

How sports affect people's lives differently

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Sports for some people can mean everything to that person. For other people, they wouldn't even make them turn their head no matter how big the stakes are. My interest in this lyrical essay is to try and figure out what it is about sports that makes those fans tick, whether its playing, watching, betting, or coaching. I also want to try to understand what it is that makes some people have zero interest, why they couldn't care less about in my opinion, a big part of society.

I spoke with a lot of different people as well as gathered information from online resources. A lot of the opinions I gathered had some of the same similarities or differences depending on their preference on the love or lack of interest of sports. The opinions vary based off the experience they had or didn't have in the world of sports. Everyone is different and unique in their opinion of sports and that's why this project is very interesting to me.

As far as playing sports personally for me they meant so much. Sports were a huge part of my childhood and my whole upbringing. I'm very passionate about everything that has to do with sports. I played soccer up until I was 18 and created some of the best memories of my life. I played at a very high level and was able to channel my competitive drive into something productive.

For siblings, I have 3 brothers whom of which all played sports. My oldest brother has very similar opinions to mine, he played basketball for the large duration of his life.

My other brother played sports but didn't enjoy them at all. Me and my brother shared polar opposite opinions from each other. For us sports were an escape from reality, for him they were like a chore. He stopped playing sports at an age where most kids thrive or feel like they need them more than ever as a healthy distraction.

When asking my brother why he felt this way about sports he said it as simple as he didn't get enjoyment from them. The sport he's referring to is mostly that of baseball a sport I also played but showed very little interest in as well. I asked him if possibly it was the sport he chose that made him resent sports. His reply was in general he didn't feel the drive or passion most other people do. My family and I are very athletic so it's not that he didn't possess the ability to play he lacked the mental part of the game.

When talking around certain people of my memories of sports I have a friend whom I have known for more than half my life. He never really participated in sports, he shared some of the same opinions as one of my brothers. My friend hears me speak about my "career" as a soccer player. The memories I made the places I traveled to and the bonds I have with my fellow teammates. He always says that he wished he could go back in time and have a second chance to play sports.

My friend wishes that he had taken advantage of the time he had when he was younger to enjoy a simple pleasure of playing a game that you are truly happy to be a part of. Only now when it is too late did he decide that sports could have been something

more than a chore. To this day after having those regrets he doesn't watch sports, talk about them, or participate in anything sports related that we do as a friend group. When I asked him why he stays on the sideline his reply is that he lacks the skills to do so. In his head, he believes that because he didn't play sports when he was younger then he shouldn't play them now.

Some of the research I conducted for those of which who say they have opinions similar to me and my oldest brother whom enjoy sports. Say that It is very situational, some people may not have had a great childhood. Their home life when they were younger is something that people only see in their nightmares. When I say sports were an escape from reality to me I wasn't running away from everything. For the people that had struggles far bigger than mine the word escape to them was very literal.

This can also be seen from the perspective of people who grew up privileged and happy without a care in the world. Those people who had no struggles who felt that they didn't need sports in their lives. They were content with no needing sports as a release or an escape from reality. There is nothing wrong with that in my opinion that's what makes this unique that some people who didn't grow up playing sports aren't dwelling on the past like my friend. They are fine with having not played competitive sports for a team game that relies on each person having the other ones back.

Some people who didn't play sports growing up love to watch their home team play and feel like they are a part of the team. You can still get that same feeling nerves watching your team play as you did when you were actually in the game. I love to watch sports obviously some more than others but watching helps fuel my fire something that I've missed since my time playing. I have been watching sports for a long time and still receive the same amount of enjoyment.

I spoke with two different coworkers of mine knowing the opinions they would have would be different from one another on whether they do or don't enjoy watching sports. One of my coworkers is 21 years old and like me he spent a large majority of his life up till high school playing soccer. He spoke on how watching sports and cheering for the same team helps him feel like he a part of that team. Something he was all too familiar with, he was part of a team that had some of the kids he grew up with and that was something he missed.

He said that he can't get that time back he spent playing but he still gets a lot of enjoyment from watching. He has been watching sports while he was playing and has been a big fan of the Cincinnati Bengals throughout that time. So, when he soccer days were over he still had a team he was cheering for so there wasn't a hole in his life with something big missing. He still got the same joy seeing a team on TV win a big game when he didn't have any role in helping. He still felt apart something special, something he can look forward to every Sunday when football starts.

My other coworker is 28 and has a different opinion on watching sports. He grew up not really playing sports or at least playing long enough to get anything out of it. Sports for him just don't have any real meaning they don't add anything to his life. When I asked him if he watched sports he simply said no. He said that he grew up not having satisfaction playing and said his feelings toward watching them are equal to playing. He says that sports weren't a big deal in his house. No one in his family watched or showed any interest so he thought if they don't then why should I.

Lastly on this subject I asked my mom her opinion because hers is a little more in the middle. Her and my dad have been married for 35 years and my dad is an avid sports watcher he also played growing up. My mom isn't exactly what I would call a sports fan I would say she tolerates them. With her being married to my dad for so long and him having watched sports all his life you would think over the years she would become a fan as well. She is a casual watcher as far as she only watched big games with high stakes that revolve around 3 teams. Not teams that have meaning to her but have meaning to other people that she cares about.

When she is watching them, she isn't miserable or on her phone. She's paying attention to what is happening but as the game continues her interest level decreases. She would never go out of her way to watch a game that didn't have high pressure or a team she knew nothing about. Sports for my mother don't mean all that much she raised

people who love everything about sports and some that don't have any attachment towards them.

Some people can get in to sports for different reasons no for the love of the game or a way to escape certain things going on in their life. They see it as a way to make money and bet on certain teams and players. I am guilty of being a sports better for me it's a way to make the game more interesting and enjoyable. I am able to watch a game without betting and I can still enjoy it, I don't feel a need or an urge to do it.

This isn't always the same for certain people. Sports betting can ruin people's lives it can tear apart families, ruin relationships, friendships, and cause people to go broke. I watched a series on sports betting and how it turned the life of some people upside down. It can be a very sad truth for some people who can't even watch a game without putting money on it. People who live pay check to pay check are putting their last hard-earned dollar on a risk of making more in return. Sports are supposed to be enjoyable, something you're able to look forward to. Not something that can ruin your life and the lives of the people around you.

Some people I know love the risk/reward that comes with sports betting. They give the cliché line of liking to live life on the edge. I try to see it from the perspective but struggle to understand. Like I said I love to bet on sports but I am more of a right time right person. I don't make it a habit to bet everyday especially on something I know

nothing about. Some people get in to sports for all the wrong reasons and it's very hard and very sad to see people spiral down the wrong path.

Throughout this lyrical essay I have shared my personal experiences with sports and everything that comes with it. I love sports I have since I was a little kid but different members of my family and friends with similar upbringings to me feel differently. Sports are a great thing but to some people they have no effect on their lives. They can be a great time in your life, for others they can feel like a chore, something you have to try and power through. For some they can be a way to lose everything. This topic is very interesting and very relatable to most people because one way or another they mean something different to everyone.