**Football**

[**Fox said it collected record Super Bowl ad revenue this year. Each 30-second spot sold for $6 million to $7 million. *(CNBC.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 24, 2023)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**The average ticket price for this year's Super Bowl is $7,000, with the cheapest upper deck seats going for $4,750 on the NFL Ticket Exchange. Hotel rooms at a four-star location in The Miami-area average $880 per night. *(CNBC.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 7, 2020)***

**Guac shortage for Super Bowl: The ongoing fuel crisis in Mexico may prevent truckers from shipping enough Mexican-grown avocados to the U.S. in time for the Super Bowl on February 3. Gas stations across Mexico have faced shortages and rationing for two weeks, since the government began a crackdown on the rampant theft of gas from pipelines and started delivering fuel by tanker truck instead. "If there are limitations or delays in transport, significant losses may occur," the Association of Avocado Producers and Export Packers of Mexico said this week. Americans typically consume about 8 million pounds of guacamole on Super Bowl Sunday, which works out to about 24 million avocados. *(The Week magazine, January 25, 2019)***

**Back in 1967, the game wasn’t yet Super, and the event not yet Super-sized. But as Super Bowl XL approaches Sunday, it’s clear everything about the big game has grown. Instead of $6 tickets, they are now $600, and a 30-second ad now costs $2.5 million, not $42,000. *(Lynn DeBruin, in Rocky Mountain News, February 3, 2006)***

**Bill Belichick, the head coach of the Cleveland Browns, became one of the best strategists in football as defensive coordinator of the Super Bowl champion New York Giants. But back in 1975, Belichick was just another college graduate looking for work. When he heard that Baltimore Colts head coach Ted Marchibroda needed someone to analyze game film, Belichick offered to do the job for nothing. “I worked 16-hour days for bed and board -- and a lot of football,” Belichick recalls. “I didn’t mind. All I wanted was to be a coach, like my dad. His work ethic, was ingrained in me. He taught me not to squander opportunities.” *(Frank Litsky, in New York Times)***

**Good week for: Passive aggression, after Louisiana Family Eyecare offered to "GLADLY provide no-cost eye exams to all NFL officials," so other football fans don't "feel our pain." A blown pass-interference call in last week's NFC championship game cost the New Orleans Saints a place in the Super Bowl. *(The Week magazine, February 1, 2019)***

**The holiday Bowl games were in full swing, and we had invited some other football fans over. One couple brought their active two-year-old son, who began playing with a dish that was filled with antique buttons. After a few near disasters, my husband quietly removed the temptation. The next morning I realized the bowl was gone and went upstairs. "Don, where is the button bowl?" I asked my just-awakening husband. "Gee, I don't know for sure," replied my spouse, who prides himself on knowing the answer to any sports-trivia question. "I think it's in Florida." *(Janice E. Thompson, in Reader's Digest)***

**Everything I know most surely about morality and duty, I owe to football. *(Albert Camus)***

**The rules of football and the plot of The Godfather are the two most complicated things that every guy understands no matter how dumb he is. *(Julian McCullough)***

**When the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers play football at home, the stadium becomes the state’s third largest city. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 178)***

**Some people criticize football players as being a special breed of people who love violence. Have these critics ever tried to get a hot dog at halftime? *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Degenerative brain damage may be far more widespread in youth football players than originally thought. Boston University researchers examined the brains of 152 contact-sport athletes who died before age 30 and found that more than 40 percent had chronic traumatic encephalopathy. More than three-quarters of those belonged to high school and college football players*. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 1, 2023)***

**My dad didn't text me after the Patriots game, which is basically a Life Alert signal if you're from New England. *(@JOSHGONDELMAN)***

**The reason women don't play football is because 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public. (*Phyllis Diller)***

**My friend doesn't really enjoy football; he just wants to see somebody who is getting $150,000 a year get smeared. *(Lepper, in The American Legion magazine)***

**In the early days of football, the touchdown was worth one point and the point after conversion, known today as the extra point, was worth four points.(Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 13)***

**While the football fan was thrilled to be at the Super Bowl, he was disappointed with the location of his seat. Peering across the stadium through his binoculars, he spied an empty seat on the 50-yard line and made his way there. He asked the man in the next seat over, "May I sit here?" "Sure," the man replied. "This was my wife's seat. She was a huge football fan, and we came to the games together all the time until she passed away." "I'm sorry for your loss," the fan said. "But I'm curious. Why didn't you give the extra ticket to a friend or relative?" Replied the widower, "They're all at the funeral." *(Reader's Digest)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Fan is an abbreviation for the word fanatic. Toward the turn of the 19th century, the media referred to football enthusiasts as "football fanatics" and later abbreviated it to "football fans." (*The Daily Chronicles)***

