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**REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE ON  
ALLEGATIONS ARISING FROM THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE  
CHAMPIONSHIP GAME HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2015 AT FOXBORO,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION	3
INTERVIEWS AND INVESTIGATORY METHODS	3
VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE	4
TECHNICAL EVIDENCE	5
CONCLUSIONS	5
RECOMMENDED PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES	6
ITEMIZED INVOICE	7

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Based upon an exhaustive and comprehensive investigation, which has required extraordinary resources and the expenditure of substantial resources, we can state with a reasonable degree of confidence and certainty that it has been determined that the New England Patriots may or may not have altered the game footballs used in the AFC Conference Championship. We fully recognize the import of this conclusion, and that the NFL Executive Office will be compelled to take appropriate and decisive action to ensure that such conduct does not recur and that the integrity of the NFL is maintained to its unimpeachable standards. Accordingly, this report recommends that discipline be taken against the New England Patriots as described below.

## **SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION**

This investigation was comprehensive, thorough, and rigorous in its attempt to uncover the truth regarding the footballs used in the AFC Championship game.

It is first necessary to describe the assignment of the Commissioner in undertaking this investigation. Specifically, Commissioner Roger Goodell transmitted to this firm the following directive outlining the firm's responsibilities:

Based upon allegations made by the Indianapolis Colts regarding the inflation of footballs used in the January 18, 2015 AFC championship game, you shall undertake an investigation to determine a) is there evidence that the New England Patriots used under-inflated footballs in the game, and if not, are there numerous rumors or innuendo which could serve as the basis for such a conclusion? b) in the absence of conclusive evidence, does the final score suggest that Bill Belichick and/or Tom Brady have mastered some form of witchcraft or otherworldly powers, which must be curbed by adoption of new NFL rules? c) regardless of the actual conduct uncovered during this investigation, and given the rest of the League's evident antipathy for the Patriots, would the NFL be well served by imposing discipline against the Patriots, thereby serving to justify this investigation?

## **INTERVIEWS**

In the course of this investigation, numerous interviews were conducted. We interviewed every member of the Indianapolis Colts and their staff present at the AFC Championship game, as well as the referees and other officials, members of the press and other journalists, hotdog vendors, cheerleaders<sup>1</sup> and medical personnel. In view of the scope of these interviews, it was felt that interviewing any member of the Patriots team or staff would be redundant.

The interview of Colts General Manager Ryan Grigson was intended to focus on the allegations regarding the inflation of the footballs, but at the time of the interview Mr. Grigson seemed to

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<sup>1</sup>several cheerleaders were interviewed multiple times by members of our firm. Due to the length of the interviews, several were held at local hotels.

suffering from a psychotic episode, as all he would say in response to questions was “Trent Richardson’s not my fault! It’s not my fault!”

Based on media reports, we also interviewed Ravens head coach Jim Harbaugh, who reportedly advised Mr. Grigson about the ball inflation issue. Mr. Harbaugh was rather flustered, and advised that he did not have time for an interview as he was reading the NFL rulebook, and insisted that he wouldn’t put it down until he could find a rule prohibiting eligible receivers from becoming ineligible receivers.

In addition, a final interview was conducted with former Jets coach, Rex Ryan (now coach of the Buffalo Bills). Although Ryan’s team did not make the playoffs, and he had no role in the playoffs whatsoever, Mr. Ryan called our offices every day for three weeks insisting that he be interviewed. In order to free up our phone lines, we granted this request. Although Ryan had no substantive information to offer with to the allegations examined in this report, he felt that it was essential to advise us that the Bills would contend for the AFC East title and that LeSean McCoy would lead the AFC in rushing. Mr. Ryan was politely asked to leave our office, but respectfully declined until he was provided lunch. To the best of our knowledge, he is still there.

## **VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

The investigation revealed extensive video and photographic evidence. Several pieces of evidence raise serious questions as to whether or not the Patriots were paying strict adherence to NFL rules and procedures. Game film revealed the following suspicious conduct:

Patriots player no. 29, who ran for 148 yards and scored three touchdowns, was not on the Patriots roster as of the beginning of the NFL season. While in-season transactions are permitted by NFL rules, it is the generally accepted practice among NFL coaches that they will not and should not sign any free agent players who will substantially upgrade the team’s ability to score touchdowns. This custom has evolved among almost all NFL coaches, due to their general inability to competently evaluate talent and the NFL’s desire to promote parity. While it is technically not a rule violation to sign a player of exceptional skill after the season has commenced, it appears that Coach Belichick is deliberately avoiding this practice for the sole purpose of enhancing his team’s ability to win games.

We retained an expert lip reader to determine if there were conversations during the game that would have referenced the alleged under inflation of footballs. This expert, who has a Masters degree in Lip Reading, was asked to review the entire game tape. The lip reader indicated that while face masks made the lip reading process more difficult, there was one particularly troubling incident on tape. Our lip reader was concerned about a conversation Tom Brady had with Julian Edelman in the second quarter. Based upon our expert analysis, he concluded that Brady said to Edelman “Jules, good thing we deflated those balls, don’t you think?” In fairness, it should be noted that the lip reader also thought there was a slim possibility that Brady actually said “Jules, great catch buddy,” but we have discounted the latter possibility because that seems to be a highly unlikely phrase to be used in an actual football game.

