

THE SPORTIER

Myles Garrett Strikes, Literally

This past week's edition of Thursday Night Football will forever go down in history, but for the wrong reasons. With the Cleveland Browns carrying a 21-7 lead over the Pittsburgh Steelers in the final seconds of the game, Browns defensive end Myles Garrett attempted to sack Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph. Garrett wrestled Rudolph to the ground, and Rudolph was frustrated. He pulled on Garrett's face-mask, which started a scuffle. He proceeded to tear off Rudolph's helmet, and, even being held back by two Steelers offensive linemen, he dropped the hammer: literally. Garrett slammed the helmet on Rudolph's bare head. Garrett was then shoved and kicked by the Steelers linemen as they were protecting their quarterback. Many incidents happen on a football field, such as players getting angry after a hard hit and pushing each other, and sometimes even brawls resulting from showboating. Those are things that occur within football, but hitting a player on the head with a helmet is beyond football, and shouldn't be found anywhere. Garrett will deservedly receive the largest punishment, but Rudolph is not innocent, as he caused the situation to even begin. The NFL has suspended Myles Garrett indefinitely, for at least the end of the regular season and playoffs, without pay. As other players involved in the altercation were handed 1-3 game suspensions, each team was fined a hefty \$250,000.

Quarterback Mason Rudolph, who was struck on the head with his own helmet but was also the player who had instigated the "attack," will also receive a fine, the amount of which is still being determined. On Thursday night, Rudolph's agent had tweeted that Rudolph's group could pursue legal charges, but Rudolph later said Friday that they would leave it to the NFL. This just shows how bad the situation was, as it could have gotten to the point where Garrett could have been handed out a federal penalty, which is way beyond football. What happened on Thursday Night was one of the worst events to happen on a football field, but it just proves that sports are intense, and players getting heated is going to be part of it. The NFL should find a way to slow down this kind of situation again, as they could get into big trouble next time.

The Return of Melo

Though this Thursday brought a horrific event in the sports world, the sports world also received a wonderful gift: Carmelo Anthony's return. On Thursday evening, at 5:54 PM, Carmelo Anthony was an NBA player. The Portland Trail Blazers, a team struggling at 5-8 in the Western Conference, needed a boost to propel them in the right direction. Carmelo is signing a non-guaranteed deal to play in Portland, which means that he will earn a minimal amount on the Trail Blazers, unless he is not waived by the team on January 7th, at which point the contract is fully guaranteed. The Trail Blazers have pursued Melo in the past, even when he was on the Knicks. Additionally, the Trail Blazers are depleted on the offensive end, as forward Zach Collins and center Jusuf Nurkic are injured, and the team had gotten rid of forwards Al-Farouq Aminu and Maurice Harkless in the offseason. For Carmelo, he has not played in the NBA for over a year, as he ended a 10-game run with the Rockets early last year. Though Melo may still an offensive threat, his age may be deteriorated his skills, and at 35, he will most likely earn a bench role. He will most likely debut for Portland on Tuesday, November 19th in New Orleans against the Pelicans, as he is still needing a physical. It should be interesting what Melo can do, and either way, at least he is back in the league.

In The Rulebook

Did you know: The NFL rulebook actually has a rule about using a helmet as a weapon? A player may not use a helmet that is not being worn to hit or swing at an opponent. If the helmet is intact used in this manner, there is a 15 yard penalty, an automatic disqualification for that player, and if the defense commits the penalty, it is an automatic first down for the offense.



Sources:

[NFL](#)

[ESPN](#)

[Bleacher Report](#)

[NFL Rulebook](#)