Football Fan Fare

Using newspapers and the game of football to motivate students and reinforce skills in language arts, social studies, science and mathematics

Written by
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Published by
As educators, when you decide to use newspapers as instructional tools and football as a motivational focus for application of skills in various content areas, your students will discover the joy of the sport of learning. Football Fan Fare offers a menu of exciting activities that can be used as designed, or modified for students in grades 4-12 in language arts, social studies, science and mathematics.

Most students are highly motivated by focusing on sports pages of the newspaper. Even the not-so-avid fan is likely to enjoy the use of the newspaper in the classroom. Teachers who are not football fans or may not feel comfortable as football “experts” will discover students in their classrooms will be more than willing to assist with their own expertise in this area. It is the intent of many of the following activities to help teachers get a head start on this type of teaching approach by offering activities that are ready to use. While the contents of this guide are by no means comprehensive, the following pages should help initiate additional activities in a variety of content areas. For the creative teacher, there may be no end to the scope of the activities students can be exposed to as they focus on football, sports and the newspaper.

As you employ activities in this publication, it is usually a good idea to make sure every student has his or her own copy of the newspaper. This will help ease classroom management for the teacher. The students can clip, color, mark and tear as needed in various activities. Consider having students take the newspaper home with them so that they and parents or friends can work together on some creative activities. Working with partners or in small groups is another approach that can increase the learning potential of these activities. Each activity contains an Extra Point for use as enrichment or to send home for cooperative work with a parent. Once your students are “hooked” on the sports section, you may not be able to prevent their reading all the other parts of the newspaper. In the same fashion, as their instructor, you may get “hooked” on using the newspaper in many other ways, other than to focus on sports. The motivational qualities and relevance of the newspaper to real life skills may greatly inhibit your students’ boredom with routine textbooks or with certain subjects of study.

The educational services department of your newspaper has many other curriculum ideas for using the newspaper in your classroom. Do not hesitate to find out what is available and what will fit into your curriculum plans as you integrate the use of the newspaper into your classroom.

About the author:
This NIE guide was written by Ann West, Newspaper in Education consultant. Ann has served as a teacher and administrator in public school systems in the Midwest for the past 20 years. Formerly NIE director for The Kansas City Star Co., she is now president of News Relief, Inc., a consulting and publishing business in Overland Park, Kansas. Nationally known as an NIE consultant, her other newspaper publications include It’s NIE For K-3, Reading Realities, On The Sidelines, Comic Strips...Newspaper Capers, Mathematics In The News, And Time Marches On (current events), Science In the News, Life Skills In The News, Newspaper Journalism, Geographic Challenge, NIE...It’s Elementary and Elections.

Layout and design by News Relief, Inc.

Finally, the use of activities from this guide may lead students to discovering the newspaper as a lifetime resource for learning. When learning becomes sport, there is a greater chance that students will want to continue to learn on their own long after they leave your classroom. We hope that this guide will help you to become a significant “coach” in each of your student’s lives.

Your newspaper’s educational services department

The following program activity sheets are designed to be photocopied for classroom use with the newspaper that has purchased this guide for use in area educational settings. Any other use is expressly restricted according to existing copyright laws.
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HERE’S THE SNAP:

• Use your copy of the newspaper to find the different items below. Each item should be something you can find in the sports section of the newspaper.

• Clip each example you find from the newspaper and write the number of the item from below on the clipping. Continue until you have found all of the items.

Football Trivia

Find these items in the sports pages:

1. Name of a local sports columnist
2. A score that you would consider close
3. A picture of a popular football star
4. A reference to a ruling in football
5. Football statistics that report turnovers
6. A feature story involving football
7. Football statistics that report team standings in a league
8. The name of a mascot or a team emblem that has a link to the geography of an area
9. A football story that reports on a player’s problems
10. A sponsor often associated with football or other sports
11. A photo of a fan
12. A photo or phrase that reflects emotion

EXTRA POINT...
Find two references to football in other sections of the newspaper.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Select a football photo from the sports section that you think is interesting.
- Clip the photo from the newspaper and attach it to this activity page.
- Study the photo carefully and create sensory images that describe some of the ideas you are reminded of by looking at the photo. It may help you to imagine being on the scene when the photo was taken.
- Describe the images you think of in the categories listed below, according to the sense that the image appeals to most.

Sense Of Taste

Sense Of Sound

Sense Of Smell

Sense Of Touch

Sense Of Sight

EXTRA POINT...
Create a poem about football and include some of the sensory images from above.
Focus Area: Language Arts
Activity Number: 3
Goal: Finding and paraphrasing the main idea of a sports story

Instant Replay

HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Choose a football story from your newspaper and clip it out. Attach the story to this activity sheet.

