing touchdowns and has thrown 10 interceptions.

Rushing- Here are statistically the best three rushers currently in the league. At number three we have Dalvin cook. He has 198 rushing attempts, 978 rushing yards, and averages 4.9 yards per rush attempt. He also has 6 touchdowns and 3 fumbles this season. In second place we have Joe Mixon, he has 227 rushing attempts with 978 rushing yards. He has about 4.3 rushing yards per attempt and has 12 touchdowns with only 1 fumble this season. Finally, we have Johnathan Taylor from the Indianapolis Colts he has 241 rushing attempts with 1348 rushing yards! He also has an average of 5.6 yards per carrying with 16 touchdowns and 3 fumbles this season!

Standings

With us currently being in Week 14, there are many close divisions while others have one team leaving the rest in the dust. So let's talk about the current playoff contenders, the teams in the hunt, and some teams that are possible wildcard contenders right now for both the AFC and the NFC.

AFC East- In this division the leading team right now is the New England Patriots who is almost guaranteed to the playoffs with a 9-4 record. Right behind them as a possible wild card is the Buffalo Bills with a 7-6 record. And bellow the Bills is the Miami Dolphins at 6-7 and the New York Jets at last with 3-10 as their record.

AFC West- In this division, the Kansas City Chiefs are leading with a record of 10-4. Just right behind them is the Los Angeles Chargers with 8-5 as their record. Just right behind them is the broncos at 7-6, and in last is the Las Vegas raiders at 6-7.

AFC North- In the lead at AFC North we actually have a tie! Both the Baltimore Ravens and the Cincinnati Bengals are at the lead with a record of 8--6! Coming up behind them is Pitsburg Steelers with a record of 7-6 and at last is the Cleveland Browns at 7-7. Overall a tough division for teams.

AFC South-In this division the Tennessee Titans are leading at 9-5. Right behind them is the Indianapolis Colts at 8-6. It seems as if those two teams are in a massive lead compared to the last two as the Houston Texans are at 3-11, and in last place is the Jacksonville Jaguars at 2-12.

NFC East- In the lead with a phenomenal record is the Dallas Cowboys at 10-4! Behind them, we have a tie Between the Washington Football Team and the Philadelphia Eagles with them both having a record of 6-7. Lastly, with almost no hope of making a wild card is the New York Giants at 4-10.

NFC West- In the lead is the Arizona Cardinals with the same impressive stats as the Cowboys, with a record of 10-4! Right behind their tail is the Los Angeles Rams at a record of 9-4. But The 49ers aren't too far away either as they have a record of 8-6. Lastly, we have the Seattle Seahawks with a record of 5-8.

NFC North- The Packers have probably one of the most impressive records at 12-3! Behind them are the Minnesota Vikings at 7-8. Way off into the deep is the Chicago Bears at 5-10. Finally with a disappointing record of 2-12 is the Detroit Lions.

NFC South- As of week 15, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are at a record of 11-4! Behind them at 2nd place in NFC South at 7-7 is the New Orleans Saints. Right behind is the Atlanta Falcons at 7-8. With the Carolina Panthers at 5-10.

Basketball - Kavan Malaviya

The NFL records being broken, new teams rising, and players rising and falling throughout the league. In this section of the article, we'll look at all of that and more.

Standings

There have been many teams outperforming expectations, and many teams underperforming. We'll look at those teams, and see if they can get better or if they will get worse throughout the season.

[Link to standings](#)

Let's start with the eastern conference. Some teams that we've been seeing doing great from last season are doing great this season as well, like the Brooklyn Nets,



Milwaukee Bucks, and the Miami Heat. The Chicago Bulls made some big trades this offseason to acquire DeMar DeRozan and Lonzo Ball. Many analysts thought that this team was too offensive-heavy, and couldn't play defense. This would lead to them having a bad record. However, the Bulls have been proving them wrong, as they boast a 17-8 record as of 12/7/2021, putting them second in the eastern conference. The Washington Wizards are also overperforming as they are 5th in the eastern conference as of 12/7/2021. The Wizards made a big splash in the offseason, acquiring players such as Kyle Kuzma, Spencer Dinwiddie, Montrezl Harrell, and Kentavious-Caldwell-Pope. These players have impacted the Wizards in a hugely positive way to boost them into the playoff picture. On the less positive side, some teams underperforming are the Hawks and the Knicks. The teams hold the 10th and 11th records in the eastern conference when last year they were 5th and 4th respectively. These losses may be due to some hard schedules, and players just not performing to expectations. Let's hope that these teams start to perform better as the season goes on.

