

# The Thielensian



## Colin's Culture Corner: Music Moments in Sports

By: Colin Schroyer

Feb. 17, 2025

### Kendrick Lamar Surprises at Super Bowl Halftime Show

Grammy award-winning music artist and rapper Kendrick Lamar took the field and performed during the Super Bowl Halftime Show on February 9.

While the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs were off doing their own thing, one artist prepared to perform in what would be one of the most controversial Halftime Shows in recent history.

Lamar began with a segment of a yet-to-be-released song before going into a selection of songs across his recent discography. Throughout the performance, he teased his 2024 smash single, "Not Like Us," before ultimately rapping the Grammy-winning track.

The halftime show featured several surprise guests, including "Uncle" Samuel L. Jackson, musical artist SZA, who sang a duet with Lamar on "Luther" and "All the Stars," professional tennis player Serena Williams, who was seen crip walking during Lamar's "Not Like Us," and finally, DJ Mustard.



*Kendrick Lamar. Credit: Cindy Ord.*

Lamar, having spent the prior year in a brutal, heated, then massacre-like rap beef with music artist Drake, got to celebrate in what was essentially a victory lap by performing the climax of the rap battle on the biggest stage in the world. Not to mention, that rivalry is the very reason Williams appeared as one of the guest stars: she was one of Drake's exes.

Many expressed their disappointment online, considering the performance lackluster or "one of the worst." Others believed it to be poignant, powerful, and entertaining political commentary from a top-of-his-game contemporary musical artist.

Long before Kendrick took to the stage, the NFL supposedly issued an

apology for their decision, calling it a "mistake." The apology was to musician, rapper, and New Orleans native Lil Wayne, whom they believed would have been a better fit for that year's halftime show. Though this was a minor detail, it contributed to the controversy surrounding the show.

### "Party Rocking" Musician Makes Professional Tennis Debut

Stefan "Redfoo" Gordy, one-half of the "Party Rock Anthem" musical duo LMFAO, has officially begun his professional tennis career, debuting in an Egyptian tennis event in February 2025.

Gordy, 49, participated in the International Tennis Federation's...

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...M15 Sharm El Sheikh tennis tournament, which lasted from late January into early February. During his first match, he won 6-0 — a score which is affectionately referred to as a “bagel.” However, in the subsequent round against Norwegian tennis player Leyton Rivera, he lost during the 43-minute match: 6-1, 6-0.

The rapper took the loss with grace

and sportsmanship, wishing Rivera the best post-match, as he shared in a video on Instagram afterward, captioning: “I lost the match, but this was my best point. Good match and good luck, @leytonrivera #M15.”

During the 2010s, Gordy dated Victoria Azarenka, the then #1 ranked women's tennis player in the world, making himself omnipresent at tennis matches during this timeframe.

In 2013, Gordy took part in the US

Open qualifying tournament in an attempt to start his career but did not make it far at the time. Now — 11 years since that first shot, and nine since his last time on the competitive court during a California Sectional qualifying tournament — he's giving it another shot after this hiatus.

Gordy's future tennis career is uncertain, but based on how it has gone, it will certainly be one of hope.

## College Basketball Update and March Madness Preview

By: Ben Collins

Feb. 17, 2025: In the middle of February, College Basketball is beginning to heat up, and tournament time is right around the corner.

March Madness is one of the biggest sporting events of the year. It starts with a conference tournament and *Thiel College Women's Basketball Seniors*.

continues into the 64-team national tournament beginning in mid-March. A school could win as many as 8 games to win their conference and ultimately win the National Championship in early April.

The University of Connecticut has won back-to-back national titles in 2023 and 2024, along with winning the Big East Conference.

Despite that, The Huskies are currently unraked in the latest Associated Press top 25 that was released on Tuesday, February 11th.

The Southeastern Conference (SEC) has dominated the poll all season, with Auburn currently ranked #1, Alabama ranked #2, and Florida ranked #3. A couple of other SEC teams have cracked the top 25 as



well, those being Tennessee, Texas A&M, Kentucky, Ole Miss, and Mississippi State. St. Johns in New York is one of the teams quickly on the rise in the Big East. The Red Storm, currently ranked #8 and led by former Louisville head coach Rick Pitino, are 21-3 on the season and one of the betting favorites...

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## College Basketball Update and March Madness Preview

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...to make the Final Four and have a shot at the National Championship.

