Playing in the NFL: Not Just a Fantasy Anymore

Fantasy Football Gains Popularity Among Norrix Students

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How many times have you watched an abysmal performance by the Detroit Lions and thought, "Man, I could coach an NFL team and do a better job?" Well, playing the game of fantasy football could give you the chance to prove your team managerial skills.

Photo From: espn.go.com

With one of the most productive offenses in the league, Donovan McNabb is a top fantasy football prospect. His consistent 300 plus yard games and touchdown passes make him a dangerous weapon in any fantasy league.

Whether they play for money or fun, on the internet or in person, the fact remains that fantasy football is a game that is becoming known by many people, including Loy Norrix students.

Fantasy football is a game in which people, often referred to as owners, draft teams of NFL players and receive points based on those players' weekly statistical performances. Each week, every team in the league will compete against another team. As you might guess, the team which accumulates the most points wins.

Most fantasy leagues use some kind of playoff system, which culminates the season in a way similar to the NFL playoff system. In fact, the similarity to the way that the NFL is managed is one of the most attractive aspects of fantasy football.

No longer do football fans have to watch their struggling hometown team and do nothing about it. With fantasy football, owners have an active hand in managing a team and bear the responsibility for a win or a loss.

"Its cool to manage a team like an NFL coach does because you get to make all the decisions," said Junior and four year fantasy football participant Jordan Vandyke.

Vandyke is one of many LN students who participates in fantasy football and checks on his team once a week.

Though the game has been around for about 40 years, there has been a sudden spike in the popularity of fantasy football in the past few years. This new popularity has inspired T.V. shows and internet web sites devoted entirely to telling owners what players to draft, what players to use each week and what players are performing well statistically.

The use of fantasy football leagues on the internet eliminates the folly of one grown man having to call another at all hours of the night simply to say, "I'll trade you Matt Leinart for Randy Moss." On an internet league, a trade such as this could be accomplished in a matter of seconds, without having to use a phone.

Despite its popularity, football is not the only fantasy sport played on the internet.

In 1980, recently retired editor of the Boston Globe, Daniel Okrent, started the first fantasy baseball league which was known as a "Rotisserie" baseball league. Like football, baseball has exploded in popularity because of the internet.

Yahoo, FOX and ESPN are but a few of the many web sites that sponsor fantasy football, baseball, basketball and even golf. leagues, bringing the world of fantasy sports to anyone who has access to a computer.

"I tried it once and it was fun. It's football how you want it, with your own team. But I like fantasy basketball more," said senior Jamar Turner.

With so many people becoming interested in fantasy football, it raises the question: for money or for fun? Some fantasy leagues require a fee in order to join, which is typically split up among the winner and runner-up of that league.

There are also and abundant number of leagues on the internet that offer free ownership of a fantasy team. The only drawback of these leagues is that there is no money that the owners can win by playing in them.

"What's the point of it if you don't play for money?" said junior Antwon Fox.

As the industry of fantasy football on the internet progresses, fewer people are participating in leagues in which all transactions and scoring are handled manually. In most of these leagues, the participants are friends, relatives or neighbors, which makes it easier to collect and distribute money and get in touch with other owners. These leagues add an aspect of human interaction to the game.

"I like playing for money because it makes you try harder," said Vandyke.

Some people prefer not to play for money, asserting that it is more fun to play when you do not have to worry about losing money.

"It's like betting on the Lions. You think it will be fun at first, but it's never fun to bet on a losing team,"said Jamar.

