

We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to give Kaepernick credit. First of all, at the first game he sat during the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Then it occurred to him that maybe sitting seemed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Kneeling can be an act of grace and an act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Kaepernick has, whether people know it or not, raised and/or donated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and millions of dollars to worthy causes. He's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the walk. He's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the community

Part of what's happened is that sports and patriotism and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have been conflated to such an extent that people \_\_\_\_\_ separate out any nuance. No one ever honours schoolteachers or social workers at football games. Only military heroes. Patriotism comes in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ forms. In his own way Colin Kaepernick, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ imperfectly, is doing a patriotic thing, and so too are some of these other players.

Trump went on to say \_\_\_\_\_ "They're ruining the NFL. There's not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hitting. They're 'sissifying' the game." You wonder how many times people who believe that statement have, themselves, been \_\_\_\_\_ in the head. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is clear, and the more it becomes clear that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and brain trauma are linked, it doesn't matter how much you like the game, they are linked, and to deny that is to live in a fantasy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ have to give Kaepernick credit. First of all, at the first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he sat during the anthem. Then it occurred to him that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sitting seemed contemptuous. Kneeling can be an act of grace and an act of respect. Kaepernick has, whether people know it or not, raised and/or donated millions and millions of dollars to worthy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He's walking the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He's involved in the community

Part of what's happened is that sports and patriotism and the flag have been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to such an extent that people can't separate out any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. No one ever \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ schoolteachers or social workers at football games. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ military heroes. Patriotism comes in many forms. In his own way Colin Kaepernick, however imperfectly, is doing a patriotic thing, and so too are some of these other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Trump went on to \_\_\_\_\_\_ that "They're ruining the NFL. There's not enough hitting. They're 'sissifying' the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." You wonder how many times people who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that statement have, themselves, been hit in the head. The science is clear, and the more it becomes clear that football and brain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are linked, it doesn't matter how much you like the game, they are linked, and to deny that is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a fantasy world.



The reaction is universal, including from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NFL owners who have supported and donated to Trump’s campaign and to his inaugural committee. You have not heard a single person within the NFL raise a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in support of what Trump said. One NFL owner said he’s appalled, and now ashamed, that he once introduced Trump at a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Buffalo where he then was a coach. What’s happened here is that what was already an issue - raised primarily by Colin Kaepernick - has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ beyond the specific point that he was trying to make, and now it’s become near-universal disgust with the President’s insulting remarks.

Seventy percent of the players in the NFL, roughly, are African American. Virtually every player who knelt in the initial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of this was black, and the initial impetus from it or for it came from Colin Kaepernick and it was about police brutality and mistreatment of African Americans. The President says that this doesn't have to do with race, but with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but the idea that this doesn’t have something to do with race is preposterous.

The reaction is universal, including from prominent NFL owners who have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and donated to Trump’s campaign and to his inaugural committee. You have not heard a single person \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the NFL raise a voice in support of what Trump said. One NFL owner said he’s appalled, and now ashamed, that he once introduced Trump at a rally in Buffalo where he then was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What’s happened here is that what was already an issue - raised primarily by Colin Kaepernick - has expanded beyond the specific point that he was trying to make, and now it’s become near-universal disgust with the President’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ remarks.

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