For the National Tournament, each conference champion will automatically qualify; the rest of the field will be built up by At-Large-Bids, which depends on the performance of the team and the conference's prestige. Though winning the conference gets you an automatic bid, that does not mean it is an automatic 1 seed in the tournament. For instance, North Carolina State was a 9-seed in the ACC tournament and went on to win; they were granted an 11-seed in the tournament but went on to make the Final Four.

Current teams who seem to be favorites and conference leaders are Florida Gulf-Coast in the Atlantic Sun, Bryant in the America East, #14 Memphis in the AAC, George Mason in the Atlantic 10, #4 Duke in the ACC, #6 Houston in the Big 12, #8 St. John's in the Big East, Northern Colorado in the Big Sky, High Point in the Big South, #7 Purdue in the Big 10, California Irvine in the Big West, Townson in CAA, Jacksonville State in Conference USA, Cleveland State in the Horizon, Yale

in the Ivy League, Merrimack in the MAAC, Akron in the MAC, Norfolk State in the MEAC, Drake in the Missouri Valley, New Mexico in the Mountain West, Central Connecticut in the Northeast Conference, Little Rock in the Ohio Valley, America University in the Patriot League, #1 Auburn in the SEC, Samford in the Southern, McNeese State in the Southland, Southern in the SWAC, Omaha in the Summit League, Arkansas State in the Sun Belt, St. Mary's in the West Coast, and Utah Valley in the WAC.

Most of these schools are returning tournament teams, including most of the smaller mid-major squads. Some, though, are searching for their first tournament appearance in school history. Making the final 64-team tournament means a great deal to the smaller teams because they have to win their conference title just to qualify.

What makes this tournament special is the chance for a smaller team to make a "Cinderella" run and upset some of the bigger teams. In 2022, St. Peter's became the lowest seed ever to make the "Elite 8," and in 2018, Loyola Chicago made the Fi-

nal Four as an 11-seed. Last season, 14-seed Oakland in the Horizon League upset Kentucky and shocked a lot of brackets. Making the tournament also puts the smaller teams on a national scale as far as TV rights. It gives the Institution an opportunity to make itself known and give the campus publicity.

Filling out brackets is one of the most exciting ways fans can engage in the tournament. The chances of a perfect bracket are incredibly low and brackets busting often makes for the most interesting tournament in the world. Though making a bracket can be stressful, the fun of winning their bracket and often having minimal knowledge of college basketball. Anyone can make a bracket and win. Choosing teams in any way you choose can be just as successful as choosing the top teams to make an expected run to the finals.

With the college basketball season starting to heat up, many sports fans are intrigued by the tournament and who will be the top teams in the tournament. The schools are looking to make a name for themselves and potentially win the championship at the end of the season.

# Current Events

## Artist 'Ye' Facing Controversy Amid Remarks Made on His Social Media Over the Weekend

By: Robert Doyle

February 2025: Ye went on a week-end-long rant on X about a myriad of topics, which led his talent agency to drop him as an artist.

Over the weekend, Ye made a slew of controversial remarks on his X account, his antisemitic views being the most discussed topic of his rants. The two most liked posts were released on February 7th at approximately 6 a.m., one saying, "I LOVE HITLER NOW WHAT B\*\*S," and the other saying, "IM A NAZI." Ye also began to post pornographic material, which would force X to intervene and shut down his account. Owner of X, Elon Musk, commented, "Given what he has posted, his

account is now classified as NSFW [not safe for work]. You should not be seeing that anymore." These posts, among others, led Ye's talent agency, 33 & West, to drop him with Daniel McCartney saying, "His working relationship with West was over... effective immediately ... due to his harmful and hateful remarks that myself nor 33 & West can stand for".

Ye paid for an ad during Super Bowl LIX that drew similarities to the last ad he had in the big game: He claims he spent all the money for the commercial on getting the spot and must record it on his phone. He then promotes his website and tells people to go to it and buy merchandise. The

major difference in this year's ad is what products were being sold on his website: a white T-shirt with a black swastika on it.

His online store was taken down after Ye sold t-shirts with a swastika on them. Shopify, the company that provides Ye with his website, states that "All merchants are responsible for following the rules of our platform. This merchant did not engage in authentic commerce practices and violated our terms."

This follows Ye and his wife Bianca Censori's attire at the Grammys. Censori had a fur coat with just a minidress underneath, rendering her practically naked. Ye's response to this whole situation was a post on X saying, "I have dominion over my wife."

Ye has had a history of making controversial statements in his past, with 2022 being a year where Ye's comments reached new shocking levels. In October of the same year, West wore a "White Lives Matter" t-shirt to his fashion show in Paris. The phrase had been adopted by a...