In the western conference, let's start with the teams underperforming. The 2020 NBA champions, the Lakers are off to a 12-12 start due to injury and underperformance. LeBron James has been injured for many games this season, and as a result, the Lakers are performing worse without their best player. Russell Westbrook, a player that the Lakers traded many assets for this offseason, is underperforming as he's averaging 20 points, 8 rebounds, and 8 assists. These stats may seem good, but Westbrook's shooting is abysmal, shooting 32% from 3 and 68.4% from the free-throw line. The Denver Nuggets are also underperforming, but this is mainly due to injury. Two Denver Nuggets stars, Jamal Murray and Michael Porter Jr. are most likely out for the season, dimming the Nuggets hope of winning a title this year. Many teams are overperforming this season. The Phoenix Suns are currently tied for the best record in the league with the Golden State Warriors with a 20-4 record as of 12/7/2021. Players on the Suns such as Mikal Bridges are having breakout seasons. The Suns are hoping to make the Finals once again this season. As mentioned previously, the Golden State Warriors are arguably the best team in the league, boasting one of the best records in the league and one of the best offensive and defensive ratings in the league. They also have the highest net rating and point differential in the league. The Warriors were widely expected to not do this well, but hang in the playoff picture until Klay Thompson, one of the best shooters in the league comes back from injury. However, without Klay, the Warriors are still blowing teams out of the water and overperforming many expectations. Let's hope these teams are doing good keep doing well so we can see some more competitiveness in the playoffs.

Top Players



New stars are emerging in the NBA this season, and some rising stars we've seen in the past are doing great this year. Here we'll look deeper into their impact this season.

Kevin Durant - The Nets superstar is currently averaging 28 points per game, 8 rebounds, and 5 and a half assists for a Nets team looking to make the finals. He is currently scoring the most points per game in the league as well as very efficient shooting Durant has a big chance to win his 2nd MVP this year if he keeps performing like this.



Stephen Curry - The Warriors player is leading the Golden State Warriors to a tied for league-best 20-4 record. He's averaging 28 points, 5 rebounds, and 6 and a half assists on 41% from the 3 point line. Even when Curry doesn't have great performances he still impacts the game, as the defensive attention Curry attracts can lead to other players being open for an easy shot.

Miles Bridges - Bridges has been having a breakout year this season averaging 20 points and 7 rebounds on decent efficiency for the Charlotte Hornets. His chemistry with LaMelo Ball, another Hornets player, creates some passing and alley-oop plays that are fun to watch.

Giannis Antetokoumpo - Giannis is once again dominating the game. After a rough start to the season, the Milwaukee Bucks got back many key players sidelined from health and safety protocols and injury and went out to an eight-game win streak. During this streak, Antetokoumpo averaged an amazing 29.4 points, 12.6 rebounds, and 6.0 assists. If Giannis and the Bucks keep performing at this level, they have a chance to repeat and win another championship.

Nikola Jokic - Last year's MVP is quietly putting up a show this season. Jokic is averaging 25 points, 13.5 rebounds, and 7 assists on great shooting. He's also leading in most individual advanced stats as well, including net rating and plus-minus.

Injuries

Many players throughout the league have been injured. Some of these injuries have been minor injuries that last a few weeks, but some are major injuries, injuries that take months to recover. Here are some of the currently injured players and stars of the league, and dates on when they'll return

Klay Thompson - The Golden State Warriors star was hit with an ACL injury in Game 6 of the 2019 NBA Finals. After a year of rehab, Klay was ready to participate in the 2020-21 season but unfortunately was hit once again by an Achilles injury, one of the worst injuries that can happen to a basketball player. Now, he's almost ready to get back on the NBA court again, as he recently started doing 5 on 5 scrimmages at Warriors practices. There isn't a set date for Thompson's return, but it'll most likely be on or before the Warriors' Christmas day game against the Phoenix Suns.

Kawhi Leonard - The Los Angeles Clippers' superstar was injured with a torn ACL injury during game 4 of the 2021 Western Conference Semifinals during the playoffs. Leonard is currently doing well in rehab and is ahead of schedule for his return. There isn't a timetable set for Kawhi's return, but it is expected to see him back later in the season, around late April to May

Michael Porter Jr. - Porter Jr. was recently injured while trying to attempt a layup in a game against the Houston Rockets. After undergoing back surgery, reports say that Porter Jr. is out for the season. This could hurt the Denver Nuggets season, as some other stars on the Nuggets are injured as well.

