

The Sportier Year Review 2017

Check out the top 5
moments of 2017!

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#5

Mayweather/McGregor Fight

The Mayweather/McGregor fight was no doubt one of the greatest fights ever. An estimated 50 million Americans into what would be one of the greatest fights ever. Mayweather, who held a 49-0 record going into the fight, would be squaring off against McGregor, who would be fighting in his first boxing match as he was a UFC fighter. Mayweather ended up winning the match in the 10th round by TKO (Total Knockout) after using a strategy to tire McGregor out. Mayweather was 50-0-0 after the fight, becoming the greatest boxer ever, passing Rocky Marciano's previous record of 49-0-0. Looking back, maybe it was foolish to think that McGregor could withstand a pounding from an experienced boxer like Mayweather.



#4

The Ball Family

A lot of things that happened with the Ball family this year. Lonzo Ball led his UCLA basketball team to a Sweet Sixteen matchup against Kentucky in the NCAA March Madness tournament, though they ended up losing 75-86. Lonzo then left UCLA after just one season to enter the NBA Draft, in which he was the number 2 overall pick by the Los Angeles Lakers. Now on to Lonzo's father, LaVar Ball. LaVar made comments in March about how he could "kill Michael Jordan one-on-one" despite only averaging 2.2 points per game while he played one season at Washington State University. LaVar also made many comments about that Lonzo was better than Stephen Curry, who was the NBA's Most Valuable Player in 2015 and 2016, and other superstars like LeBron James and Russell Westbrook. UCLA's all-time leading scorer Don MacLean called the comments "outrageous," as did many others. LaVar also started promoting his new clothing company, Big Baller Brand. Big Baller Brand sold shoes, the first model ZO2's, which were Lonzo's signature shoes. They retailed for \$495. Big Baller Brand also made shoes for the youngest Ball son, LaMelo. They are called the Melo Ball 1 (MB1). These are sold at a "more affordable" cost of \$395. LaVar received lots of criticism concerning his brand, as he was asking for \$3 billion or threatened to go out "on his own." (Currently, he is on his own.) The Ball family became the stars of a new reality show, called "Ball in the Family" (it airs on Facebook). Now onto the middle son, LiAngelo. LiAngelo's UCLA team was set to play Georgia Tech in China when LiAngelo decided it would be "smart" to go shoplifting with 2 of his teammates, Jalen Hill and Cody Riley, at the Louis Vuitton store near their hotel. It didn't end well, as they were locked up in a Chinese jail. Lucky for them, President Donald Trump came in to save the day, as he was able to get the players back to America. LaVar Ball, however, was not appreciative of Mr. Trump's actions, as the president then said "I should have left them in jail!" LaVar decided to escape the madness and pull LiAngelo out of college and bring him and his younger brother LaMelo to Lithuania where they could continue to play basketball. The other players weren't so lucky, though. They got banned from UCLA for the season.

Wow, the Ball family sure did make moves in 2017!



#3

2017 World Series

The 2017 World Series between the Houston Astros and the Los Angeles Dodgers was a fantastic history making event, and the story behind it was even more remarkable.

