

This Week in Sports & Entertainment: Scandals, Shake-Ups & Synthetic Voices

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Welcome back to the Spotlight! Is it just me or are sports scandals becoming more and more prevalent? Perhaps it's that there's so much money changing hands, including in legalized gambling, there is more opportunity and temptation to game the system. Perhaps it's that digital fingerprints make it easier for bad actors to get caught. Perhaps morals are loosening. Or perhaps people are just flouting Mary J. Blige's (shoutout to the 914) pleas for "No More Drama." Whatever the explanation (I'm pretty sure it is the last one), new indictments and punishments came down this week stemming from game manipulation for betting purposes-just weeks after similar allegations taking place in the NBA. The NCAA announced that a handful of former student-athletes were involved in schemes in which they intentionally did not score or "threw" their game.

Not to be outdone, in the MLB, Cleveland Guardians' pitchers Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz allegedly purposely threw balls so that gamblers could bet on pitches being balls or strikes. Clase and Ortiz are both excellent relief pitchers-the former being one of the top closers in all Major League Baseball-but the ultimate relief would be that each of these allegations prove to be false. However, all indications seem to be that the allegations are credible. Unfortunately, these incidents do not happen in a vacuum and inject a level of cynicism and skepticism whenever an umpire or referee makes a questionable call, a player sits out with an injury or makes a bone-headed play. Hopefully, all of these events will in the long run serve as examples of what not to do, but at least in the near term these instances all are unsettling affronts to the integrity of the games to which these scandals relate.

- Twelve years after Under Armour beat out a notoriously ill-prepared Nike pitch to sign then NBA superstar Steph Curry to an endorsement deal, Curry and Under Armour are parting ways, with Curry taking all of his IP out on the open market. If you listen closely, you can hear an army of brand executives rehearsing the proper pronunciation of Curry's name.
- Financial giant Goldman Sachs buys a majority stake of sports talent agency Excel Sports Management. As part of the deal, Excel will get a direct pipeline to capital, while Goldman will get a direct pipeline of talent to appear at its executives' children's bar/bat mitzvahs, christenings, sweet 16s and quinceañeras.
- Actors Michael Caine and Matthew McConaughey link up with AI audio company ElevenLabs, allowing virtual reproduction their famous voices. McConaughey's voice is not yet available through ElevenLabs' marketplace out of the company's fear that users will overwhelm the system with requests for "Alright, alright, alright."

For inquiries and/or unabashed compliments, please feel free to contact me at josh.bloomgarden@foster.com or add me on [LinkedIn](#).

Endorsement Deals, Sponsorships & Investments

[Apollo Takes 55% Stake in Atletico Madrid](#)

November 14, 2025 via Sportcal

[Kim Kardashian's Skims is Now Worth More than Under Armour and Victoria's Secret Combined](#)

November 12, 2025 via Business Insider

[Versant Announces USA Sports as Brand for its Sports Programming](#)

November 12, 2025 via Awful Announcing

[BBB National Programs to Certify Influencers, in Bid to Tamp Down Legal Risks for Celebrities, Brand](#)

November 12, 2025 via BBB Programs

[Goldman Sachs Gets Into the Talent Agency Business](#)

November 11, 2025 via Hollywood Reporter

[Morgan State Alum Launches Platform to Level NIL Playing Field for Underrepresented Athletes](#)

November 10, 2025 via Afro

[DRYWORLD Partners with EPIC as Official Apparel Supplier for the World's Premier Amateur Pickleball Championship](#)

November 10, 2025 via GlobeNewswire

[India's Women Cricketers Set for New Financial High as Brand Value Surges After World Cup Win](#)

November 8, 2025 via Economic Times

[Payton Pritchard on the Boston Celtics Season So Far, New Endorsement Deal](#)

November 7, 2025 via Yahoo Sports

Sports

[Emmanuel Clase Pleads Not Guilty to Sports Betting Scheme](#)

November 13, 2025 via Front Office Sports

[AI Companies Want to Change How You Buy Tickets](#)

November 10, 2025 via Sportico

[NBA Seeing Real Growth in Direct-to-Consumer Viewing for Local Games](#)

November 10, 2025 via Awful Announcing

Guardians' Emmanuel Clase, Luis Ortiz Indicted on Federal Gambling Charges; Both Face up to 65 Years in Prison if Convicted

November 9, 2025 via Cleveland

NCAA Bans 6 Men's Hoops Players for Betting-Related Game Rigging

November 8, 2025 via Sportico

Music Biz

Spotify To Launch Music Videos In U.S. And Canada In Coming Weeks

November 12, 2025 via Deadline

OpenAI Used Song Lyrics In Violation of Copyright Laws, German Court Says

November 11, 2025 via Slash Dot

Sony Music Publishing Inks Global Deal with Nashville-Based Faith-Focused Label By Design

November 11, 2025 via Music Business Worldwide

Milk & Honey Expands in UK, Adding Bigfoot Music Management and Clients

November 11, 2025 via Music Business Worldwide

Film & TV

Matthew McConaughey, Michael Caine Ink Deals for AI-Generated Versions of Their Voices With ElevenLabs

November 11, 2025 via Variety

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