- In the football below, identify the main elements of the story, often found in the lead sentence or paragraph. These elements should be answers to the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, why).

Football stories in the newspaper usually recap the most important events during a game.

For the reader who wants a good review of the game, the newspaper relates the main idea in a colorful or descriptive manner. The details often explain some of the most important plays or actions during the game.

A reader can usually find the main idea of the story in the lead sentence or paragraph. The remaining paragraphs usually provide other details or highlights of the game.

EXTRA POINT...
Paraphrase, or write in your own words, the main idea of the news story on the lines above.

Copyright, © 1994 News Relief, Inc., Football Fan Fes
Focus Area: Language Arts
Activity Number: 4
Goal: Differentiating between fact and opinion

**HERE'S THE SNAP:**

- For this activity, select a sports story or editorial about football from your local newspaper.

- Using the I-Formation below, record the facts you find in the item on the left. Write the opinions you find on the right.

**Facts**

**Opinions**

Most news stories focus on the facts related to an event that is being reported. This is also true of sports stories in the newspaper.

Sometimes, however, a sports reporter may include some opinion in the process of describing the events of a game. Other likely places to find opinion in the sports pages are in sports editorials, columns, letters to the editor and editorial cartoons.

**EXTRA POINT...**

Read a column about football or other sports written by a local columnist. Underline any statements that you think contain a bias toward a particular team or player.
Defensive Backing

HERE’S THE SNAP:

• From your newspaper, select two headlines that accompany different football stories.

• In the spaces below, record each of the two headlines you selected.

• Below each headline, write details that you find in the accompanying story that support the idea communicated by the headline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headline 1:</th>
<th>Supporting Details:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headline 2:</th>
<th>Supporting Details:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

EXTRA POINT...
Select a headline from a news story in another section of the newspaper. Before you read the news story, make a list of some of the ideas or facts you think the story will contain. Read the story to see if you were correct.
Focus Area: Language Arts
Activity Number: 6
Goal: Identifying parts of speech in a photo’s cutline (caption)

Very Important Players

VIP LIST

Nouns

Verbs

Modifiers

HERE’S THE SNAP:

• Select a news photo and its cutline or caption from your newspaper’s sports pages. Clip the photo and the cutline to attach to this activity page.

• In the cutline of the story, try to find examples of each of the main parts of speech listed below. Write each example you find in the correct category.

Nouns/Pronouns

Verbs

Adverbs

Adjectives

EXTRA POINT...
Did you account for every word in the photo’s cutline? If not, what parts of speech are not listed above? Can you correctly categorize the remaining words?
HERE’S THE SNAP:

- Read reviews from your newspaper on a variety of topics. Try to get several ideas about how professional reviewers write and on what they focus as topics.
- Below, or on another sheet of paper, write a review similar to those found in your newspaper. Your review should focus on a football game that you have attended recently. Try to include several aspects of the event that you were able to observe from the sidelines. Include specific information to identify the game attended.

How This Football Game Measured Up As Entertainment

EXTRA POINT...
Make a video of your review to present to the class. You may want to study some presentation techniques used by critics on TV.
**Off-The-Field Feature**

**HERE’S THE SNAP:**

- Select a football article (hard news or feature story) from the sports pages of your newspaper.

- Read the article carefully, noting below news “tags” or additional feature story ideas that might be connected to the article you are reading.

- When you finish, clip the article and attach it to this activity page.

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Feature stories can provide extremely interesting and entertaining reading in the sports pages or in other sections of the newspaper.

Feature stories linked to the sport of football may be found in various sections of the newspaper. A feature story about a football player’s background, for example, may be found in the sports section. A feature story about new technology used in creating better protective equipment may be in a science or business section of the newspaper. A football team’s special community service project may be featured in a local living or community section.

Some interesting ideas can be developed for football feature stories just by reading articles in the sports section.

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**Possible News “Tags” Or Feature Story Ideas**

