

[September 4, 2014]

Our long, national nightmare is over.

Michael Sam, the All-American DE and 2014 Southeastern Conference co-Defensive Player of the Year who announced his homosexuality in an interview with ESPN in February, was signed by the Dallas Cowboys to its practice squad yesterday, four days after he was cut by the St. Louis Rams, which had drafted him 249th overall.

This is a triumph for the media elite, which, more and more, takes its marching orders from the LGBTQ "rights" cabal. The push for Sam to play in the NFL for no other reason than his sexual preference could fill a book. This missive from Johnette Howard of ESPN sums the ridiculousness up nicely: "It's up to [Commissioner] Roger Goodell to set the tone of tolerance... so that gay players will feel safe and welcome". Sure enough, the NFL issued a statement: "We admire Michael Sam's honesty and courage... We look forward to welcoming and supporting [him]". How much "honesty and courage" does it take to announce you are a homosexual when the media, the pop culture elite, and the President of the United States are Hooray for Gays?! So, did Obama call the other players taken in the 7th round of the draft to offer his congratulations? Just curious.

Goodell, whose brother identifies as homosexual (and, I suspect, is a closet case himself), ordered all 32 teams to attend Sam's Pro Day, which is unprecedented. But, be it lack of preparedness or just plain nerves, he bombed, posting a 5.22 rating, which, according to NFL.com analysis, means he has "backup or special teams potential". That didn't matter to the media, which offered up all sorts of excuses for Sam's Stinkeroo, Excuse #1 being the "pressure" he was feeling "making "history".

As if comparing Sam to Jackie Robinson and ESPN giving him the Arthur Ashe Courage Award for "transcending sports" weren't shameless enough, the media turned on Michael Sam, Sr., for not embracing his son's lifestyle (Sam came out to his teammates before he did to his father, which pundits have used as an indictment of the traditional family). The idea a man can love his child, yet not support his child's dangerous - and deadly - choices is the very definition of intolerance to the "tolerant" Left. Noting smugly that two of Sam's sons are dead and two others are in prison, *Slate*'s William Saletan huffed: "The family [Michael] builds as a gay man will be better than the 'old school' family he grew up in... more tolerant... more principled... more useful to society". Get that? Homosexuality is now a virtue: it makes one "more tolerant", "more principled", "more useful to society"! Saletan's pronouncement that Sam is a better human being than his "old school" father because he identifies as a homosexual encapsulates the sheer looniness of The Loony Left perfectly!

The media gushing like a bunch of giddy schoolgirls as Sam kissed his boyfriend when he was drafted ("Good Morning America"'s Mara Schiavocampo: "It's sports history sealed with a kiss") was in stark contrast to how it treated Tim Tebow during his NFL stint. Aside from playing in the Southeastern Conference, Sam and Tebow share a weird irony: each is a household name due largely to ESPN; Tebow is, in fact, a talking head on ESPN's SEC Network. As to why the media has never gushed over Tebow the way it now gushes over Sam is obvious to me: it WANTS to report on Sam; it HAD to report on Tebow.

The media hates it when its tail isn't wagging the dog. It found itself covering Tebow because his aw-shucks, Bible-quoting persona clicked with the public. Since he failed to acquire a rap sheet, knock up a bunch of bimbos, or get busted drinking anything stronger than a protein shake, they were reduced to mocking his faith and football acumen (to be fair, he wasn't exactly The Second Coming of Dan Marino). By contrast, Sam, like NBA journeyman Jason Collins, whose coming-out was also hyped to ad nauseam ridiculousness, is a pure media creation. Playing the "I'm Here, I'm Queer" Card to cynical perfection, he has been only too happy to whore himself out to The Fourth Estate, signing with Oprah Winfrey to do a show about his attempt to make the Rams (which was scrapped after news of the deal leaked). However, either due to his lifestyle or grandstanding, Sam has not clicked with the public.

Still, the media has his back(side). When Super Bowl-winning head coach and "*Sunday Night Football*" analyst Tony Dungy said he wouldn't have drafted Sam due to the circus surrounding him, he was vilified. Professional blowhards Keith Olbermann, Mike Lupica, and Jason Whitlock called Dungy, respectively, "The Worst Sports Person in the World", a "chowderhead", and a hypocrite whose non-support of Sam is "unhealthy for African-Americans and logically inconsistent with principles at the foundation of American culture" (huh?). When Miami Dolphin Don Jones tweeted his reaction to Sam's Smooch, he was fined and suspended, then reinstated on condition he undergo "educational training". Ex-New York Giant Derrick Ward got death threats after he tweeted that Sam's kiss was "disgusting". Even ESPN got a taste of its own medicine, raked over the coals by its fellow blowhards for speculating about Sam's post-game shower etiquette!