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Kanye West.

# Current Events

## Artist 'Ye' Facing Controversy Amid Remarks Made on His Social Media Over the Weekend

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neo-Nazi group mocking the phrase "Black Lives Matter." Celebrities like Jaden Smith quickly condemned Ye's actions, leaving his fashion show early and stating, "If I Don't Feel The Message I'm Out. Black Lives Matter."

Ye followed up these antics with his

controversial antisemitic statements made on X a week later, stating that he was, "going death con 3 on Jewish people." This led to Adidas ending their partnership with Ye, affirming that the brand, "brand does not tolerate hate speech."

Ye then told podcast host Alex Jones that there are, "a lot of things that I

love about Hitler." Ye would apologize in 2023 on social media, saying, "I sincerely apologize to the Jewish community ... It was not my intention to hurt or demean, and I deeply regret any pain I may have caused." Ye made a post during his rant on X that said, "I'm never apologizing for my Jewish comments ... I'm calm as ice. This is how I really feel."

## PlayStation Network Experiences 20-Hour Outage



*PlayStation.*

By: Mason F. Adams

Feb. 7, 2025: The PlayStation Network experienced a full outage, making games on PS4 and PS5 inaccessible.

Sony's popular gaming network, PSN (PlayStation Network), was

out for over 20 hours. This outage made it impossible to access online games such as Call of Duty: Black Ops 6 and Fortnite and offline games that players had digital copies of, such as God of War.

The outage caused gaming for players on PS4 and PS5 without disc drives effectively impossible.

Kaden Drew, a gamer on Thiel's campus, said the following: "It sucks, and I hope people's data didn't get leaked. Sony needs to get their s\*\*t together."

The last time Sony had an outage this long occurred in 2011, when the network was down for 23 days as a result of a cyber security breach. Many people wonder if another security breach caused this outage as well. The difference was that people were still able to play games during this time, because in 2011, Sony's flagship console was the PS3, which required a hard copy of the disc to play the game. Sony has given all PS Plus members an extra five days of service to all users. Sony's official statement on the issue was the following: "PSN...

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# Activities

## PlayStation Network Experiences 20-Hour Outage

has been restored. You should be able to access online features without any problems now. For more details: [status.playstation.com](https://status.playstation.com). Sorry for the inconvenience!" This response garnered much attention on Reddit, where users were asking for an actual reason for the outage.

Justin Logan, a senior at Thiel, had

the following to say about the outage when interviewed: "I was just trying to play Marvel Rivals. When I turned it on, it wouldn't connect. I tried every one of my games, and the only one that worked was Madden. I went straight to Twitter to find out what was going on, and then I learned there was an outage. I wish

Sony could've given us a definite answer instead of just trying to pretend it didn't happen. I know this isn't the first time that they've had an outage, and I also know Xbox doesn't have these issues. I hope they can resolve the big issue so there are no more *problems*."

## Eagles Beat Chiefs in Super Bowl LIX

By: Jason Walsh II

Feb. 10, 2025: Last night, the Philadelphia Eagles earned their franchise's second Super Bowl title with a 40-22 upset victory over the favored Kansas City Chiefs.

The AFC first-seed Chiefs were 1.5-point favorites going into Sunday's game. However, the NFC second-seed Eagles shut out the Chiefs in the first half.

In the first quarter of the game, the Eagles got off to a hot start with a Jalen Hurts rushing touchdown to go up 7-0. The game's next score was a Jake Elliott 48-yard field goal to put Philadelphia up 10-0. A minute later, Eagles cornerback Cooper DeJean returned a 38-yard pick-six to go up

17-0. The final points of the half came from a 12-yard reception by A.J. Brown to put the Eagles up 24-0.

Through the third quarter, Philadelphia continued to score unanswered with another field goal and touchdown, extending the lead to 34. With 34 seconds left in the third quarter, Kansas City finally found the endzone with a 24-

yard reception from Xavier Worthy. However, they failed to gain the two-point attempt, making the deficit 34-6. As the

fourth quarter began, the Eagles would continue to pile onto their lead with two more Jake Elliot field goals. The final two scores of the game would come from Kansas City. DeAndre Hopkins caught a 7-yard reception, and...

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*DeVonta Smith scoring a touchdown.*



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## Eagles Beat Chiefs in Super Bowl LIX

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...Xavier Worthy caught a 50-yard reception for his second touchdown. Super Bowl LIX ended with a dominating Eagles victory, 40-22.