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**EXTRA POINT...**

Create a feature story based on one of the news tags you noted above. Your feature may be factual or fictional.
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</table>
| 1 | **The Incredible Bulk**  
Create a tall tale based on a legendary football player of your choice. Be sure to make the player "bigger than real life" through creative, exaggerated descriptions of the player's abilities and feats on the field. Use your newspaper for ideas. | 6 | **TV Time-out**  
Use the television guide or directory in your newspaper to analyze how much football can be viewed in the comfort of your home. Analyze a two-day period of time for the amount of televised football scheduled. Create a "football fanatic" schedule from the information you gathered. |
| 2 | **License To Drive**  
Use your newspaper to select a characteristic of one of your favorite football players, or focus on your feelings about the sport of football, to create a personalized license plate appropriate for yourself or your football idol. The plate may consist of a series of no more than seven numbers, letters or a combination of both. | 7 | **Classified Coach**  
After reading about your favorite football team through a part of a season, analyze some of the weaknesses of the team. Based on needs that must be fulfilled for success, create a classified advertisement for something or someone that your team desperately needs. Write it as if you were the coach of the team. Use your newspaper's classified ads as models. |
| 3 | **A Late Hit**  
Create a poem, song or "rap" associated with your favorite football team. Try to include as many players as you can in your creative efforts. Use the newspaper to find information about the team or a particular game played by the team. | 8 | **Tense Moments**  
Identify the verb tense of most news stories in your newspaper. Select a sports story or column and analyze the tense in which the story was written. Decide on a different tense in which the story could be written and do a complete rewrite of the story using this different tense. |
| 4 | **Player Close-up**  
Using a standard resume form, design a professional resume for a football player of your choice. You may use information you find in the newspaper or you may have to do some research for additional information. Be sure to include education, personal background, career experience, special talents and abilities. | 9 | **Clipping Is Permitted**  
Clip from your newspaper comic strips and editorial cartoons that focus on the sport of football. Place these on a classroom bulletin board. Do this throughout the football season to discover how often the topic of football is mentioned or referenced in cartoons and comics. |
| 5 | **Star Forecast**  
Just for fun, match a recent game performance of your favorite player with one of the horoscope predictions in the newspaper. What "sign" seems to fit the performance? | 10 | **A Definitive Difference**  
Create a list of special jargon, terms or phrases often associated with football. Identify any terms used in reference to other sports. Discuss any changes in meaning if used in reference to another sport. |
The Competitive Edge

Even though many people enjoy watching and playing the sport of football, very few people end up playing the sport professionally.

The love of football can lead to jobs and careers that have some connection with the sport. These careers may be more practical, even though they may be just as competitive as those of the professional athlete.

By reading the newspaper, a person can get ideas about some of the careers associated with sports in general, or football in particular. Once a career possibility is identified, it is important to research existing opportunities in this area.

Once this information is obtained, it is important to find out the kind of education, experience, special talent or personality needed to be successful in a chosen career.

HERE’S THE SNAP:

- Skim through the sports pages of your newspaper to help identify a variety of jobs and careers that may be associated with football or other sports. You may want to discuss in class “careers” and “jobs” and if any differences exist in these terms.

- In the space listed below, develop a list of some of the careers or jobs you thought of as you read through the newspaper.

EXTRA POINT...
Select one or two of the above careers or jobs and do extensive research. Prepare to report back to class on your findings.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Use your newspaper to find examples of businesses that might profit from the presence of a football team in the local community. You can search through the advertisements, business section, news and sports to get some ideas about local businesses that may profit from a local team.

- List some of the businesses in the space below and write a sentence or two explaining how each business benefits from the local football team.

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<tr>
<th>The Business</th>
<th>The Benefit</th>
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EXTRA POINT...
Take a class survey of students who have parents or relatives who are involved in a business that gains something from the presence of the local football team.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Use your newspaper to find a full or partial schedule that indicates who your favorite team's opponents will be.

- Use the weather map in your newspaper or a desk map to find the location of each opposing team's home city.

- In the space below, list a few of the cities your favorite team will play and the home state of each city. Circle any city that is a capital city of a state. Finally, write down two geographical features that each state contains.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cities Our Team Will Play</th>
<th>States</th>
<th>Geographical Features Of The State</th>
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EXTRA POINT...
Skim through the pages of your newspaper to identify stories with datelines from the cities you listed above. Clip the stories and attach them to this page.
HERE’S THE SNAP:

• Use your newspaper’s sports pages to identify some of the names of teams, team mascots and playing fields within the professional or collegiate league of your choice.

• Record team names, mascot names or stadium names that you think have a geographical connection. Place the names in the most appropriate category below.

## Symbolic Appellations

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**Physical Features**

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**Economics Or Industry**

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**Culture Or History**

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EXTRA POINT...

Identify some mascots in professional football that aren’t as appropriate as they once were because of a team transfer to a different city. Suggest a better mascot with links to the current home city.
In just about every arena of life we may have certain people that we look up to and admire. We often refer to these people as heroes, but are they really heroes?

Sometimes we use the terms “hero” and “celebrity” interchangeably, but a closer look may reveal a vast difference between these two terms.

The newspaper may carry all kinds of news about various heroes and celebrities in the sports section and in other parts of the newspaper. By knowing the meaning of “hero” or “celebrity,” we can better evaluate who lives up to the definition of either term.

HERE’S THE SNAP:

- Use a dictionary to find the meanings of the words “hero” and “celebrity.” Discuss these terms in class with your classmates.