By contrast, Seattle head coach Pete Carroll called Tebow a "distraction". Jacksonville head coach Mike Mularkey called Tebow a "distraction". New York Jets special teams coach Mike Westoff called Tebow - you guessed it - a "distraction". Not content with calling him "an affable simpleton", CBS Chicago's Dan Bernstein blasted Tebow fans as "lunatic-fringe cultists". *The Jewish Week*'s Joshua Hammerman hoped the Denver Broncos lost a playoff game so Tebow fans wouldn't "do insane things" against Muslims, gays, and immigrants. Radio host Craig Carton called Tebow "a fraud" who "clearly thinks he is Jesus". "*Saturday Night Live*" did a skit mocking Tebow by having "Jesus" tell him He's "tired" of bailing the Broncos out. "Comic" John Oliver decreed during a routine: "If I was in a room with Tim Tebow and Bin Laden and I had a gun with one bullet in it, I'd shoot Bin Laden... if I had two

bullets, I'd shoot Tim Tebow first". Talk radio host and former seminarian Bill Press mocked Tebow for thanking Jesus after the Broncos beat the defending AFC Champion Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1st round of the 2011 playoffs: "STFU [Shut the Fuck Up]!... I think he's a disgrace! I think he's an embarrassment!" After he was traded to the Jets, *The Nation's* Dave Zirin decreed Tebow "wants [LGBTQ people] to move backwards 30 or 40 years" (which explains why Tebow visited his high school teammate Rodney Sumter after Sumter was shot in the Pulse nightclub massacre, but I digress). After he was cut by the New England Patriots, Olbermann gloated Tebow is "the textbook example... [of] hyping the irrelevant". It will come as no surprise that Carroll, Mularkey, Westoff, Bernstein, Hammerman, Carton, "*Saturday Night Live*", Oliver, Press, Zirin or Olbermann were not fired, fined, suspended, bullied into an apology or required to undergo "educational training".

There is no stat which warms the NFL's cold heart more than jersey sales, courtesy of Central American sweatshops. Tebow had the #1 selling jersey in 2010, and was never out of the top 10. Even if he sticks, it's unlikely that Sam, whose jersey sales ranked #2 among NFL rookies, will ever come close to Tebow's sales numbers.

By the way, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said he has no plans to hawk Sam jerseys as Sam is on the practice squad.

Mr. Cowboy better be prepared to undergo "educational training". Or worse.

POST SCRIPT: Tebow's NFL career was a bust for three main reasons:

- 1) he is a read-option quarterback; no NFL team runs that system
- 2) the Broncos shipped him to the Jets after Peyton Manning was signed even though they could have kept him on to learn under Manning -- not a good sign
- 3) he sat out the Jets' 12/23/12 game after Greg McElroy was named the starter AFTER he told ESPN's Rich Cimini he had no problem running wildcat packages, and AFTER he had practiced on special teams. Rex Ryan should have sent him packing right there!

When he was cut by the Patriots, the conventional wisdom went if Bill Belichick can't do anything with him, Tebow had no business calling himself a football player. Declining an invite to the Veteran Combine must also have planted MAJOR doubts as to the level of his commitment. Many suggested he play tight end, fullback or half-back, where he would be a natural. But, as mentioned, Tebow says that he is done with football. Which is a polite way of saying that football is done with him.

While his misadventures has been compared to Michael Jordan's bizarre stunt of quitting basketball in 1994 to play baseball as his bizarre way of honoring his father, who was murdered in 1993, I am reminded of Trevor Gretzky, son of hockey player Wayne Gretzky. When Junior was picked by the Chicago Cubs in the 7th round of the 2011 draft, Pop proved he missed his true calling, getting GM Jim Hendry to pony up an insane \$375,000 for the lad. I hope the \$375,000 is stuffed under a mattress, because, 6 years on, The Great One's Not-So-Great-One still wanders the baseball wilderness. Cut by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim's Burlington Bees in March 2016, he was cut by his 8th team, the Trois-Rivières (Québec) Aigles, in April 2018. Does Tebow want to wind up like Trevor Gretzky, and obliterate what's left of his brand in the process? Guess so.