Eagles Stats: Jalen Hurts (Super Bowl LIX MVP), 17/22, 221 yards passing, 2 touchdown passes, 1 interception, 72 rushing yards, 1 rushing touchdown. Saquon Barkley, 25 carries for 57 yards. DeVonta Smith, 4 receptions for 69 yards, 1 touchdown. A.J. Brown, 3 receptions for

43 yards, 1 touchdown. Cooper DeJean, 3 tackles, 1 interception, 1 touchdown.

Chiefs Stats: Patrick Mahomes, 21/32, 257 passing yards, 3 touchdown passes, 2 interceptions, 25 rushing yards. Kareem Hunt, 3 carries for 9 yards. Xavier Worthy, 8 receptions for 157 yards, 2 touchdowns. DeAndre Hopkins, 2 receptions for 18 yards, 1 touchdown. Travis Kelce, 4 receptions for 39 yards. Drue Tranquill, 7 tackles, 1

sack. Bryan Cook, 3 tackles, 1 interception.

The 2025 NFL Season will kick off on Thursday, September 4th, 2025. Traditionally, the Super Bowl Champion hosts the kickoff game. The 2025 NFL season will then conclude with Super Bowl LX, which will be held on February 8th, 2026, in Santa Clara, California, at Levi's Stadium.

## Major League Baseball's Pitchers and Catchers Report Ahead of Spring Training

By: Jason T. Gerle, Jr.

Feb. 12, 2025: MLB pitchers and catchers have reported to their camps in the Cactus League in Arizona or the Grapefruit League in Florida for the 2025 Spring Training.

As soon as the World Series trophy is presented and even before the parade is over, front offices around the league are talking and calling to find a way to become the next team to raise that trophy. With pitchers and catchers reporting to their respective

facilities, front offices are now under the microscope to see if the right moves have been made to begin the championship march. For the defending champion Los Angeles Dodgers, the mindset is the same but different. LAD is finding a way to stay on top and win the World Series again. Going after and signing a highly touted flame thrower from Japan in Roki Sasaki and a top reliever in Tanner Scoot, along with two-time Cy Young winner

Blake Snell, are moves that will make them favorites to repeat.

The team on the losing side of the Dodgers in the World Series, the New York Yankees, did not sit around and pout after the loss, they...

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## Major League Baseball's Pitchers and Catchers Report Ahead of Spring Training

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...went to work to improve. The Yankees would go out and sign top left-hand pitcher Max Fried, who has that World Series experience, winning in 2021 with the Atlanta Braves. The Yankees would trade for outfielder Cody Bellinger after losing Juan Soto, a top hitter in baseball and a huge factor in their path that led them to the World Series.

Soto would be the story of the early off-season. After speculation of where he would land, he finally decided on December 8th, 2024, when he announced he would stay in New York but as a Met and not a Yankee. Soto signed the biggest contract in baseball history, signing for 15 years and \$765 million. To capitalize on their NLCS appearance last year, the Mets went out to get Soto but also signed back starter Sean Manaea and signed another pitcher in Clay Holmes, who was also with the Yankees last year. The Mets look to come into next year with the energy and momentum they had last year, and adding the bat that Soto has

should make for some exciting moments.

The biggest story right before the start of spring training would be if another top free agent, Alex Bregman, would finally find a place to call home. After multiple rumors and what seems like some near-done deals, Bregman would finally decide on the Boston Red Sox as his home. The Red Sox have made some splashes in the offseason, aside from Bregman when they traded for Garret Crochet, the top pitching arm available for trade. Boston also signed Walker Buhler away from the Dodgers. The Red Sox have had some disappointing end-of-the-season results as of late but now are in the position to compete in their loaded division of the AL East with the Yankees and Orioles.

One of the most disappointing off-seasons by a team would have to be the team south of Greenville, the Pittsburgh Pirates, with arguably the best young player in baseball, former number-one pick, and Rookie of the Year winner Paul Skenes. Some

experts predicted the Pirates to go out and spend a little to try and take the team in the right direction. Unfortunately, the story of the offseason was not good signings. It was fans chanting and putting up billboards that read "sell the team," directed toward Pirates owner Bob Nutting for his mishandling and inability to try and win.

The first baseball game of the 2025 calendar year starts next week, with the defending champion Dodgers taking on the Chicago Cubs on February 20th to open the Cactus League games in Arizona. A day later, the Yankees take on the Tampa Bay Rays to open up the Grapefruit League play in Florida. This is where we get to see new faces in new places. Now, Spring Training does not reveal how each team's season will go, but it gives the fans a look at the potential their team could have.