- Look through the newspaper to identify people who you would consider to be heroes and others who you would define as celebrities. List the names of these people and the newspaper section in which you found their names or pictures.

COMMUNITY HALL OF FAME

HEROES

CELEBRITIES

EXTRA POINT...

Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper to express your feelings about a community hero.
Playing By The Rules

In nearly every area of life we are likely to encounter different sets of rules or regulations we are expected to observe. If we do not follow these rules, we should expect some type of penalty.

In the game of football, there are various rules that must be observed by players during the game or some type of penalty may result. In the business of football, there may be various league rules the teams observe. From high school to professional athletics, different rules and regulations may be established by regulatory organizations (NFL, NCAA, state high school athletics associations, etc.).

At home, in the classroom, on the street and in business, we soon learn that playing by the rules is beneficial.

HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Use your newspaper to find references to rules/regulations that must be followed in the game of football. You may have to read a sports story carefully, looking for key words (penalty, infraction, offsides, clipping, holding) that are clues to established rules.

- Note below some of the rules that you find referred to in football stories. After each, write a brief explanation why you think this rule is necessary or exists.

- At the bottom of the chart, write down one rule that is mentioned or referred to in another section of your newspaper. Write your explanation of what could happen if this rule didn't exist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Football Rules/Regulations</th>
<th>Reason For Rule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule/Regulation In Another Part Of The Newspaper</th>
<th>Life Without This Rule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXTRA POINT...

Interview parents or other adults about rules they must follow at work in their daily lives. Find out what types of penalties can be expected if these rules are not followed.
Follow The Leader

Have you ever dreamed of being a star in the world of sports or entertainment? Perhaps you have imagined being a leader in school or in business. Most of us have dreams of being important or being a leader in some way.

Upon close examination, we may find that leadership requires a great deal of commitment in attaining goals and shouldering responsibility. We may look at leaders and think how great it must be to be important in the eyes of the community, to be admired or to make a big salary.

Often, a great price is paid for leadership. Hard work, perseverance and willingness to accept responsibility are just a few of the characteristics of a leader.

HERE’S THE SNAP:

- Read through the newspaper to find three examples of people who you think are leaders. The leaders you select should fit into the categories in the chart below.

- For each leader you found mentioned in the newspaper, write a few sentences explaining what kind of leadership this person shows, personal characteristics that are required for this leader and responsibilities that this person must accept.

Leaders Mentioned In The Newspaper

Football Leader

Business Leader

Government Leader

EXTRA POINT...
Write a paragraph about one way in which you have served as a leader. Include some of the responsibilities you accepted and how you felt as a leader.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Use the sports section of your newspaper to find a few examples of problems or issues that have come up in the world of football. These may be local issues (the need for a new stadium) or national issues (professional salaries).

- Read about the issue or problem. Discuss the issue or problem with others. Think about your personal feelings about the issue or problem.

- Complete either of the two tasks below.

  Clip a comic strip from your newspaper and erase the dialogue. Replace the dialogue with words to comment about the issue or problem in football. Try to infuse some of your own opinion about the issue or problem into the characters' words. Attach the "new" comic strip to this activity page.

OR...

Use the space below to develop an editorial cartoon or comic strip of your own design to comment on an issue or problem connected to the world of football.

EXTRA POINT...

Discuss the issues/problems you and your classmates discovered. Do any problems in the world of football exist in other areas of life?
1. Front Page Football
   Review some of the news stories or events in connection with football that have made front page news in your community. Decide if these were positive or negative news events.

2. Brains Behind The Brawn
   Read a variety of football stories and categorize these stories by level of play—professional, collegiate, high school, junior league, etc. Identify from clues found in the newspaper stories the chain of command or leaders in these various leagues. Be sure to identify leaders and the organizations they represent.

3. The Sports Dollar
   Look for clues in your newspaper about how big a business (in terms of income) football is. Create a list of some of the expenditures a fan of football may encounter.

4. Out Of Bounds Advice
   At some time or another, it is likely that a local or national football celebrity meets with trouble. Usually, this information makes its way into the newspaper. Design a letter that might have been written by a player with problems for publication in an advice column. Exchange letters with a classmate for written solutions.

5. Local Color Commentator
   Create a brochure of things to do and places to see in your community for players, relatives and fans of a visiting football team. Use items that you find in your newspaper as a part of your brochure.

6. Face-off
   Conflict is something that is inevitable in real life. In games, conflict is also common. Look in your newspaper to find examples of conflict in football, on and off the field. Determine the types of conflicts and possible solutions for each.

7. Football Scout
   Look for news datelines from football opponents’ cities. Clip the news and paraphrase what is happening in these other cities. Will any of the current events have an impact on the football teams from those cities or football players and fans from your city?