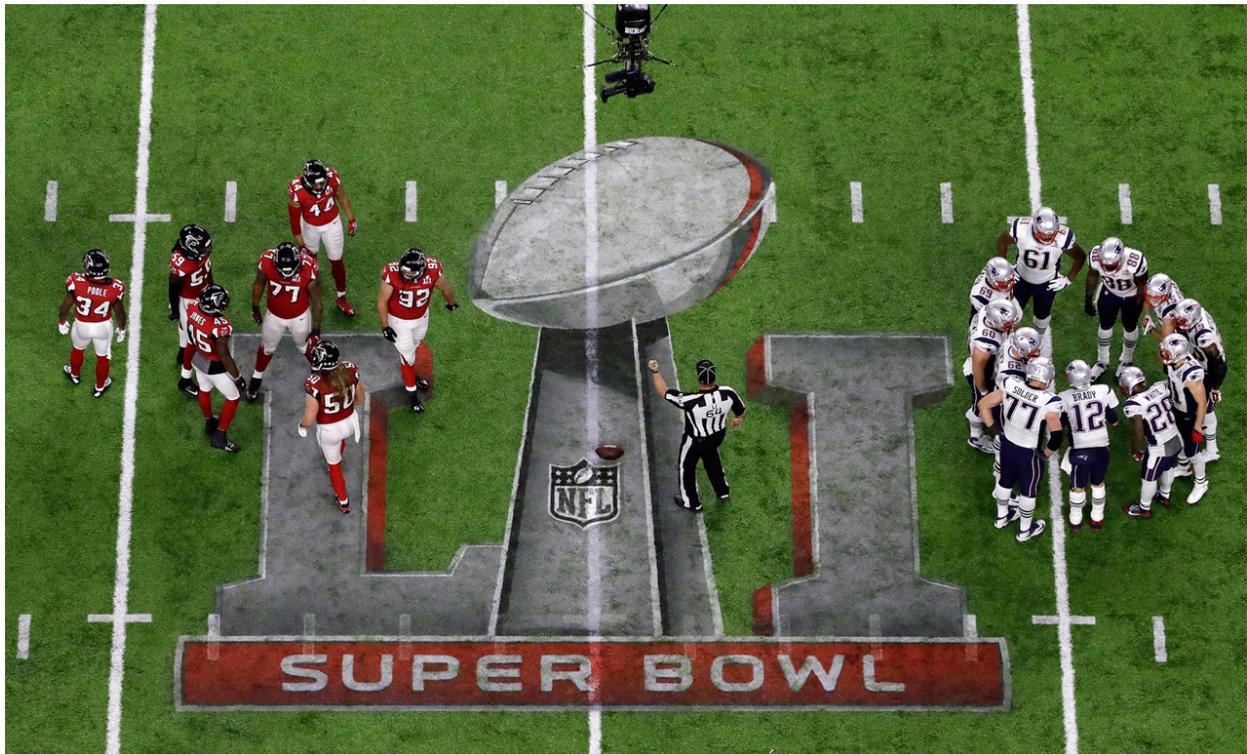
Earlier in the year, Hurricane Harvey devastated the city of Houston. In total, the hurricane caused almost \$200 billion worth of damage. But the Astros still had to play. And they did exceptional. Wearing patches that read “Houston Strong,” the Astros clinched their division in September. That was just the start. In the ALDS, the Houston Astros took down the Boston Red Sox 3 games to 1. The next series for Houston was the ALCS where they faced off against the New York Yankees. The Astros were able to hold the Yankees and took game 7 and the series, on their way to their 2nd World Series appearance in the franchises’ history. In the World Series, they went on to face the best team in all of baseball, the Los Angeles Dodgers. But after 7 games, which included 2 extra inning games, the Astros ended on top of the Dodgers as they stunned them in Los Angeles for the series win. So after all of the trouble the city of Houston faced, the Astros healed the city on their way to their first ever World Series championship.



#2

Super Bowl LI

Super Bowl LI was definitely the greatest comeback in the history of any sport. Down 28-3 in the third quarter, Tom Brady and the Patriots fought back and were able to tie the game up somehow, with some help from plays like an impossible catch from Julian Edelman. The game went into overtime and the Patriots stormed down the field, with a result of a rushing touchdown that ended up winning the game for the Patriots. Tom Brady tied the record for most Super Bowl wins as a player with 5, and Bill Belichick earned his 7th total Super Bowl ring, tied for most ever. While some people call it a “big choke” by the Falcons, the Patriots made a great comeback.



#1

Kneeling During the National Anthem

The concept of kneeling during the national anthem mostly occurred in the NFL, mainly because it was started in the NFL. While this actually started in 2016, kneeling became more widespread in 2017. In September of 2016, Colin Kaepernick started kneeling and sitting during the national anthem in his preseason games because he wanted to protest racial inequality. A few more players followed, but not until 2017 did the real protests start. In September of 2017, president Donald Trump called out the NFL owners at one of his rallies, telling them to “fire” the players who kneeled during the anthem. This did not get the answer Trump hoped for, as 200 more players began to kneel and teams even started going into their locker rooms. Soon, mostly all games had players kneeling or locking arms or something other than the traditional hand over heart and standing. The impact this protest had on the NFL was huge. Through week 7 of the 2017 NFL season, the ratings have dropped 5% compared to the same exact time last year, with 15.1 million average viewers through week 7 this year compared to 15.87 million average viewers through the same time last year. Just recently, the NFL offered to donate \$100 million to African-American organizations over a 5-6 year period in return for no more kneeling. While this reduced the number of players kneeling, it has not completely ended this practice.



Sources:
Wikipedia
ESPN
Sports Illustrated