

The Sportier

The Year of 2015

Kiran Pathy

Read the Top 5 stories of the year

Check out where Malcolm Butler's catch ranks on the Top 5 plays

Check out what the Worst Play of the Year was

Top Stories

Number 5- The Return of A-Rod

Yankees 3rd Baseman/Designated Hitter Alex Rodriguez (A-Rod) came back to the Bronx after serving a suspension for use of steroids. Rodriguez started out great in spring training, hitting his first homer in a long time. He hit 3 home runs in spring training in 19 games. In the regular season, A-Rod broke Willie Mays's record of 660 homeruns. A-Rod set the 4th place home run record at 687 home runs, which put A-Rod in good position to break Babe Ruth's record of 714, only needing 28 to break that record. A-Rod hit 33 home runs in his first year back and his first year being a permanent designated hitter. A-Rod didn't get a single hit in his 4 at-bats during the AL Wild Card game, but all of his other home runs and hits made it look not as bad.



Top Stories

Number 4- Cespedes!

The Mets got very lucky that the Tigers were willing to trade Yoenis Cespedes for 2 minor leaguers. Even though now that one of those minor leaguers is a No. 1 prospect for the Tigers and one is a No. 18 prospect for the Yankees, it was worth it. Time was ticking down on the last day of the trade deadline and the Mets grabbed Cespedes in a last second trade. Cespedes played his first game as a Met on August 1st, but he went 0-3 with a walk. Then his next game he got a hit. Then the next game he got 4 RBI's. And then it took off. Cespedes had 8 homeruns in August, then 9 in September. Cespedes had one game against Colorado with 3 home runs. He had a total of 66 hits, all of which were important to the Mets playoff run. Also, he had 44 RBI's in 230 games, which is a lot for someone who has switched not only teams, but from the American League to the National League. Cespedes hit only 2 home runs in the playoffs due to a injured shoulder, but even worse, in the World Series, Cespedes fouled a ball off of his knee, which took him out of the game. Cespedes was able to rebuild the Mets, which is a great start even if he doesn't play for New York again.



Top Stories

Number 3- Ohio State Wins First College Football Playoffs

In the 2014-15 season of College Football, the new College Football Playoffs were played. The 4 teams were Florida State, Oregon, Ohio State, and Alabama. In the Rose Bowl, Florida State was defeated by Oregon. In the Sugar Bowl, Ohio State upset Alabama. No. 2 Oregon was favored in the championship over No. 4 Ohio State, but Ohio State pounded Oregon, taking a lead of 21-10 at the half and scoring another 21 in the second half, leading them to champions. In the first College Football Championship, Ohio State upset Oregon.



Top Stories

Number 2- The FIFA Scandal

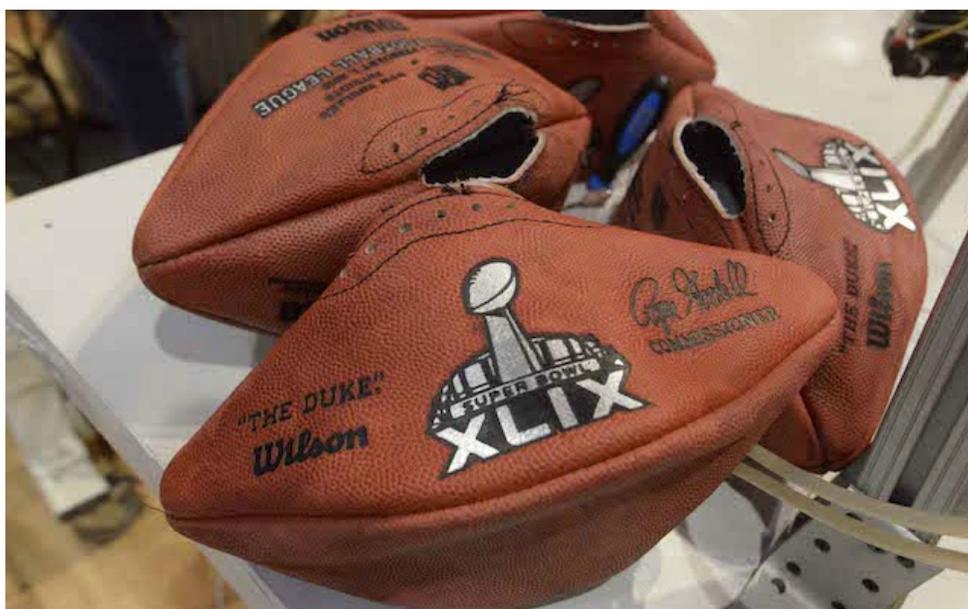
This past year in May, 7 FIFA officials were arrested at Hotel Baur au Lac in Zürich. These officials preparing to attend the 65th FIFA Congress, where the president of FIFA would be elected. They are expected to be sent to the United States on suspicion of receiving \$150 million in bribes. 2 other FIFA officials were arrested this December at the same place. Australia, Columbia, Costa Rica, Germany, and Switzerland will open or intensify separate criminal investigations into top FIFA officials for corruption. People are now questioning if FIFA president Sepp Blatter cares what bad things his team is doing.



