

NFL Neglect:
(C)hronic
(T)raumatic
(E)ncephalopath
y



Starting Lineup



Jalissa Breeland
Comm Major
Junior



#7
WR

Eva Cheeseman
MSP Major
Senior



#14
RB

Dominique Vinson
Journalism Major
Senior



#1
QB

Hadiyah Muhammad
Journalism Major
Senior



#23
TE

Ella Hauptman
Comm Major
Sophomore



#4
K

Sam Ammons
Comm Major
Sophomore



#18
LB





▼ **Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy**

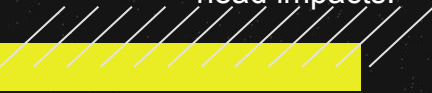
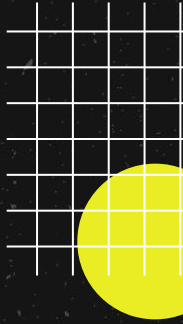
▼ *What is it and what are the effects?*

▼ “According to the Boston University CTE Center, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) is a degenerative brain disease found in athletes, military veterans, and others with a history of repetitive brain trauma. CTE is caused in part by repeated traumatic brain injuries, which include concussions and non concussive impacts. In CTE, experts believe a structural protein in neurons called tau misfolds malfunctions, causes adjacent proteins to misfold, and sets off a chain reaction where this malfunctioning tau slowly spreads throughout the brain, killing brain cells. Right now, CTE can only be definitively diagnosed by autopsy after death. CTE has been diagnosed in people who died as young as 17, but symptoms do not generally begin appearing until years after the onset of head impacts.”

- CTE stands for Chronic Trumatic Encephaloapthy
- Ehn-Seh-fuh- laa-puh-thee
- It is often found in athletes, military veterans and other with repetitive brain truma
- Can only be diagnosed in autopsy after death

WHAT CAUSES CTE?

- CTE is caused by repetitive traumatic brain injuries, including concussions and non concussive impacts.
- Researchers believe that a structural protein in neurons called tau misfolds and malfunctions, causes other protons to do the same. Causing a chain reaction spreading through the brain and killing brain cells.



Facts about CTE and Symptoms/ Effects



- Stage 1: Short-term memory loss; mild aggression and depression; headaches.
- Stage 2: Severe depression, outbursts, and mood swings.
- Stage 3: Aggression; apathy; memory loss; lack of spatial awareness; executive dysfunction (inability to successfully complete activities that require time management, organization, and problem-solving).
- Stage 4: More severe Stage 3 symptoms; paranoia; difficulty with language and muscle movement.

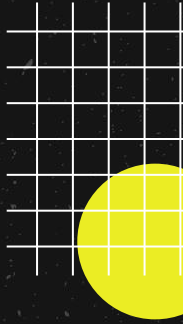


Long term effects of CTE:

The long term effects of CTE can look different for everyone, they typically include memory loss and thinking disorders.

- Executive function
- Impaired judgment
- Short-term memory
- Dementia

Effects of CTE get progressively worse with age and reach its peak during ones 60s and 70s.





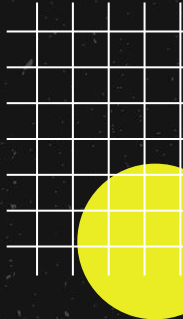
▼ *Current NFL head injuries protocol*

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- Concussion protocol is reviewed and revised every season to ensure to receiving proper and most updated information

Game Day Checklist

- ▼
- When a player exhibits or reports signs of a suggestion concussion
- The team Athletic Trainer, booth ATC spotter, team Physician, NFL game official, coach, teammate, sideline Unaffiliated Neurotrauma Consultant (UNC) or booth UNC initiates the protocol.
- <https://static.www.nfl.com/image/upload/v1665263336/league/uydrvuus9zf83romktul.pdf>

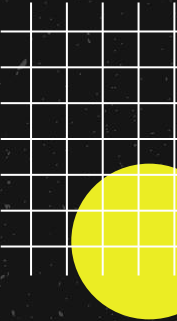
- Return to participation protocol
- Every NFL player diagnosed with a concussion must follow a five-step process before being cleared to fully practice or participate in an NFL game.
- He must be seen and separately cleared by an Independent Neurological Consultant (INC), jointly approved by the NFL and NFLPA, who is not affiliated with any NFL club.





Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy: Its Importance and Why we Chose this Topic

- CTE study shows that this is an issue affecting many athletes in contact sports:
 - 40% of the brains in a 152 brain study of athletes had CTE
- We want to inform people about how CTE adversely affects people, and how leagues (Especially the NFL) could be potentially neglecting their players in regards to CTE and CTE/Concussion Protocol



CTE: Timeline

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01

1928 - "Punch Drunk Syndrome"

Series of blows to the head towards boxers

02

2005 - First NFL Diagnoses

Former Pittsburgh Steeler Mike Webster

03

2017 - Aaron Hernandez

Boston University studied his brain; Showed signs of severe CTE

04

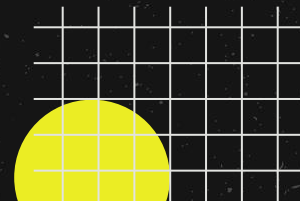
2023 - NFL Study

BU: CTE Center found that 92% of 376 players selected show symptoms of CTE

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ABOUT THE Current Medical Research

- ★ Testing for CTE, has now changed
 - Before you could only diagnosed CTE with a non living brain with new technology, CTE is able to be diagnosed with a series of different test,
 - "Participants underwent a three-day examination that included neuropsychological and neurological assessments and were asked to detail their histories of brain trauma, lifestyle and other health factors such as genetics in a comprehensive look at their health"





Wyatt Bramwell



- High School Student, who took his own life after battle Stage 2 CTE
- The CTE was caused by playing Tackle Football for a multitude of years



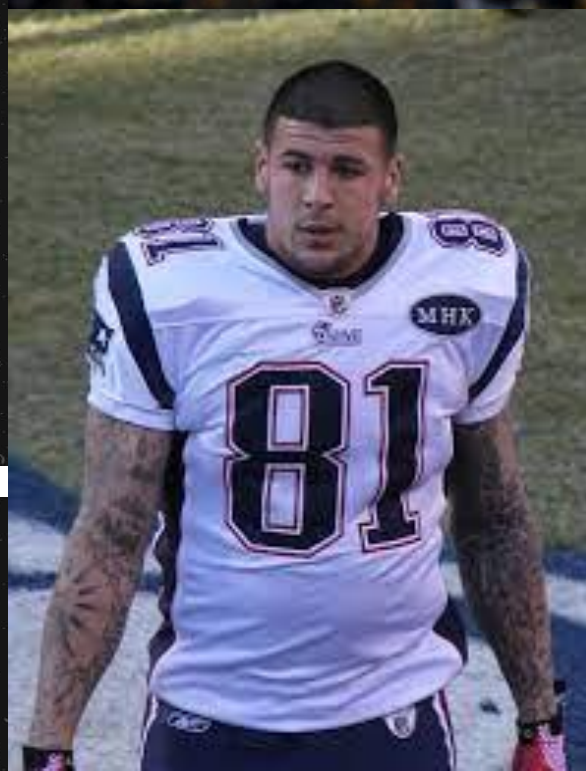


Heather Anderson

- The first ever female to be diagnosed with CTE
- Australian rules football player
- Died at the age of 28 by suicide
- 1 confirmed concussion, 4 suspected but not formally diagnosed

Aaron Hernandez

“I hated living a secret, and I hated all the lies, but I felt like I had to do all those things because people wouldn't accept me...There was no way I could come out as an NFL player.”



Antonio Brown

Former Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver, Antonio Brown has claimed that he has CTE though he's never been officially diagnosed by a medical professional. His severe sporadic behavior, including alleged domestic violence among other crimes have prompted media outlets to question if Brown actually is suffering from the degenerative brain disease. Since retiring from football, Brown spends most of his time making inappropriate jokes on X (Twitter).



