

Healthy Investments, Ownership Lawsuits and Emmy Honors

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Welcome back to the Spotlight! The World Cup is entering its final two weeks of the tournament, and while it has continued to yield memorable on-field performances by some of the sport's best athletes, the "beautiful game" that is soccer or football/futbol (maybe we just compromise and call it "shootykicks?") has been marred by recent events that are anything but. First, leading up to this week's match between the US and Belgium, in which the Americans put forth a performance that was, shall I say, less-than-beautiful (or brilliantly messy at a time when they needed the brilliance of Messi), President Trump raised the ire of the international community (shocking as that may be) by successfully lobbying FIFA head Gianni Infantino to allow US striker Folarin Balogun to play notwithstanding the questionable red card he received in the US' prior match against Bosnia and Herzegovina. Then, there was news - on the heels of Argentina's controversial (but nonetheless impressive) 3-2 victory over Egypt after scoring 3 straight goals in the match's final 15 minutes - that the Argentine Football Association was under FBI investigation for possible fraud and money laundering arising from its injecting about \$300 million into Miami over the past 4 years. Whether or not related, it is worth noting that Miami is of course where Argentine star Lionel Messi has been playing club soccer for nearly 3 years.

It gets worse - following France's victory over Paraguay, Paraguayan Senator Celeste Amarilla chose to direct some of the more racist, vile insults that you will ever hear from anyone (let alone an elected official) against French striker Kylian Mbappé. And lastly, not to be outdone by Ms. Amarilla, both Egypt and Morocco's supporters after their country's losses to Argentina and France, respectively decided the best way to cope was to blame the Jews. How original! How quaint! Even through all of that, I am still hopeful that the game's beauty outshines the background ugliness in these final two weeks. If all else fails - we have Madonna, Shakira, Coldplay, BTS, Burna Boy and Bieber in the World Cup Final's halftime show.

- New York Knicks guard and NBA Finals MVP Jalen Brunson invests in fast casual chain Just Salad. Lettuce hope that the partnership helps fuel another championship run.
- Former Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban takes current owner Patrick Dumont to court, alleging that Dumont has shut Cuban and his companies out of business opportunities surrounding the team's potential arena relocation - not quite the court either of them envisioned.
- "Law and Order: SVU" star Mariska Hargitay is slated to become the first woman in 15 years to host the Emmy Awards. The show is expected to be the quickest in history, as she'll be Mirandizing every award recipient before their acceptance speeches.

Endorsement Deals, Sponsorships & Investments

[NIL Clearinghouse Has Rejected \\$90M in Deals](#)

July 8, 2026 via ESPN

[Versant Buys Golf Simulator Brand Full Swing in Effort to Diversify Business](#)

July 6, 2026 via Awful Announcing

[Knicks Superstar Brunson Invests in Just Salad as Equity Partner](#)

July 6, 2026 via New Jersey Biz Daily

Sports

[Seahawks Ownership Bid Down to Two Groups, Ex-Player Involved in One Group](#)

July 10, 2026 via Yahoo! News

[NBA Expansion Heats Up in Vegas, Slows in Seattle](#)

July 9, 2026 via Yahoo! News

[LIV Golf Signals Looming Layoffs After PIF Funding Cuts](#)

July 8, 2026 via Sportico

[The Blind Spot in America's World Cup Viewership](#)

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[Messi Isn't Enough for MLS to Be Massive League That America Deserves After USMNT's World Cup Summer](#)

July 7, 2026 via Talk Sport Football

[NCAA Eligibility Lawsuits Continue Even With New Rules](#)

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[World Cup Nationalism Drives Media as U.S. Seeks 'Soccer Nation' Status](#)

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Music Biz

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July 10, 2026 via Music Business Worldwide

[Bonnie Tyler, Legendary '80s Pop Singer, Dies at 75](#)

July 9, 2026 via NBC News

[Poet Files Appeal 48 Hours After Taylor Swift Copyright Suit Dismissed With Prejudice](#)

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[Jermaine Dupri's So So Def Sues Sony Music for \\$18M Over Alleged Unpaid Royalties on Kris Kross, Xscape, Mariah Carey and Usher Records](#)

July 8, 2026 via Music Business Worldwide

[Your Voice Can Be Cloned in Minutes Using AI, and Taylor Swift Is Trying to Protect Hers - But What Rights Do the Rest of Us Have?](#)

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Film & TV

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July 9, 2026 via LA Times

[Media Rights For 2030 World Cup Expected To Soar: As Much As \\$2B](#)

July 9, 2026 via Yahoo Sports

[Netflix 'Anticipates More Opportunities' to Simulcast F1 Races From Apple](#)

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['Spider-Man: Brand New Day' Swings Onto Tracking With \\$180M+, Will Be Biggest Opening YTD](#)

July 9, 2026 via Deadline

['Free Willy' Reboot in the Works at Warner Bros.](#)

July 9, 2026 via Variety

[U.S. World Cup Loss to Belgium Averages 33.1 Million Viewers, the Most-Watched Soccer Telecast in U.S. History](#)

July 9, 2026 via Variety

[Viola Davis & Julius Tennon's Juvee Productions Inks First-Look Deal With Universal Global Television; Sets 'Pawn' Series Adaptation As First Project](#)

July 7, 2026 via Deadline

[Mariska Hargitay to Host Emmys; First Woman to Emcee the Show In 15 Years](#)

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