There have also been several reports about video of a locker room attendant on the Patriots staff taking a bag of footballs into a bathroom for approximately ninety seconds, and then emerging with the bag and going to the field. Our investigatory staff regards this behavior as highly suspicious. We examined this bathroom in question, which had been scrubbed clean after the game. This raises the rhetorical question, “if the Patriots had nothing to hide, why was the bathroom cleaned after the game?” The record to this point reveals no satisfactory explanation.

## **TECHNICAL EVIDENCE**

The investigation required a baseline analysis, in order to establish with certainty the initial evidence being examined. Each of the game footballs was carefully examined using an infrared spectrometer, a gas chromatograph and a radiofrequency spectrum analyzer. After a rigorous examination using these devices, we concluded with 100% certainty that these were, in fact, footballs.

Fingerprint evidence is widely accepted in courts and other judicial venues throughout the world, so we determined to conduct a thorough fingerprint examination of the footballs in question. It should be noted in this regard that the footballs used by the Patriots had the Patriots team players’ fingerprints literally all over the footballs. This appears to be fairly demonstrative evidence in support of the allegations against the Patriots. In other words, if the Patriots, did not intentionally deflate the footballs, then why are there fingerprints of the Patriots on the footballs? If the footballs we examined had no fingerprints, then certainly that would serve as evidence to exonerate the Patriots. However, virtually none of the footballs were free of fingerprints. In fact, several footballs showed evidence of scuff marks, and other evidence of harsh treatment. This clearly points to tampering of the footballs.

In order to ensure that we were utilizing the latest technical evidence procedures, we consulted with the producers of the television show, “CSI.” They pointed out that they merely produced a show depicting fictional situations, and their technical expertise was entirely based on research and investigations produced by actual experts. Accordingly, we considered that avenue a dead end and did not pursue it any further.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Before reciting any final determinations or recommendations, it is absolutely necessary to note that no party should jump to any conclusions without carefully evaluating and weighing all of the evidence in the case. Having said that, we believe that the evidence conclusively and positively indicates an outcome of absolutely certainty: that the New England Patriots, specifically persons within the organization, may or may not have intentionally deflated the footballs used in the AFC championship. We have reached this conclusion through a full examination of the evidence outlined herein, and we confidently stand behind this conclusion.

While the evidence stated in this report raises dubious questions as to the means utilized by the Patriots during football games, we cannot exclude the possibility that the Patriots are using devices and techniques unavailable to the NFL at large; specifically, there are appears to be no

reasonable explanation for the Patriots continued dominance in the NFL, and particularly in the AFC East, other than invocation of supernatural powers and authority. We believe that this is the only reasonable conclusion. Examples abound of circumstances that can only be ascribed to such powers. No other team in the NFL even conceived of turning a Kent State quarterback (the aforementioned Mr. Edelman) into an uncoverable wide receiver. Likewise, the notion that Tom Brady would go undrafted until the sixth round, and then be selected by Coach Belichick, and then become an all time great, clearly suggests the presence of powers far beyond the ken of mortal humans. Finally, the score of the AFC Championship game demonstrates that the Patriots must have relied upon other worldly powers. Having listened to the announcers descriptions of the talent of Andrew Luck, it is unreasonable to assume that the Patriots could have formulated a game plan defense that would utterly dominate the Colts. Hence, Mr. Grigson's suspicions are bound to be warranted.

The specific supernatural powers being relied upon by the Patriots are undetermined at this point. Based upon a review of the scientific literature,<sup>2</sup> we believe it to be a combination of witchcraft, voodoo and some form of local black magic, which works only in Foxboro.

### **RECOMMENDED PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES**

It has been assumed from the outset of this assignment that the NFL would elect to impose severe penalties upon the Patriots, due to the Patriots being the Patriots. We have been asked to render an opinion as to whether or not any punishment should be proportional to the offense, and our opinion is that proportionality is not required where the Patriots are concerned. In fact, it is our view that the NFL would be well served by imposing such harsh discipline that the Patriots are effectively brought down to the level of the rest of the NFL. While this may seem unfair to some, it is clear that the Patriots have brazenly disregarded the NFL's attempt at achieving parity, and have acted on a basis that can only be described as self-serving. Essentially, the Patriots appear to value rings and championships over popularity, and the NFL should clearly and unambiguously discourage such conduct.

The following penalties are recommended to be imposed:

- a.) each player should be required to read Rex Ryan's new book, "Striving for mediocrity."
- b.) any future trades shall be approved in advance by Ryan Grigson.
- c.) The Patriots shall only be allowed to select draft picks in the future from Division II schools (if the Patriots win the Super Bowl next year despite this restriction, then in future drafts they will be restricted to drafting from high schools).
- d.) Tom Brady will have to play every fourth quarter blindfolded.

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<sup>2</sup>National Enquirer and Weekly World News

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## **INVOICE**

Roger Goodell  
National Football League  
345 Park Ave #5  
New York, NY

For services rendered,  
Amount due: Loads and loads of money

Itemization of hours expended:  
Hours by Partners: Lots  
Hours by Associates: Lots more

Expenses:  
Estimated copying, postage, stapling: big bucks

It has been our pleasure serving you. Please return your payment with a check. Have a nice day!