Ja Morant - The Grizzlies star was injured in a loss to the Atlanta Hawks with a left knee injury. After more analysis, it was revealed that it was only a knee sprain and that he'll only be out for a few weeks. Morant is averaging 24 points, 6 rebounds, and 7 assists a game on the season.

Kyrie Irving - Irving isn't really injured, but will most likely be out for a big part of the season. According to the New York mandate, sports players must get the COVID-19 vaccine in order to play for their team. Kyrie refused to get the vaccine, and as a result he hasn't been playing the whole season. This will have a big impact on a Brooklyn Nets team with hopes to win the franchises' first championship.

For more information on injuries in the NBA, visit <https://www.espn.com/nba/injuries>

Rookies/Debuts

The 2021 NBA draft has been projected to be one of the deepest draft classes in NBA history. Some rookies have been doing amazing so far this season, but others could be busts. We're going to look at rookies doing amazing, and ones doing not so great.

Cade Cunningham - The number one pick in the draft has been doing great after a rough start to the season in Detroit. Cunningham has been averaging 14 points per game, 6 rebounds, and 5 assists. However, a rough spot in his game is his shooting, as he's averaging 39% from the field and 29% from 3 points.

Jalen Green - Green hasn't been doing amazing to start the season, as he has the worst plus/minus in the NBA as of right now. Green's shooting splits are rough as well, similar shooting splits to Cade. However, his potential is huge, and if he puts a lot of work in, he could potentially be one of the stars of the NBA going forward.

Evan Mobley - The 6'11 power forward was named the rookie of the month for November. He has been averaging 14 points and 8 rebounds as well as 2 blocks a game. Power forwards and centers usually take a few years to get to the stats that Mobley is putting up in his rookie year, so Mobley is on a great trajectory to become one of the premier power forwards of the NBA.



Scottie Barnes - Arguably the top rookie of the year candidate, the Raptor has been putting up 15 points and 8 rebounds with 49% shooting from the field and 38% from 3 points.

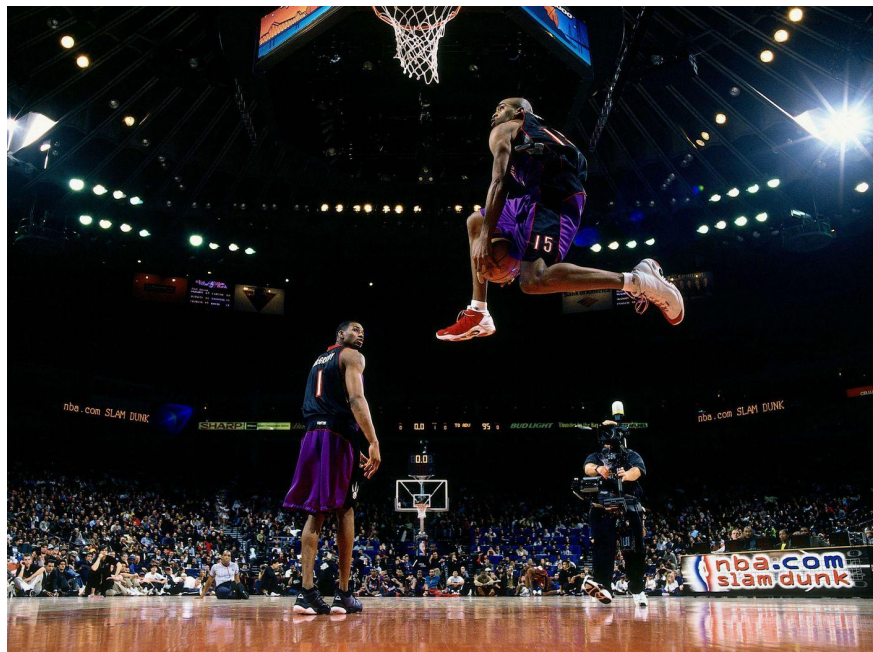
Josh Giddey - The Australian rookie has been outperforming so far this season, averaging 10 points, 7 rebounds, and 6 assists a game. Giddey is already breaking records, as recently he has become just the third player after LeBron James and LaMelo Ball to register 100 assists and 100 rebounds over their first 20 NBA games as a teenager. Giddey was selected rookie of the month along with Evan Mobley (mentioned above) in November.