Sam, on the other hand, has no one to blame for his crash and burn but himself. Had Goodell and the media not pressured NFL executives, he wouldn't have gotten a look-see. He shouldn't have even been at the Veteran Combine as he never played in a regular season game. When he posted worse numbers at the Combine than at Pro Day, Goodell and the media bailed. And now that he admits he never wanted to play in the CFL, he will NEVER get another shot at the NFL! Do Howard, Saletan, Winfrey, Whitlock, Goodell, and the rest of these dingbats realize they were played for chumps yet?

But cheer up, kids. Scammin' Sammy will always have "*Dancing with the Stars*".

UPDATE: Sam is released by the Dallas Cowboys [October 21, 2014]

UPDATE: Tebow signs with the Philadelphia Eagles [April 20, 2015]

UPDATE: Sam signs with the Montréal Alouettes [May 22, 2015]

UPDATE: Sam leaves the Alouettes for "personal reasons" [June 12, 2015]

UPDATE: Sam returns to the Alouettes [June 28, 2015]

UPDATE: Sam announces he is taking a leave from football [August 14, 2015]

UPDATE: Tebow is released by the Eagles. He was 21-for-36 for 286 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT; 82 yards rushing, 1 TD in 4 preseason games [September 5, 2015]

UPDATE: KMIZ-TV reports Sam has returned to the University of Missouri to work on a master's degree in education and has fired his management [September 23, 2015]

UPDATE: Sam tells Dan Patrick he wanted to come out after he made the NFL but did so because he thought he was going to be outed. He said he believes he would be in the NFL had he not come out [September 24, 2015]

UPDATE: Sam tells Colin Cowherd he wishes he had gone un-drafted so he could have signed with a team that "really needed... a defensive end who could pass rush the quarterback", and left the CFL because "I'm not cut out to be a CFL player... I'm a NFL player so I'm going to... do whatever I can to get back into the NFL" [November 20, 2015]

UPDATE: Tebow holds a tryout for MLB scouts. One scout told *The Washington Post* another scout told him: "He sucked!" A scout told *USA Today*: "I thought he was okay. Better than I expected, to be honest". Tebow told Colleen Wolfe of NFL Network he is through with football [August 30, 2016]

UPDATE: The New York Mets announces Tebow has signed a minor league contract and will be allowed to continue to work for the SEC Network [September 8, 2016]

UPDATE: Tebow makes his pro baseball debut [September 28, 2016]

UPDATE: Tebow plays his first game for the Scottsdale Scorpions of the Arizona Fall League [October 11, 2016]

UPDATE: Tebow reports to Mets training camp [February 27, 2017]

UPDATE: Tebow is assigned to the Class-A Columbia [March 21, 2017]

UPDATE: Tebow is promoted to the Class A-Advanced St. Lucie [June 25, 2017]

UPDATE: *Baseball America* reports Tebow's stint with the Fireflies brought the South Atlantic League \$1.6 million in additional revenue [June 29, 2017]

UPDATE: Tebow will miss the rest of the season due to a fractured hamate. In 84 games for AA Binghamton, he was .273/.336/.399 with 6 HRs, 36 RBIs, and 103 Ks [July 24, 2018]

UPDATE: Tebow is engaged to 2017 Miss Universe Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters [January 9, 2019]

UPDATE: Tebow is reassigned to AAA Syracuse. He hit .267 with 4 hits, 1 RBI, and 3 Ks in training camp [March 12, 2019]

UPDATE: Tebow misses the rest of the season due to injury. He was .163/.240 /.255 with 4 HRs, 19 RBIs, and 98 Ks in 77 games [August 10, 2019]

UPDATE: Tebow and Nel-Peters marry in her native South Africa [January 20, 2020]

UPDATE: Tebow - who was .223/.299/.338 with 107 runs, 48 doubles, 3 triples, 18 HRs, 107 RBIs, 5 SBs, and 327 Ks in 287 games - retires from baseball [February 17, 2021]

UPDATE: Tebow signs with the Jacksonville Jaguars as a tight end [May 20, 2021]

UPDATE: After just one pre-season game, in which his flubbed tackle on the Cleveland Browns' Curtis Weaver went viral, the Jaguars cut Tebow [August 17, 2021]

UPDATE: Sam announces he has signed as an assistant coach with the Barcelona (Spain) Dragons [April 11, 2022]

UPDATE: The Dragons add Sam to its roster [June 1, 2022]

UPDATE: Tebow is selected to the College Football Hall of Fame [January 9, 2023]