8. Sad News
   Identify headlines that might be considered bad or sad news for the local football fans. Discuss the ramifications of the “bad news” stories you found in the newspaper. Will the effects be short-lived or long-term?

9. The Ultimate Goal
   Do any of the football players on your favorite team have goals after their football-playing days are over? Identify team members who seem to have made alternative plans for work and career during the off-season and/or after their football careers come to an end.

10. That’s The Real Spirit
    Use the newspaper to find examples of football players who give back something to their communities in some way. Look for volunteer efforts to help a worthy cause.
**Bench Strength**

A great deal of physical training is part of nearly any athlete’s daily regimen behind the scenes. With football players, daily workouts are a must for continued physical conditioning to increase endurance and strength and to prevent injury.

Newspapers publish frequent articles about physical conditioning. Advertisements of special programs, health clubs and spas can also be found in most newspapers. These can lead the reader to physical training that may help offset the effects a sedentary job or lifestyle.

**HERE’S THE SNAP:**

- Design an off-season conditioning schedule for one of your favorite football athletes. Keep in mind any special needs this particular player may have—past injuries, requirements of a particular position in football, age, etc. Use information you can find in your newspaper’s stories, features, special columns, advertising and health directories that could be used to help your selected player keep in shape and develop better strength right in your home town.

- Use the space below to design an ideal daily schedule for this athlete.

---

**EXTRA POINT...**

Review the regimen you designed and place a check mark by each item that the average person should be doing daily.
Healthy eating habits and physical exercise work together in developing a strong body for daily living.

Football players are likely to have very special diets that they need to follow to maintain good health and increase stamina during the season and throughout the other weeks of the year.

The USDA daily diet recommendations take the form of a food pyramid that contains six groups of foods: dairy, vegetables, breads/cereals/pasta, meat/poultry/fish/dry beans/eggs/nuts, fruits and fats. Foods that can be categorized into the pyramid groups can be found advertised in the newspaper or in special grocery inserts.

Many of the recipes and cooking features may make reference to the foods that we should consume for healthy eating. These articles and special features are intended to help every reader maintain an all-star diet!

EXTRA POINT...
Revise the diet advice on the back of this page to meet the USDA recommendations AND the limitations of a vegetarian diet.

HERE'S THE SNAP:

• Label each section of the food pyramid below with the number of servings per food group suggested for daily consumption. Using the grocery ads, recipes and food features in your newspaper, find examples of foods that fit into the USDA pyramid food categories. As you find each food, make note of it on the back of this page.

• On the back of this page, create a daily diet recommendation that you think a football player should follow during an average day.
Defensive Moves

HERE’S THE SNAP:

• Clip a news photograph of a football player in action. Paste or tape the photo below.

• Label each of the equipment items you can find that are intended to provide the player with protection from physical harm.

Research in the area of science has helped to produce some devices that help protect the football player from physical harm.

The business of scientific research and production of protective equipment as it relates to sports has grown over past decades. Have you ever compared pictures of the modern football player in full equipment with players in the early years of football popularity? The differences should be apparent.

Thanks to science, football players will continue to have some of the best research backing them up on the field of play.

EXTRA POINT...
Refer to advertisements and stock market listings to identify companies that you think may have a role in production or provision of the equipment identified above.
Focus Area: Science
Activity Number: 20
Goal: Creating a menu for a tailgate party

Tailgate Party

HERE’S THE SNAP:

- Clip recipes and food features from your newspaper that might be important information to rely on in planning a tailgate party. Place these items in an envelope marked “tailgate” and attach them to this page.

- In the space below, put together a menu of foods you think would be good to provide at a tailgate party. The menu should take into consideration healthy eating, ease of preparation and foods appropriate for the season.

The game of football is rich in tradition. Not only do football fans have tremendous loyalty to certain teams, they also have certain traditions they observe prior to the game. One of the frequently observed traditions is that of tailgating.

This tradition has become a well-defined art for fans. Tailgate planning may include precise packing of the game-day vehicle and creation of an extravagant plan for the pre-game meal. One way in which this tradition may have changed over the years includes better, healthier foods. In addition, utensils and equipment have been designed especially for such events.

Many of the products used for tailgating have been made possible through scientific research and improved production techniques. To keep abreast of new products, many people rely on information in the newspaper.

EXTRA POINT...
Create a list of helpful utensils advertised in the newspaper that should be taken along on the tailgate party you have planned.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Refer to forecasts in your newspaper's weather section for the three different cities where football games will be played in the league you are following.

- In the space below, create a chart to reflect the game day weather expected in each of these three cities, according to your newspaper.