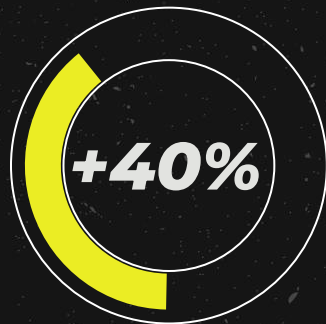


CTE By The Numbers



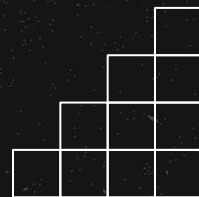
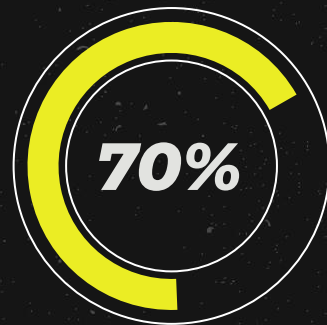
DEATH

More than 40% of youth, high school and college athletes that played football died before the age of 30.



SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION

70% of athletes reported in having depression





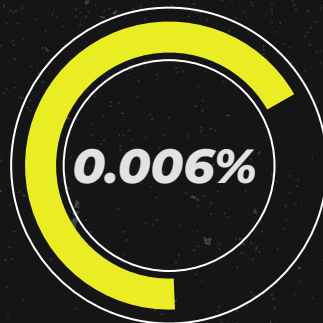
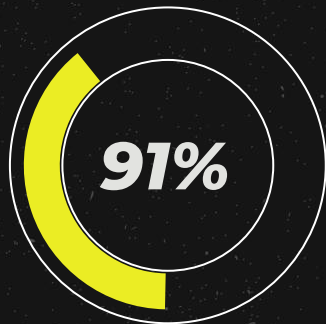
CTE By The Numbers

FORMER NFL PLAYERS

345 of the 376 NFL former players are diagnosed with CTE.

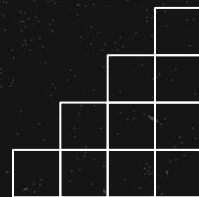
**Rick Arrington
(Eagles)

**Ed Lothamer (Chiefs)



CTE FINDINGS

Analyzing the brains of regular everyday individuals, 1 person out of 164 people had CTE and he so happened to be a football player.



HOW IT RELATES TO OUR CLASS

- This is becoming a safety issue for players. With new research coming out about CTE and how much it ravages athletes' brains, the NFL must find better ways to keep its players safe. Making the league money should not come at the expense of player safety and well-being.



- As young journalists, it is our job to expose league malpractice and inform the public about issues in sports that we know and love. We want to keep the game safe and playable for athletes so that we can continue to play games without sacrificing player well-being.

NFL FAILING TO ADDRESS



BREAKING NEWS!

GUARDIAN CAPS

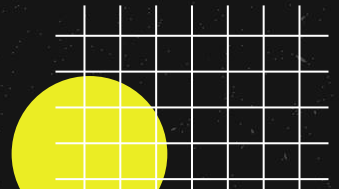


- Introduced in 2022 during off season practices
- April 26, they made it official that would allow players the option to wear them during regular games
- They contributed to nearly 50% reduction in concussions
- Plans for having team logos on them



CONCLUSION

- CTE is a huge problem for NFL players, but also all athletes in general
- CTE is not something to laugh or joke about, and it is actually killing people and diminishing quality of life
- As new research develops, leagues need to adapt their safety measures to keep their players safe from this ravaging condition
- As journalists, we need to bring attention to this issue and inform the public about new developments in research and dangers of CTE
- The NFL and other leagues are starting to implement some new safety practices, but there needs to be more done to prevent this condition, such as requiring players to wear guardian caps and educating players about CTE symptoms and dangers





THANKS!

Any questions?

Comments?



Resources

- <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/28/health/cte-younger-athletes/index.html#>
- <https://concussionfoundation.org/CTE-resources/what-is-CTE>
- https://www.espn.com/espn/story/_/id/38276973/study-finds-cte-40-percent-athletes-died-30
- https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/40031598/nfl-allow-guardian-caps-helmets-regular-season
- <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/28/health/cte-younger-athletes/index.html>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/17/sports/football/cte-test-concussions-alzheimers.html>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/20/health/cte-teen-football-player/index.html>
- <https://www.si.com/nfl/patriots/news/cte-acting-up-f-yall-new-england-patriots-antonio-brown-cry-for-help>