Fun Facts

So far this season, many records have been broken. In this section of the article, we'll be looking more into them and how they impact the league.

This is the NBA's 75th anniversary season. There have been players with many different careers. Some have been great, and some have not been so great. Some have been long, like Vince Carter, who played 22 NBA seasons with a host of different teams. Some players' careers haven't been very long. For example, the shortest NBA career wasn't even a season or even a game long. In 2014 a Clippers player named JamesOnCurry played a short 3.9 seconds before being traded and waived.

There have been many players that have impacted the game as well throughout the NBA's 75 seasons. One player who's impacted the game as we know it today throughout the past decade is Stephen Curry. His long-range 3 pointers and shooting ability was a big part of what made the NBA use the 3 point line more. For example, in the 2005-06 season, the best 3 point shooting team made 11.5 3 pointers a game on average. Curry single-handedly has scored 11 threes or more in a game multiple times. As of now, the team that makes the 6th least 3 pointers this season, Oklahoma City puts in 11.5 3 pointers a game. The Warrior is also quickly catching up to Ray Allen to get the record of most 3 pointers in an NBA career. As of 12/7/21, Curry is 15 away from Allen. By the time you're reading this article, Curry might have even surpassed Allen!



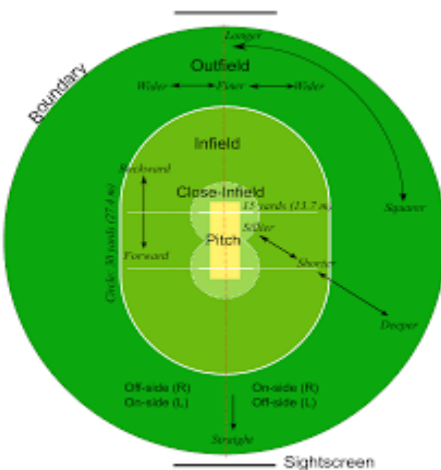
Moving away from the 3 point line, let's talk about the new rule changes that have impacted free throw shooting. The NBA recently instituted a rule change at the start of the 2021-22 season. It was aimed specifically at players who make "abnormal movements" to draw fouls that result in free throws. This season so far is one of the lowest free throw attempting seasons in NBA history as a result of the rule change.

Cricket

By: Vansh Kumar

Is cricket a bug? Well, sometimes...but it's also the second most popular sport in the world after soccer. Well, you might also be asking. Then why have I not heard of it? The short answer is because all the nations that play cricket were British-controlled nations in the 1900s. So because the USA won its independence from Britain in 1776, cricket never caught on here in the USA. So even though it's not popular here in the US, you might be curious about how to play it and you just might want to start.

Cricket, just like soccer, has eleven players. Cricket is played on an oval field and has boundaries. This picture will explain it.



The smaller circle is 30 yards from the pitch which is in beige. Now that we know how the ground looks, we can talk about the rules of cricket. As we said there are 11 players on each team but there is one batting side and one fielding side. The batting side only sends out 2 players to bat and for the fielding side everyone comes out. Kind of like a goalie there is a wicketkeeper who catches the ball if it passes the batsmen. A few ways the batsmen could

score runs.

Hitting the ball and crossing ends with the other batsmen you can do this as many times as you want as long as you don't get run out we will go over this a bit later.

If the ball is out of the batsman's reach and he leaves it is called a wide and his team gets one run.

You can hit a four if the ball is hit out of the boundary but has bounced.

Similarly, if you hit the ball out of the boundary but it doesn't bounce you get six runs.

Now since we have gone over how you can get runs let's go over how to get out. There are only 10 wickets in a team, one for each one except one. Bowled there is on each side of the pitch

stumps and on top of the stumps there are bails. If the bails get knocked over by the ball the batsmen are out.

Similarly, if anybody part of the bat hits the wicket the batsmen are declared out this is called a hit wicket.

LBW if the batsmen get hit with the ball and are directly in front of the wicket he is declared out.

Nowadays there is DRS that can track the ball and predict if it would hit the stumps or not.

Runout you can get run out if you try to take a run and a fielder throws the ball and it hits the stump before you are in the crease you are out.