**To be a self-aware American football fan today is to commit an act of deliberate compartmentalization. I know, because I'm guilty of it. Like most of my male friends from high school and college, I am a passionate professional football fan. Today, however, I wince at big hits, and quietly root for my favorite non-quarterback players to retire before 30 to avoid long-term damage to their brains and bodies ... all while watching football games. Although I can't bring myself to stop tuning in on Sundays, I also can't quite stop thinking about the game's ugly consequences for players and their families. *(David Thompson, in TheAtlantic.com)***

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**A football fanatic's obituary from July: "A lifelong Cleveland Browns fan, Scott E. Entsminger respectfully requests six Cleveland Browns pallbearers so the Browns can let him down one last time." *(Columbus Dispatch)***

**Workers playing fantasy football cost employers as much as $1.1 billion a week in lost productivity during the NFL season. *(The Washington Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 8, 2006)***

**Anyone who's just driven 90 yards against huge men trying to kill them has earned the right to do jazz hands. *(Craig Ferguson)***

**Princeton took on Rutgers in the first American college football game, November 6, 1869, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The 25 helmetless men on each team played a game more similar to soccer and rugby than today's football, which will not evolve for several years, "Princeton had the most muscle," Rutgers' newspaper reported, but despite scoring a point against themselves, Rutgers won 6-4. Some 48 million people attended 3,493 National Collegiate Athletic Association football games in 2008. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Pangium edule is a tall tree in Southeast Asia with fruit the size and shape of a football -- hence one of its names, football fruit. The fruit is oval (about the size of a large husked coconut) with a brown rough surface. The seeds, bark, and leaves are poisonous. The seeds are used as rat poison, and the bark and leaves are sometimes used to stun fish so they can be scooped up easily. *(The Daily Chronicles)***

**The “get-in” price (the least expensive ticket to enter the stadium) for the Super Bowl matchup between the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas reached a high of about $8,200 last week. The average purchase price this week was $9,850 – 70 percent higher than last year’s big game. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 16, 2024)***

**In football it was John Heisman, of "Trophy" fame, who came up with the word "Hike!" to signal the snap from center. He's the same fellow who came up with the snap itself and who got the officials to break the game into four quarters. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Football helmet failures: Football helmets aren't as effective at safeguarding players from concussions as previously thought, the Los Angeles Times reports. A study of 10 of the most widely used helmets found that they reduced the risk of traumatic brain injury from rotational force -- blows that cause the head to rotate or the neck, and the brain to bounce and twist inside the skull -- by an average of only 20 percent, compared with not wearing a helmet. "All of them were terrible," said Frank Conidi, director of the Florida Center for Headache and Sports Neurology. The helmets do somewhat better with straight front-to-back impacts, reducing the risk of skull fracture by 60 to 70 percent. A total of 300 tests were performed on a crash-test dummy's head and neck to assess the effect of 12 mph impacts, with and without helmets. The study comes against a backdrop of increased concerns that repeated head trauma can lead to chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a degenerative brain disease that causes symptoms similar to Alzheimer's. "We can and should make better helmets," Conidi says. "In the meantime, parents and players and coaches should realize that players are not invincible on the field. *(The Week magazine, March 7, 2014)***

**Having watched the various telecasts and innumerable New Year’s Day football games one year, the Miami News commented: “We saw so many instant replays yesterday, we hope it hasn’t affected us. We saw so many instant replays yesterday, we hope it hasn’t affected us.” (Roger Devlin, in Tulsa Tribune)**

**The Iowa Wave: Tune in to a University of Iowa football game at the end of the first quarter and you’ll see players, coaches, and fans (Hawkeyes and their opponents!) united in one goal: to cheer on the patients at the Stead Family Children’s Hospital. All 69,250 people in attendance turn and wave in the direction of the hospital, where kids, their families, and staffers gather at the big windows overlooking Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City. “It’s one of the reasons I go to the game,” says junior Olivia Hasselmann. Her friend, senior Rubye Ney agrees. “It kind of forces you to stop and think about things more important than football.” (Reader’s Digest, September, 2022, page 9)**

**Football teams of two Kansas high schools, Haven and Sylvia, played a game in 1928 that ended: Haven 256, Sylvia 0. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Ego Strip: The late great football coach Vince Lombardi was at a restaurant when a little boy came up to his table. Before the boy could say anything, Lombardi took a menu and autographed it for him. The boy said, “I don’t want a menu. I want to borrow the catsup.” *(Art Buckwald, in Los Angeles Times Syndicate)***

**The NFL is losing its core audience, with just 51 percent of men ages 18 to 49 tuning in today, compared with 75 percent four years ago. The drop in interest spans age groups and the political spectrum. Explanations for the decline include concerns over head injuries; anger over anthem protests; and the overexposure of playing games on Sunday, Monday, and Thursday. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 16, 2018)***

**A message on the bulletin board of the First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan, just before a big game between Ohio State University and the University of Michigan: "Football is a game. Only the Spiritual is Eternal. Nevertheless, Beat Ohio!" *(Associated Press)***

**A Massive Case of the Mondays: About 16 million Americans are expected to come down with the “Super Bowl Flu” and call in sick the day after the big game. *(Axios, as it appeared in Reader’s Digest, February, 2025, on p. 81)***