- For each game, describe the type of clothing fans should wear, based on the weather expected.

EXTRA POINT...
Clip advertisements from your newspaper for apparel or accessories that you should wear or take to your team's next game, based on weather conditions predicted.
HERE’S THE SNAP:

- Clip from your newspaper examples of products that make watching or attending a football game easier for the fan. These products should be examples of items that have been made possible by scientific research.

- Paste or tape each item below and describe how you think each item provides for the convenience of the football fan.

Research in science over the years has not only provided for the comfort and protection of the football player, but also for the convenience of the football fan.

There are many products advertised or pictured in your newspaper that you may not ordinarily associate with football, but may actually be great conveniences or advantages for the fan. You may see fans at the stadium using a cellular telephone to check back with the baby-sitter. You may sit at home and watch the game on your big-screen television. You may even get to enjoy instant replays, made possible by advanced technology.

EXTRA POINT...
On paper, develop a product related to the football fan for which you think there is a great need. Draw a rough sketch of your product and a complete description.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

- In the space below, write down some of the illnesses or injuries that a football fan might likely experience.

- By each notation, find a product, service or useful information in the newspaper that might help a fan prevent such illness or injury from occurring.

EXTRA POINT...
Describe a “health or safety lesson” you learned from an experience in attending a football game.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

• Review some of the photographs and stories about football games in your newspaper. Think about some of the pollution that you would witness if you were present at the event.

• In the space below, develop a list of various types of pollution and categorize some of the ways in which this pollution is apparent at football games. After each pollutant is identified, try to describe a method or two that is used to manage it.

Just about any major entertainment event in a community is likely to produce various types of pollution.

Ticker-tape parades, fairs, sports events and festivals, to name a few, are likely to result in some major clean-up problems. Solid waste (paper, cans, etc.) is probably one of the most obvious pollutants from major events. However, noise and air pollution can be problems, as well.

By looking through the newspaper at pictures of events, including football games, you may get many ideas about the types of pollution created at sites where large numbers of people congregate.

Occasionally, newspapers may even publish comments or concerns from people who attend games and are "fed up" with pollutants like trash and smoke.

EXTRA POINT...
Select one solid waste item that might result from a football game in your community and create a second-use solution which recycles this product in a beneficial manner.
## Take The Ball And Run With It!

### Supplemental Activities in Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Basic Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read football stories and look closely at photos in your newspaper to find evidence that people with backgrounds in science are extremely important to the game of football. Identify careers and science expertise needed in the area of football.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Neither Rain, Nor Sleet...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use your newspaper to discover several game-day forecasts for cities where football games will be played soon. Think about how this weather may affect the players and what can be done, prior to and during the game, to lessen negative impact on the players.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Charting The Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use your newspaper’s weather information to keep track of the predicted temperatures at game time and the actual temperatures that occurred throughout the season. Create a chart to reflect the accuracy of the weather service used by your newspaper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Not Suited Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Examine a newspaper photograph of a football player. Imagine, for each piece of equipment the player is wearing and that is visible in the photo, what injuries could occur if the player were not wearing the item. What would be the prognosis for the various injuries identified?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Science Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Create a list of rules that would reduce the pollution and various health hazards at a football game. Write a letter to the editor that defends one or all of the proposed new rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Football Powerhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use your newspaper to find evidence that different power sources are used in your local football stadium. Clip evidence that you find and note the type of power that is being utilized. Are there any alternative power sources that should be used?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Design An Ad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Create a newspaper advertisement for a football-related product that you think science professionals will be able to create within the next five years. Use advertisements in your newspaper to study elements of ads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Spiral Of Strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Particular types of foods and beverages are usually recommended for athletes just prior to competition. Look through your newspaper’s food ads and features to find examples of special foods or beverages that should fortify a football player prior to a game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Travel Woes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use your newspaper to discover where your favorite football teams will be traveling for the next few games. Identify any specific health problems that could occur for the athletes due to travel or at a specific location. Develop a list of possible remedies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>You Will Receive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Look through your newspaper’s sports pages and identify some ways in which new technology in science has helped the newspaper bring sports to you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Focus Area: **Mathematics**  
Activity Number: **25**  
Goal: Analyzing sports coverage in the newspaper  

**The Sports Arena**

**HERE'S THE SNAP:**

- Prior to opening your newspaper to the sports pages, estimate the percentage of coverage for football at the high school, college and professional levels that will be in the current issue of the newspaper. Use the space below to note your percentage estimates.

- Figure out the best way to test your estimates and do so, listing the actual percentages you discovered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimates (%)</th>
<th>Actual (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>COLLEGE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- List below some of the factors that you think affect the actual figures you arrived at above.

