Soccer is the most popular sport in the world. It is played and watched worldwide. Soccer is entertaining to watch, but it still isn’t perfect. Big decisions are made by referees when they are looking from a bad angle, players are blocking their vision, and it is difficult to see what happens when players and the ball are moving at high speeds. VAR or video assistant referee, even though it will slow down the game, will help the issue with wrong calls by referees.

Soccer is an interesting game. Soccer is a sport where there are two teams with eleven players on each side of a field. The goal is to get the ball into the other team’s net without touching the ball with your hands. The most used to score is by kicking or heading the ball in the net. There are 4 types of positions in soccer. There are goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders, and attackers. Goalkeepers try to keep the ball out of the net and they are the only position that can use their hands. Defenders support the goalkeeper and try to keep the ball away from their net. Midfielders try to control the ball and move the ball from the defenders to the attackers. Attackers try to score goals for their team.

I started liking soccer three years ago. After I played recreational soccer for one year I started loving it. I started getting pick-up games with my friends, watched high school games, and started to support my favorite team in the English Premier League, Tottenham Hotspur.

VAR has changed the game soccer immensely. VAR is used when the referee is needs a better look at a goal or a foul. This is to stop goals incorrectly counted, seeing if a penalty warrants a penalty kick or a red/yellow card. VAR can also be used to see if the wrong player was given the foul. The referee or the VAR can recommend reviewing the foul. Then both the referee and the VAR review the play and then decide of what needs to happen (football-technology.fifa.com).
VAR has changed the way soccer is played professionally. The VAR reviewing a play can slow down the game and be time consuming, but it helps the referee see all angles of the play. It is very important because making the wrong call could be the reason for a win or a loss for a team. VAR has already changed the game for the better. In the World Cup final, Néstor Pitana, the referee, didn’t believe the ball hit one of Croatia’s attackers. He went to the VAR and looked at the footage and saw it did. Then he awarded the penalty to France which allowed them to score the first goal in the last game of the World Cup (Robert Kidd). VAR was also proven to be more accurate overall in a study conducted by KU Leuven University. “Professor Helsen’s team analyzed referee decisions in nearly 1,000 professional football matches where VAR was in use. The team found that the accuracy of decisions increased by 5.8%, to 98.8%, in matches using VAR and that a “key” error, affecting the outcome of the match, was made in only one out of 19 matches. In matches without VAR, a key error was made in one out of every three matches” (Robert Kidd). Therefore, I believe that VAR is better for soccer. VAR gives the referee multiple looks at a play and allows them to make their best decision.

I believe technology will eventually replace referees like linesmen for soccer at the professional level. Soccer is a competitive sport and bad refereeing could change a team’s fate. A game lost because of an error could cause a team to be second team in their league and missing out on a title. I believe that technology will eventually replace referees because there is so much money in soccer. In 2017, Neymar went to PSG for £198 million (ESPN). Hau Hsu, a writer for the New Yorker, argues that it is more fun to have human error into refereeing. He says, “I’d rather have someone to (harmlessly) blame—opening up space for speculation, chaos, and human messiness” (Hau Hsu). Sometimes it’s easier to blame the loss of your favorite team on a referee than admit they lost fair and square. The room for human error also adds suspense what the referee is going to call. Even though a wrong call can cause a team to lose, it can make the watching experience more interesting.

VAR has changed the game for soccer. It made soccer more competitive and have more accurate calls. Even though it takes time to do and can make it less entertaining, I believe it has changed soccer for the better.


Nathan For You is a show about Nathan Fielder, a comedian TV consultant, who goes to struggling businesses and gives them out of the box ideas to help their business succeed. In season three episode three, Nathan is helping a movement company called City of Angles. The owner David Sassounian is having trouble succeeding when the costs of labor in LA are high. Nathan suggests getting people to work for him for free by claiming it is a workout. He does this by hiring a body builder named Jack to be a charismatic figure for the workout plan and make a false autobiography about him. Nathan hired an obese actor lookalike to pose as Jack before he lost weight. The false autobiography states he was best friends with Steve Jobs as a child and did charity work for kids who live in jungles. After the release, news outlets in the area picked up on his story and inspired people to work for City of Angles for a workout. Nathan Fielder was able to trick the media and create a workout scheme that convinced people to work for free at a moving company.

Nathan For You is a reality show. In the episode “The Movement”, Nathan uses the news to trick people into believe they can close weight by moving boxes and furniture. Nathan reaches people by the TV, and he is trying to look for people in the California area because that’s where the City of Angles operates. “According to Nielsen’s National Television Household Universe Estimates, there are 118.4 million TV homes in the U.S. for the 2016-17 TV season” (nielson.com). According to Statista, the number of households in the US in 2017 is 126.22 million (statista.com). By dividing the number of households that have TVs in the US divided by the number of households in the US. I found out that roughly 93.8% of households have TVs. There are 12,807,387 households in California (census.gov). I multiplied the percentage of households that have a TV to the population of California to get 12,013,329
estimated households that have a TV. It is estimated that 12,013,329 people had access to the news that Jack showed off “The Movement” workout system.

Technology in this show is creating a temporary solution to David’s problem, but is also showing the issue with schemes spreading their false advertisements over the news. Tricking people into working for free only solved David’s labor issue temporarily and he stopped doing it after Nathan stopped helping him out. The big problem is seen where Nathan was able to trick several news stations into broadcasting this workout scheme that claimed moving boxes can have you lose a huge weight and give you the body of a body builder like Jack.

This is has affected real people. Jack wore a disguise to the gym everyday so that his workout scheme wouldn’t be discovered. Three people seen on the show paid money to work for City of Angles. They paid money to work for a moving company and move boxes for five hours. It hasn’t affected many lives, but it is shown to have the potential to do so.

I believe this is not technologically ethical. In the show, Nathan used technology as a platform to lie about a way to get people to pay money to work at a movement company. Nathan For You is a comedy show, so everything they did in there was legal and didn’t really harm anyone. It does have the potential to be harmful. It isn’t as easy as it seems in the show because not everyone has the same budget and team helping them, but that doesn’t mean it can’t happen. I believe while it can be done, it will never go out of control because of research and skepticism.

I believe if news companies are getting revenue the same way they are now, this will be an issue. Right now, it is more important to be the first one to put out news than to fact check it to make sure what’s accurate. It is more important to get clicks than it is for it to be true. If that is true in five to ten years, then I believe that this will still be an issue with media.

Nathan Fielder was able to trick people in to doing free labor for a moving company. He did this by creating a false identity to be the charismatic figure of this workout plan and getting him to speak about it on several news stations. Technology in the show allows him to communicate to consumers easily.
Works Cited