Lastly, there is something called an *over* there are six balls in an over, depending on what type of game you are playing that will decide how many overs you play. Now you have the basics about cricket now go out there and play!



The History Of Sports

By: Pratul Harrinandan Palpando

Have you ever found yourself in a sports tryout? Do you ever wonder how, or where these sports originated? Watch, as I will reveal to you, the history of... sports!

The History Of Football (Soccer) - The game of Soccer originated from England in the mid-19th century. Although, there were different versions of the sport that existed earlier. The first team game involved a rock as a ball. This was practiced 3,000 years ago by the Aztecs. As time passed, various versions of the game developed in other regions. The original version takes us back to the 12th century, when the game was very violent. As time passed, sports became more popular; the game changed to what you know as modern-day soccer. Coming back to modern-day soccer, the game has grown significantly due to the fact that it is the most popular sport with over 4 billion fans.

The History of Basketball - Basketball was invented in the late 19th century by James Naismith who was an educator and physician. Naismith introduced the game when he was an instructor at the Young Men's Christian Association Training School (now Springfield College) in Springfield, Massachusetts. Naismith needed to create an indoor sport so that his students would be physically active and happy during the winter, when it was too cold to play outdoor sports. The first ball ever used to play the new game was a different version of the soccer ball. Teams had nine players to about ten players. Who had to get the ball in the basket was affixed to a long pole. Slowly has time passed. The game rapidly spread worldwide and was played by the population.

Slowly, colleges started adapting to this sport. In 1898 the first professional league of basketball was formed. It was called the National basketball league. It was encouraged fewer rough games and more professional games. Slowly the league fell and disbanded causing to form many leagues of the game everywhere slowly as time passed the National Basketball League (formed in 1937) and the Basketball Association of America (1946) merged to create the National Basketball Association (NBA). Dating back to the modern time, Basketball is one of America's most beloved sports with it being the most popular sport in America!

The History of Football - On November 6, 1869, Players from Princeton and Rutgers held the first intercollegiate football contest in New Brunswick, New Jersey, Playing a type of soccer-style game integrated with rugby! With the rules being from the London (football)-soccer association. The man that created this transition from this rugby-like game to the sport of football

we know today was Walter Camp. He was the voice to the IFAF (International Federation of American Football) who had recently been created. He made many innovations to the game by adding many new features and tools to the game of American football! Later on, other associations were made like the NFL-(National Football League) Merging with AFL-(American football league) Later on the IFAF was created to oversee the national games. Dating back to modern-day football is a really big sport as the superbowl is made a really really big deal of!



All Around The World: Let's

Visit...Japan *By: Shannon Some*

こんにちは! (Kon'nichiwa!) Today I want to tell you about the fascinating island country, Japan! Japan is a wonderful country that is home to over 6,000 islands! Read on to learn more about Japan!

Food:

In Japan, white rice and cooked or raw fish are usually popular foods. Miso soup, a type of soup made with miso paste and sometimes tofu or onions, is also popular. Miso paste, which is made from fermented soybeans, is a traditional Japanese seasoning. Pickled vegetables are also a common addition to meals. Green tea is also a very popular drink in Japan.

Geography:

As an archipelago, Japan is home to many islands and mountains, making its geography very interesting to study. Nearly three-fourths of Japan is covered in mountains, the tallest being Mount Fuji, at 12,388 feet tall. Japan is also home to many forests and national parks, such as Yakushima national park. Yakushima national park is famous for having many forests of ancient cedar trees. There are also many hot springs within the park, as it encompasses two islands, one having many active volcanos. Volcanic peaks are common in Japan, as the country is located along the Ring of Fire, an area along the Pacific Ocean known for having many volcanos and earthquakes.

Art:

The haiku is a type of seventeen syllable poem about nature that originated in Japan and has now become popular with poets all over the world. Much of traditional Japanese art also features nature, with the picture 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' by Hokusai being one of the most famous. More recently, anime and manga have become very popular art forms in Japan.

Fun Facts:

The number four is considered very unlucky in Japan.

Japanese trains are very punctual, with the average delay being around 18 seconds!

During the feudal period, floors in Japan were made with special nails that made a chirp-like squeaking sound to prevent ninjas from sneaking in unannounced!

Take a virtual tour of Japan:

[Admire the Beauty of Mount Fuji](#)

[Watch the Snow Monkeys Enjoying the Hot Springs!](#)

Thank you for
reading!