  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________

**EXTRA POINT...**
Discuss with classmates the mission that you think your newspaper has in terms of its coverage of football.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Clip from the sports pages in your newspaper the statistics for a recent football game. Glue or tape your selection in the space below.

Football game statistics are usually printed in the sports pages of the newspaper. These statistics provide exact information regarding a team’s performance during a particular game. Individual player “stats” may also be included in your newspaper’s sports reports.

As in any field, numerical data can provide the information necessary for analysis, interpretation, evaluation and conclusions prior to arriving at some final decisions. By examining statistical data of a game, a coach or manager may be in a better position to decide what went well and where improvements are needed.

- Assume that you have been given the job to explain, on paper, the meaning of the statistics in the game report above to a novice in the area of reading such reports. Create a key or labeling process to explain the various statistics contained in the item above. You may do this work in the space above or on the back of this page.

EXTRA POINT...
List inferences you can draw based upon the set of statistics above. Determine what purpose these statistics could have in future decisions of the team’s management.
Fan Support

Here’s the Snap:

- In the space below, keep a record of game attendance at several, if not all, of your favorite team’s home games. Use the information provided in your newspaper’s sports section to get exact attendance figures.

Attendance Records for My Favorite Team...

(Write team name above.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Stadium Capacity</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Opposing Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Once you have completed the necessary records to track attendance at your team’s home games, create a graph to reflect these statistics. Use the space below for your graph.

Extra Point...

Find, based on the above information, the average attendance, difference between attendance high and low, range of attendance, game closest to the average attendance.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Use the space below to calculate how much it would cost you and your entire family to attend every game during one season of your favorite collegiate or professional football team. Be sure to consider all the costs directly related to game attendance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>x Family Members</th>
<th>Total For Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- After arriving at a grand total for the above activity, use this as a budget limitation in planning the ideal football viewing room in your own home. Note below some of the items you would be sure to include in this room. Use the classified and retail advertisements in your newspaper to remain within your budget. Attach your budget and the advertisements you used for reference to this activity page.

"Must Have" Items

EXTRA POINT...
Weigh the pros and cons of being in attendance at a football game rather than staying home to watch the game on television. Write an editorial to persuade people to your point of view.
Pay For Play

HERE’S THE SNAP:

• Look through the pages of your newspaper to find stories or reports of income that certain professional players are going to be receiving following the signing of a contract. Select the salary of one professional player and calculate the following salary figures.

ANNUAL SALARY REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPER

$

MONTHLY SALARY CALCULATION

$

WEEEKLY SALARY CALCULATION

$

DAILY SALARY CALCULATION

$

• Following your calculations above, can you figure out a “merit pay” schedule based on this player’s past statistics? For example, given the lifetime total of field goals kicked by a field goal kicker, can you figure how much this player is receiving per field goal scored?

EXTRA POINT...

Discuss why football players at the high school and college levels face restrictions (and penalties) regarding the receiving of money or other tangible benefits. Does your newspaper report about any colleges or players that have been disciplined recently for violation of such policies?
Over Time

The sports pages of your newspaper will likely report detailed statistics attributed to teams and individual players in the most recent games.

Team “stats” usually report first downs, yards rushing, yards passing, return yards, average punts, fumbles, number of yards penalized and time of possession of the ball during the most recent game.

By keeping these per game statistics for an entire season of play, an avid football fan can put together an interesting overview and evaluation of a team’s performance during the football season.

These same statistics, you can be sure, are taken seriously by team coaches and management. The statistics can be an indication of a team’s strengths and weaknesses and where improvements must be made.

HERE’S THE SNAP:

• Look through the pages of your newspaper to find statistics for a recent game played by your favorite football team.

• In class, discuss the meaning of each of the statistics reported in such charts.

• During the season, clip out your team’s statistics report for each game played and keep this information in an envelope. Be sure that the date of each game is noted on the clippings.

• At the end of the season, or after several games, review the statistics collected and develop a chart of your own to reflect a complete view of “your” team’s records for the season. Use the space below to develop your chart, based on your newspaper clippings.

EXTRA POINT...
Write a letter to your sports editor making recommendations that you think will help your team improve. The statements you make should be supported by actual statistics you calculated. Be sure to include in your letter some of the strengths of your team, as well as the weaknesses.
HERE'S THE SNAP:

• In the spaces below, make some predictions about the present football season, based on statistics reported in your newspaper. These predictions may vary. Include player recognition/awards that you think certain players in the league you are following will receive. Also, predict the top three teams and the last place team for your league. List any records that you think may be broken on the field (team turnovers, for example) and off the field (attendance records, for example).

• After you list your predictions below, clip and attach to this activity page the newspaper information on which you relied to make your predictions.

I Can See Clearly Now...

