

Watching vs. playing a **SPORT**



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“Did you hear about Oscar’s amazing goal in the first half of the Chelsea vs. Manchester City game?”

“What do you know? You don’t even play soccer.” If you’ve ever fielded a comment like this one, you are not alone.

All throughout my childhood, I’d had little to no interest in soccer despite my dad and brother’s attempts to show me the sport. I even remember being put into a soccer camp as a toddler and crying enough to get picked up early.

But it was not easy to avoid the sport when I was constantly attending my brother’s soccer games and hearing my family’s conversations about it. So I picked up information about it here and there but only about enough to get me through watching the World Cup every four years.

Then the summer before my freshman year, NBC Sports started airing the Barclays Premier League, which is England’s (or arguably the world’s) most competitive soccer league. This may not seem that interesting but it was a big step in increasing the popularity of the soccer all over America, since unlike most of the world it’s not the dominant sport.

My dad introduced me to all 20 of the different teams and some top players and day by day I learned to like it more. I realized there’s a lot more to watching a sport than just knowing a few people on the best teams.

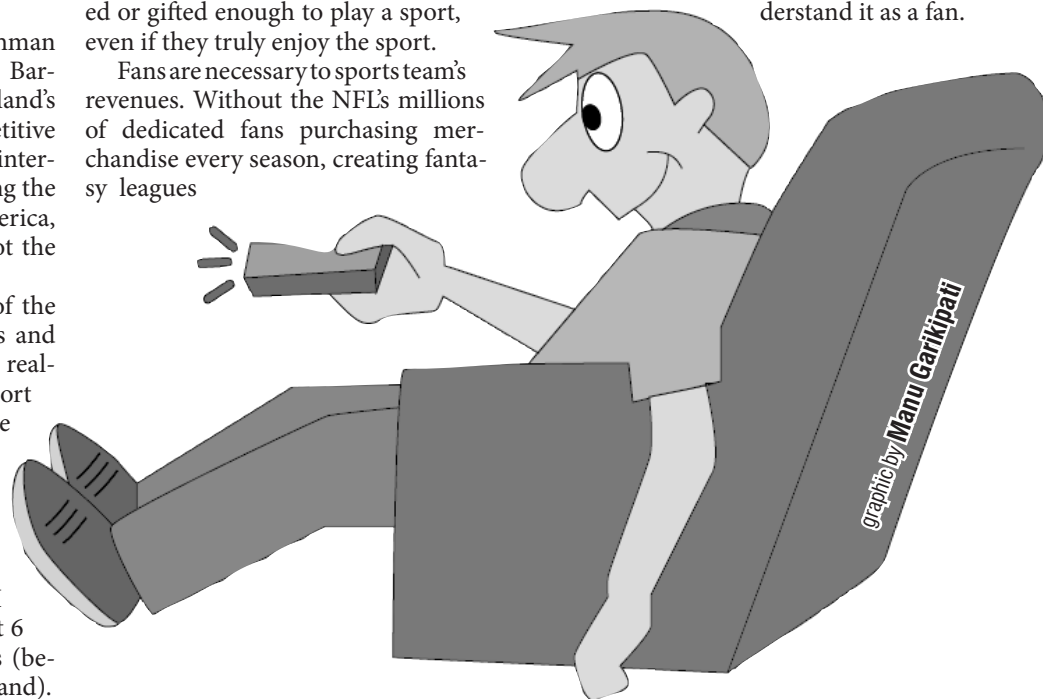
And now, two years after my initial introduction to soccer, I consider myself very knowledgeable. I know the team dynamics, managers and stadiums of over twenty teams. I even have the discipline to wake up at 6 a.m. some mornings to watch games (because of the time difference with England).

A majority of students at Coppell High School attend football games or participate in the game by some means every Friday night in the fall and be effective fans, without having any prior background playing football. Not everyone is athletically talented or gifted enough to play a sport, even if they truly enjoy the sport.

Fans are necessary to sports team’s revenues. Without the NFL’s millions of dedicated fans purchasing merchandise every season, creating fantasy leagues

and most importantly attending games, it wouldn’t be nearly as successful as it is now.

No one cares or knows more about a team than loyal fans. Whether someone plays the sport or not is irrelevant to how much they support and understand it as a fan.



To the beat of my **OWN DRUM**

Why music shaming needs to be stopped



written by **Aisha Espinosa**
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Most people have a favorite song, or a favorite artist. Whether it be some song on the Billboard Top 40, or by an obscure artist that only a handful of people know, people have lyrics they connect to, or songs that they have stuck on permanent repeat.

But, we as a society have let a new type of judging become more prevalent - music shaming. In short, it is the act of criticizing someone for having a different taste in music.

People have always had music tastes that differ from what is popular. No two people are going to like the exact same types of music, just like no two people agree on every little thing. And while some people chalk it up to teenagers being teenagers, music shaming goes a little deeper.

It criticizes people for liking their favorite band or artist - in essence, the music that sounds good to their ears. Our favorite choices stem from what sounds and lyrics we connect with the most, making music an inherently personal thing. Music pat-

terns that appeal to us are not necessarily a choice that we make. According to an article by The Guardian, we like music based on dissonance levels and chords in a song.

We also connect to lyrics - one line may take us back to a really good childhood memory, or a night out with friends that left us feeling invincible.

Because music is so personal, being judged for taste in music has a little more sting. I have been on the receiving end of more than a few “oh you listen to them?” or “who even listens to them?” comments. Hearing your favorite artist insulted in front of you, or having stereotypes made about you because you listen to a certain band leaves you feeling low.

Music shaming is juvenile, hurtful, and overall, pointless. It does nothing but create points of dislike between people, when music itself is such a powerful connector.

Sharing a mutual love for NEEDTO-BREATHE let me connect with a couple of college students at the last concert I attended. My best friend’s roommate and I forged a new friendship because we love the same artist, and have supported her from the beginning of her career.

So the next time you ask someone what music they like, curb your initial reaction and take the time to actually listen to a song or two before you judge. Who knows? Maybe you’ll make a new friend, or find a new favorite artist to add to your playlist.

