Envisioning Technology

My personal hobby is football. I have been playing football for as long as I can remember. I love everything about the game, the mental aspect of trying to outthink the other team, the physical aspect of who is stronger, faster, and quicker. It really is a test of human athletic and mental ability. I just really can’t get enough of football I watch it every weekend, college and NFL football. I buy every video game that comes out with the new NFL season each year and football is what really got me into working out and fitness because it has me being the best I want to be and helped me with discipline and showed me the value of a hard work ethic.

Football is a game where there are eleven players on each team on the field at one time, and each team tries to score a touchdown by either running the ball or passing the ball to the other team’s end zone, or kicking the ball between two posts to score points, while the other team tries to stop them, by tackling them, taking the ball away from them, or stopping them four times in a row before they can get a first down to get another four tries. A first down is when the offense moves the ball ten yards in four tries or less. There are different positions on each side of the ball, with offense having a quarterback who throws the ball, a running back who runs the ball, and wide receivers who catch the ball, with offensive lineman blocking defensive players to give offensive players time to make plays. On defense there are defensive lineman who try to get by the offensive lineman to tackle the quarter back or running back, line backers try to tackle the offensive players, and defensive backs try to bat down passes, intercept the ball, or tackle receivers. Each football game consists of four quarters with each lasting fifteen minutes.

One article I found from the NFL website (2017) shows how instant replay and video of games/practices has helped the game tremendously. Because of video and television, football has been able to grow the game and allowed players to get better. Television has allowed for the popularity and
profitability of the sport to grow exponentially, passing baseball as the United States’ number one spectator sports in the 1970’s. Instant replay resulted from advancement in broadcast technology and has allowed for correct calls to be made during games that are too tricky human eyes to get right. Instant replay is a feature in game that allows referees to go back and check the outcome of a play to ensure that they got a correct call on a play, or overturn their initial decision if they need to because it was too hard for them to see what actually happened. But according to Dudko (2013) broadcast takes away raw emotion from fans because they know that any decision can instantly be overruled by the instant replay system and because they sit in minutes of suspense. Broadcast technology improvements have allowed for bigger contracts, bigger and better stadiums for NFL and college teams, better equipment, and the ability for fans to watch every game.

I can see the broadcast technology and instant replay evolving the sport of football especially since they go hand in hand. Just like Indiana University’s new freeD technology cameras that provide a three hundred-sixty degree angle, I think that eventually NFL and college stadiums could be installed in the same manner, giving us even better angles and allowing officials to get a definitive answer when it comes to the instant replay system, allowing them to see all angles, compared to only three or four angles as of today. I think that the future of football is going to be exciting, seeing how there is no limit in how it can grow with technology, I think that football adds something new and exciting almost every year, whether if it has to do with broadcasting systems (i.e. three hundred-sixty degree cameras), safer equipment that is still stylish and comfortable, new uniform material that allows for more designs and sleeker looks, I think that the future of football is exciting to say the least.

Currently I am watching a show that coincides with my hobby above, which is called “Last Chance U” and I am on season two, episode two called “Football Saved My Life”. “Last Chance U” is about a junior college team in Mississippi call Eastern Mississippi Community College. This team is full of very talented college football players that for one reason or another are not able to play Division I football at this point in their life. One example is a player got arrested for possession of marijuana three times and got kicked off of his Division I team.
In this episode it is the first game back for many of the players since a lot of them were suspended for the first game because of a fight at they got into with another team at the end of last season. In this episode it shows the team watching film on their opponent Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College days before the game. This technology is currently available in real life today, and is readily available. All that it requires is someone with a camera that allows it to record video. I know that it is readily available because I was able to watch film on other teams when I played football in high school, and it was available for me to see online on a website called Hudl, which was the same thing seen in the episode.

In terms of football this technology is both causing problems and solving problems at the same time. This technology helps Eastern Mississippi Community College because it helps them identify the strengths and weaknesses of their opponents while also evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of their own team allowing them to figure out what they need to work on in practice and come up with a game plan for their opponents Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. It is also a weakness because Mississippi Gulf Coast also has access to similar technology, if not the same. Because of this Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College can also watch film of Eastern Mississippi Community College and figure out how they need to game plan against them. Overall I think that this technology is helping out because it is helping coaches, and players of all skill levels, high school, college, and NFL get better because they can find out what they need to work on and can scout their opponent and because it is readily available to everyone I think there really isn’t a competitive advantage for anyone.

The technology is affecting the lives of characters in this show in a positive way I believe. The goal of all the players in this show are to get out of Eastern Mississippi Community College and to go to play college football somewhere else. And by players studying film they can find out how to get better and to find out what they need to do to get better so they can go play football somewhere else. Coaches can also find out where there players messed up to better improve them and find out how they can work on new plays to prevent themselves from getting scored on, or what they can do better to try and score the
ball against other teams. This all applies to real life situations because this show is a document and based on a real season with this team.

I think this technology is ethical in my opinion, because almost all people have access to film or the ability to film their own games. There are instances in which this technology could be used for unethical reasons. For instance a couple of years ago the NFL team New England Patriots got caught filming an upcoming opponents practice so they could know exactly what plays that team was working on and how they could prepare for it. They also could use that film to learn the other teams hand signals as well meaning that they had an unfair advantage over the other team while the other team had no chance to exploit the same opportunity at all. Because it was the NFL the stakes are a lot higher than anywhere else because coaches and players are making millions of dollars a year and just one game could result in job losses for players and coaches and determine who makes the playoffs or not, or if it was a playoff game, who continues in the post season.

In five to ten years I think this technology will evolve. I expect for there to be cameras installed into the helmets of many players allowing for unique broadcasting experience over the world when watching football, and new ways of watching film and analyzing teams. Because I think that there will be cameras in helmets I think viewership in football will increase resulting higher profits for football organizations and will also allow players to see the game a whole new way when watching film. Watching film from that action can put them literally on the field and help them make better choices the next time they play because they are able to see how they messed up in film. Like I said earlier I think that the future holds exciting things for football, and technology can only grow and improve America’s most watched sport.