**Joe Montana, on the disabled list with a hand injury, was having lunch with his wife and children at a hotel on Maui. "You poor thing!" the waitress gushed. "How did it happen?" "I broke it playing football," Montana explained. "Really?" replied the waitress. "Aren't you a little old to be playing football?" *(Quoted by Herb Cain, in San Francisco Chronicle)***

**Good week for: Consequences, after NFL teams released a number of non-vaccinated players, including New England Patriots veteran quarterback Cam Newton. Under league rules, teams with outbreaks among unvaccinated players can forfeit games, lose pay, and be fined. *(The Week magazine, September 10 / September 17, 2021)***

**New research has indicated something called "male menopause," where men get fatter and lose interest in sex. Of course, it's also known as football season." *(Conan O'Brien)***

**One Sunday afternoon, a football enthusiast visited one of his friends to watch the New York Jets in action. On hand was his friend's mother, who asked the two spectators why they were so excited about the televised contest, and how the game was played. The football fan told her the object was to get the ball and carry it across the goal line while six or seven opponents tried to knock you down. "If you succeed, what do you get? she asked. "Six points," said the fan. "It isn't worth it," said the woman. *(H. Z. in Reader's Digest)***

**A patient, lying in a hospital bed all bandaged up, was explaining to a visitor: "So, I told my wife that when Monday-night football was on television, it would take wild horses to drag me away from the set. I still don't know where she got them." *(George Lemont, United Feature Syndicate)***

**The American football is referred to as a “pigskin” because footballs were originally made of pigs’ bladders wrapped in pigskin. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 92)***

**I prefer the tight yoga pants football players wear over the frumpy businesswoman slacks baseball players wear. *(@QUINNK)***

**Football exerts a remarkable influence on fans. In a recent study, Pierre Chandon, a French marketing professor, examined data from 475 Sunday NFL games. On the Mondays following those same games, he observed a spike in (the fans' intake of) calories and saturated fats, but only in cities where the home team went down in defeat ... If nothing else, the study may give new meaning to "the biggest loser." *(Peter Andrey Smith, in The New York Times Magazine)***

**In life, as in a football game, the principle to follow is: hit the line hard. (Theodore Roosevelt)**

**A big football college has announced plans to expand to three squads next year. One squad will play offense, another will play defense and the third will attend classes. *(The American Legion magazine)***

**The first Super Bowl, played on January 15, 1967, was the only Super Bowl that was not a sellout. (Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 13)***

**Best Seats in the House: Nearly 9 in 10 football fans say they have had more fun tailgaiting than at the game they tailgaited for. *(Crestline.com, as it appeared in the Reader’s Digest, February, 2024 issue, on page 22)***

**Man to friend: "I was talking with my wife last night. You know how it is withthe football season all over." *(Herb Rau, in Miami News)***

**With the Pittsburgh Steelers’ victory in Super Bowl XLIII, teams named after some category of human being have won 30 of these pro football championship games. Teams named after horses have won four Super Bowls; mythical figures (Giants), three; other land-based animals (Bears, Rams), two; aquatic mammals (Dolphins), two*; and birds, one. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 13, 2009)***

**The pro football team had just finished practice when a turkey strutted onto the field. “I want to try out,” the turkey told the coach. Stunned, the players stared as the bird caught pass after pass and ran right through the defensive line. After 30 minutes, the coach had seen enough. “You’re excellent,” he said. “Sign with us, and you’ll get a huge bonus. “Forget the bonus,” the turkey said. “All I want to know is, does the season go past Thanksgiving.” (Reader’s Digest)**

**There are two kinds of coaches. Them that’s fired. And them that’s gonna ber fired. *(Bum Phillips, football coach)***

**A West German doctor and I were watching TV one day when the highlights of a football game came on the screen. This was his first look at the game, and we sat in silence in front of the set as a series of violent collisions occurred. After watching the large men push, shove and knock one another to the ground, he asked incredulously, "Aren't there any rules?" *(Henry R. Herreman, in Reader's Digest)***

**It's weird that NFL players don't constantly look at their phones to check their stats. *(@SHAWNRIES)***

**Football combines two of the worst things in American life. It is violence punctuated by committee meetings. *(George Will, in The Washington Post)***

**Anyone who thinks women talk too much has never sat through a six-hour Super Bowl pregame show. *(Nora Barry)***

**Forbes's annual Business of Football valuations estimates that the NFL's 32 franchises are collectively worth $45 billion -- almost twice the value of the totals for MLB or NBA teams. That's up from a total worth of $6.5 billion in 1991. *(FiveThirtyEight.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 26, 2014)***

**In an effort to get back to the original meaning of Halloween – the eve of All Saints’ Day – one church held a Halloween party in which the children of the parish dressed in costumes representing saints. One lad was a puzzle to the people who planned the party. He was dressed in a football uniform. “You mean,” he exclaimed, “you’ve never heard of the New Orleans’ Saints?” *(Tulsa World)***

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