

What are sports all about?

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What are sports all about?

If you haven't been living under a rock, then you are aware of the fiasco taking place in Columbus right now. And I am not talking about Senate Bill 5.

I'm talking about the controversy surrounding Ohio State Buckeyes Coach Jim Tressel, and a few other things.

Just to recap briefly, Tressel has been suspended by the university for two games and fined \$250,000 for his admitted violation of NCAA rules and having knowledge that five of his players were selling memorabilia for personal gains. These players have been suspended for the first five games of the upcoming season.

Ohio State officials went into damage control mode on Tuesday and moved faster than a Tiger Woods text message. If you did not notice, officials referred to OSU as "the institution" rather than their usually arrogant "THE" Ohio State University."

In my opinion, you have not seen the last of this situation, and I don't know if Tressel will survive this. It's only the beginning, and OSU officials leveled self-imposed sanctions hoping the NCAA will now just go away. I don't think that's the case.

Ohio State great Chris Spielman — as true a Buckeye as there is — said earlier that Tressel needed to be more forthcoming and more humble during the Tuesday evening press conference.

Tressel's legacy has taken a major blow — and rightfully so — for not playing by the rules.

Is that what sports are about?

How about this?

The National Football League is still in talks with its union, and there is a real possibility of a lockout. That would leave fans with no professional football this fall.

The talks center around how to split the \$9 billion the league generates between the league, its owners and its players, a rookie wage scale, retirement benefits and increasing the regular season schedule from 16 to 18 games.

It's this simple. The owners own the team, and the players play for the owners.

If you don't like it, then don't play.

Is that what sports are about?

How about this?

A few miles north of Columbus in Michigan (total coincidence), there is a real sports story taking place.

The Fenville High School basketball team will play tonight in the Class C district finals tournament.

What's so special about that?

Well, in case you are still under that rock, take note.

Wes Leonard, a junior at Fenville High School, died last week moments after making a last-second shot to lift his team to a dramatic regular-season finale, keeping his team's record a perfect 20-0.

Leonard, 16, died of heart-related issues.

On Wednesday, his team defeated Bangor High School 79-50 in the district

semi-finals and will play for the district title tonight.

Bangor's coach, Rocky Johnson, was quoted after the game and said, "I honestly with all my heart think it was six against five tonight."

I don't know the players of Fenville, but I know their character. They don't appear to be selfish or self-absorbed. Should they go on and win the state championship, I don't imagine they will sell their rings for tattoos or act like knuckleheads and demand more benefits from their school.

They are playing for their fallen leader.

They are not playing for tattoos or more money or retirement benefits. They don't want any of those things right now. They are playing for something more important.

They are playing for the love of the game — and the love of their teammate.

Is that what sports are about?