Not only do football statistics help us understand the past performance of a team and see a team's strengths and weaknesses, these statistics also can help a person make inferences or some predictions about the future performances of a team or its members.

Predictions are often made about who the league or division winner will be. Predictions may be made regarding players who may win special awards and recognition like the Heisman Trophy, Outland Trophy, Vince Lombardi Award, Bert Bell Memorial Trophy, Jim Thorpe Trophy Winner, George Halas Trophy, All-State Defense or All-Metro First Team. Most predictions are based on statistics, not just personal preferences or inclinations.

EXTRA POINT...
Compare your predictions with what actually occurs at the end of the football season. Can you explain why your predictions may have missed the mark?
HERE'S THE SNAP:

- Look through your newspaper (all sections) to find examples of graphics that you think present numerical information in an attractive or creative manner.

- Evaluate the types of information presented in the sports reports on the game of football. Write below three ideas for graphic illustrations that might make reading football statistics easier.

   **Ideas For Graphic Presentation In The Sports Pages**

   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

   - Select one of your ideas above and create a graphic design that you think would be a great feature in your newspaper's sports pages. If you have access to a computer, design your graphic on the computer. Prepare your graphic design for a classroom bulletin board.

EXTRA POINT...

Select a graphic printed in one edition of your newspaper. This should be a graphic that presents numbers or statistical data for the reader. Create the column or story that would be necessary to report this information without such a graphic. Decide which item would be easiest to read and most likely to receive reader attention.
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Win A Few; Lose A Few</td>
<td>Create a win-loss chart for a football league of your choice. Based on this information, figure each team’s percentage of success when considering the number of games won.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>That Was Close</td>
<td>What constitutes a close game in football? Come to an agreement with the majority of your classmates on a definition of a close football game. Analyze the football scores from a recent game day and calculate the percentage of games reported that were “close” games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>You’re The Chief Chef</td>
<td>Congratulations! You’ve been appointed chef for your favorite team. Using grocery ads from your newspaper, estimate the daily and weekly cost of groceries to feed the entire football team one meal per day. You’ll need to plan one healthy meal a day for seven days prior to estimating costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Beginning Equipment</td>
<td>Examine your newspaper to find retail and classified ads that might help you develop an idea for equipping a youth football team in your local area. Put together a budget of actual and estimated costs, including the bottom line expense for such a venture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Leader Of The Pack</td>
<td>Identify the player of the week in the league you are following, based only on newspaper statistics regarding yards gained in the most recent game played.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Frugal Transport</td>
<td>Calculate the least expensive mode of transportation for your favorite football team to use to get to each game during the season. Use your newspaper to find information about game schedules, air fares, bus fares, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Clock Stopper</td>
<td>Football game time is set for a particular number of minutes per half. Games, however, vary in the amount of time they last. Look in your newspaper to find out how long it took for a few games to actually be played. Calculate the difference in the actual minutes played vs. the time it took for each game to be completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Armchair Nutritionist</td>
<td>Create a poster of foods often eaten during a football game at the stadium or at home. Clip these foods from the newspaper. Research food labels and calculate the average “fat grams” consumed per person during a football game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Game Dress</td>
<td>Rely on your newspaper to find items important to wear to a typical football game in your area. Use the newspaper to find necessary items to take to the game with you. Create a poster of all items and clothing, along with costs for each to arrive at a grand total for clothing and necessary accessories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Attendance Adds Up</td>
<td>Calculate a fair estimate for ticket receipts, based on newspaper attendance reports at a recent football game. Use prior knowledge of ticket costs for your estimate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pigskin Profile

Use your newspaper and any other information resources to create a "Pigskin Profile" of one of your favorite football personalities (past or present players and/or coaches). Try to uncover information to complete the profile below. Use this same information to help you complete the activities on page 41. Prepare this activity to mount on a classroom bulletin board or your bulletin board at home!

Name Of Person Profiled:

Uniform Number: Height: Weight:

Position:

Present Team:

High School (Name, City, State, Country):

College (Name, City, State, Country):

Education: Degree Received: Area Of Study:

DOB: Birthplace:

Marital Status/Name Of Spouse:

Children:

Present Residence:

Describe any unique qualities of this person: (special abilities, community service involvement, etc.)

In this space, include any highlights about this person's high school, collegiate or professional performance. Describe any special honors, awards or records set.
Pigskin Profile Map

• Using the map below or a blank desk map, trace the historic path that has been followed by the person you profiled on page 40.

• Create a legend that will help you explain this person's history. Your legend and final map should reveal the following items.
  * The birthplace and various residences of this person
  * The schools attended
  * The various career homes of this player or coach
  * Permanent residence
  * Any other interesting information that you think pertains to this person's life