Top Stories

Number 1- Deflategate

In the AFC Championship, between the Patriots and the Colts, when Tom Brady threw an interception to Colts linebacker D'Qwell Jackson and Jackson took the ball to the Colts sideline and let a member of the Colts' equipment staff examine it, who then notified head coach Chuck Pagano. Colts GM Ryan Grigson was told of what had happened and he then got in touch with Mike Kensil, the director of football operations. Referees checked the balls at the half, and they found one ball that was under-inflated. But the referees didn't get to check all the balls. The Patriots scored 28 points in the next half, which gave them the AFC Championship. During the investigation, Tom Brady (NE Quarterback) and Bill Belichick (NE Coach) stated that they had no clue whatsoever to what happened to their balls. There was an investigation on a Patriots locker room staff member who was seen to be taking all of the footballs into the bathroom for 90 seconds. The case was brought to federal court in September 2015. Brady was supposed to be suspended, but that was changed and he wasn't. The Patriots didn't lose a draft pick either.



Top Plays

Number 5- Bartolo's Behind-The-Back Flip



42 year old Pitcher Bartolo Colon made a stunning play for a 42 year old.

Top Plays

Number 4- Murphy Takes 2 Bases on a Walk



On a walk issued by Zack Grenkie in Game 5 of the NLDS, Daniel Murphy took 2 bases without any other Dodgers looking. That led to a game tying run.

Top Plays

Number 3- OBJ Does it Again



Odell Beckham Jr. made another great catch, but it wasn't as great as his first the previous season.

Top Plays

Number 2- Julio Climbs an Imaginary Ladder



Julio Jones climbed an imaginary ladder over Giants defender Brandon Meriweather and made a crazy one handed grab

Top Plays

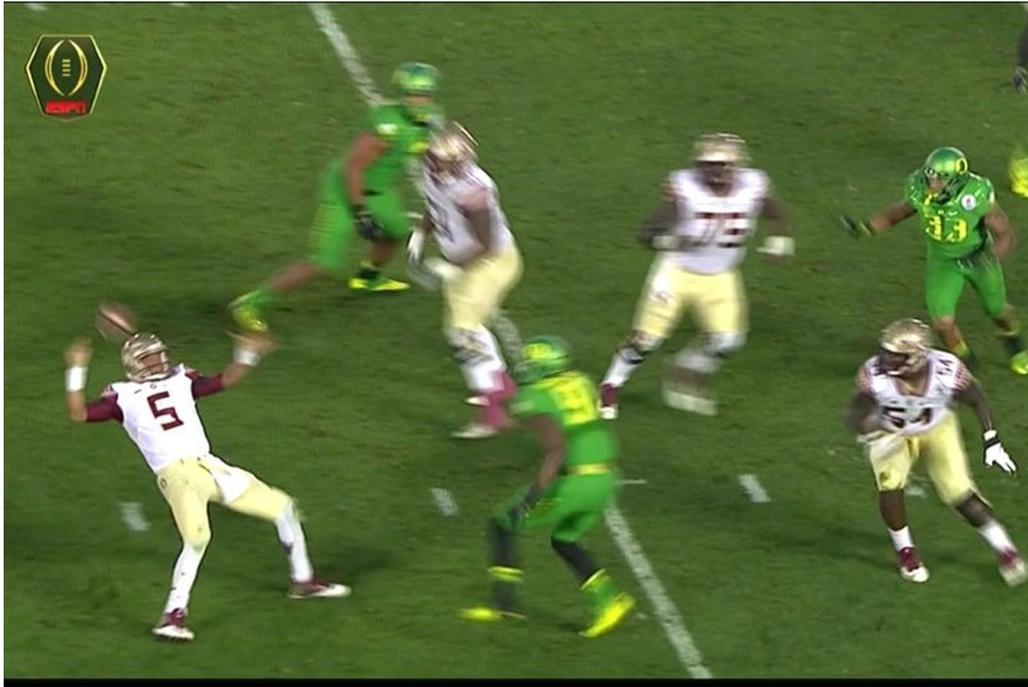
Number 1- Butler at the Pats Service



Patriots cornerback Malcolm Butler intercepted this pass from Russell Wilson intended for Ricardo Lockette. This play was the ending point of the run by the Seahawks trying to score a touchdown to win the Super Bowl. Patriots won.

Worst Play

The Winston Fall



In the Rose Bowl, Jamies Winston let the ball slip out of his hands on 4th and 5. Oregon scored a touchdown on the recovery. Oregon won, 59-20. (Look at the referee at the bottom. This happened during the play.)



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