Fantasy Football Scoring System

Passing Touchdown	6 Points
Passing Yards	1 Point per 30 Yards
Interception	- 2 Point
Rushing Yards	1 Point per 10 Yards
Rushing Touchdown	6 Points
Receiving Touchdown	1 Point per 10 Yards
Receiving Yards	1 Point Per 10 Yards
Fumble Lost	- 2 Points
Field goals Made	
0-39 Yards	3
40-49 Yards	4
50 + Yards	5
Extra Point Made	1 Point
Sack	1 Point
Safety	2 Points
Interception	2 Points
Fumble Recovery	2 Points
Blocked Punt/FG/PAT	2 Points
Defensive Touchdown	6 Points
Special Teams Touchdown	6 Points
2 Point Conversion	2 Points

Peacejam Brings Wisdom to Norrix

PEACEJAM Continued from page 1

The theme of the conference was to answer to Global Call to Action presented by the Nobel laureates. The Global Call to Action acknowledges many of the major problems our world faces today and challenged those at the conference to work towards solving these problems in the next ten years. Some of these problems include; the lack of clean water for all, unequal distribution of wealth, and the violence occurring in many parts of the world. Throughout the conference, teens had the opportunity to share their thoughts and solutions on these topics with each other, and with the Nobel laureates.

After attending the conference and learning about many issues that threaten our world today, senior Alicia Garcia feels motivated to take action.

"I want to become more involved in helping people less fortunate than me, and I also want to learn more about how I can improve our environment. Peace Jam made me realize that it doesn't matter what kind of person you are, anyone can make a difference," Garcia said.

And making a difference is exactly what the Peace Jam club at Norrix has set out to do upon returning from the conference.
nonviolence generated by the Nobel laureates to the students of Norrix. Advisor Sveri May feels that it is the responsibility of those who attended the conference to spread the laureates' message to our school.

"After Norrix experienced some violent occurrences, those who went to Denver had the opportunity to put what we learned from the laureates into action in our school. It is our duty to share what we learned from the masters of peace and to infuse their message into the school family," May said.

Peace Jam members will spread this message throughout Norrix by appearing on LNTV with quotes from the laureates, hanging posters encouraging peace and unity and selling buttons

PEP RALLY Continued from page 6

Students and staff members were more than impressed at the result of the rally.

"It was really a win-win situation," said Brooks, "We came together as a class and really improved school spirit. Teachers are really looking up to the seniors now, and they expect more out of us as leaders."

Bogan and Laprarie both envision student leadership taking a more promenent role in the school. Boggan would like to pull the same group of leaders back together to work on other problems throughout the school. "We need to create systematic change," Bogan said. We need to change the way people think and the way people act; we need to change the attitudes that people have abut Loy Norrix. The staff cannot do it without the students, they need to have a say and we need to work together."

Fall Sports Updates

- Plagued with injuries
- Steve Tebochnick, is still at the number one spot.
- Other important seniors include:
  Nathan McWethy
  Mario Cooper
  Seth Wolbert
  and an injured Ross Nelson
- Second in SMAC Central
- Fifth in Conference

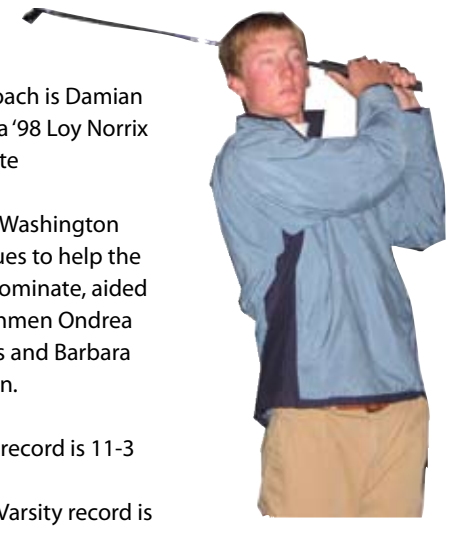
Men's Cross Country

- According to Athletic Director, Andrew Laboe, "[The] Girls are very good."
- Junior Addie Drilock is holding down the number one spot.
- Won SMAC Central
- Third in Conference

Women's Cross Country

- New coach is Damian Smith, a '98 Loy Norrix graduate
- Cetera Washington continues to help the team dominate, aided by freshmen Ondrea Hughes and Barbara Johnson.
- Varsity record is 11-3
- Junior Varsity record is 2-11

Women's Basketball



- Exceptional Players of the Season:
- Junior, Barrett Kelpin who finished 5th at State
- Freshmen, Clinton Buell contributed greatly to the team in his first year of high school golf.

Men's Golf