

Rawlings Tigers

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The Truth About College Sports All High School Athletes Need To Hear



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Written by [Ryan Rohmiller](#)



2016 Rawlings Tigers Alum and LHP for Stanford University, Erik Miller.

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Recently, one of our high school coaches at our Kansas City-Rawlings Tigers Club reached out to me with a question that he had initially asked his 16U team and wanted to hear my thoughts on as well. Until Coach Zach Olson approached me with this question, I

hadn't put much thought into what it is that defines a college athlete. So, as with any coach faced with an opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences, I decided to turn my response into a blog so I could share it with you and your player(s).

*For high school athletes, I **HIGHLY** recommend asking as many coaches and college athletes this questions as well. Hearing multiple perspectives from a variety of others will help you formulate and strengthen your own perspective, and that's what is the most important. If you can learn and understand what it takes to be a college athlete, then you will be able to better prepare and ready yourself for what's to come.*

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THE QUESTION

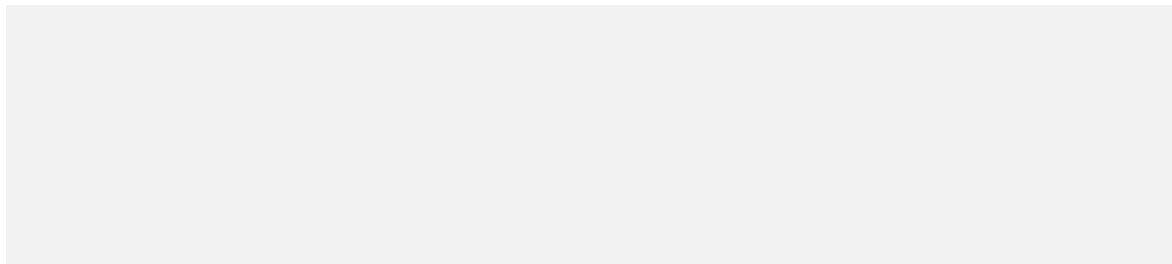
In your own words, explain what it takes to be a college athlete?

Before I dive in, I would like to share a few thoughts leading up to my response.

For high school athletes who are unsure of what it actually takes to be a college athlete, this will seem like a loaded question.

For coaches and parents who want to start this conversation with their player(s), my best advice would be to do so with the purpose of simply planting a seed in their minds in order to get them thinking in the right direction.

Majority of young player's are unaware the gap they will have to cross between high school and college is MUCH, MUCH greater than the gap they are currently crossing between youth baseball (sports) and high school. For as many high school athletes as there are who dream of playing college sports, it does make you wonder what percentage of them have actually invested the time to think about the road ahead and how they plan to position themselves for the best opportunities possible.



Don't let 2019 be a repeat of 2018. Have a purpose every time you're in the cage. [Learn More](#)

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MY RESPONSE

To be a college athlete, it takes a multitude of things above and beyond talent alone. When defining a college athlete, talent is NOT at the top of my list. It's actually closer to the bottom.

Don't get me wrong, talent is a MUST to some extent, but there is a school for any player who truly wants to play college baseball, no matter if their talent level is average or slightly below average. With the right mindset, work-ethic, and coach, anything is possible in regards to developing your strengths and weaknesses. There are opportunities everywhere and Junior Colleges are more than willing to take walk-on's, just as long as the player is willing to work hard and not become a burden.

When you eliminate talent and look deeper into the depths of what it actually takes to be a college athlete, you begin to realize there is a whole lot more to the equation than just being a talented player. It takes being CONSISTENT and GREAT at the unseen areas, or what I would call the Controllables: *Effort, Attitude, Focus, Hustle, Emotions, Communication, and Body Language.*

What separates athletes, is their ACCOUNTABILITY to themselves, their teammates, and the game. Athletes who are DISCIPLINED and have the will to put in the work, day-in and day-out, will have the greatest chances of success along with increased opportunities to play in college. It takes GRIT, PERSEVERANCE, DETERMINATION, a POSITIVE ATTITUDE, FOCUS, and SELF-DISCIPLINE to even put yourself in a position to be a college athlete. It takes CHARACTER and being a good person to be able to accept the role of a college athlete. It takes a player who is not afraid to fail, learn, work hard, succeed, and repeat over and over and over again. It takes a TEAM PLAYER who is willing to SACRIFICE and play for their teammates rather than focusing solely on their own personal successes. Ultimately, it takes a player with a VISION, DREAM, DRIVE, WILLPOWER, and DISCIPLINE to even have success at the college level.

With that being said, you can become a college athlete doing the bare minimum, BUT to even have success as a college athlete and make it through the longevity of a college career, you MUST be willing to go above and beyond the next player. Keep in mind, players who do engage in the bare minimum tend to fade away and hang up the cleats early out of no fault but their own. Being a college athlete is not for everyone, but if you want to be a successful player and have the opportunity to play a college sports, then remember this..

There is always a player somewhere in the world working just as hard if not harder than you, competing for your future starting position in college.

So, now the question is, are you willing to make sure nobody is working harder than you OR are you going to be the player that complains, gets upset, and quits because

you were not willing to do what it takes to reach your full potential?

Being a college athlete takes a PLAN, a PURPOSE, and a player willing to do ANYTHING to succeed, NOT MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

. . .

Thanks for taking the time to read! Best of luck to anyone and everyone willing to attack their goals and dreams head-on. It's not easy, and EXPECT the fight. Ready the mind and prepare physically. Opportunites come once, and you need to make sure you are fully prepared and ready. You'll know when it's your time, just keep on fighting the good fight. -Ryan



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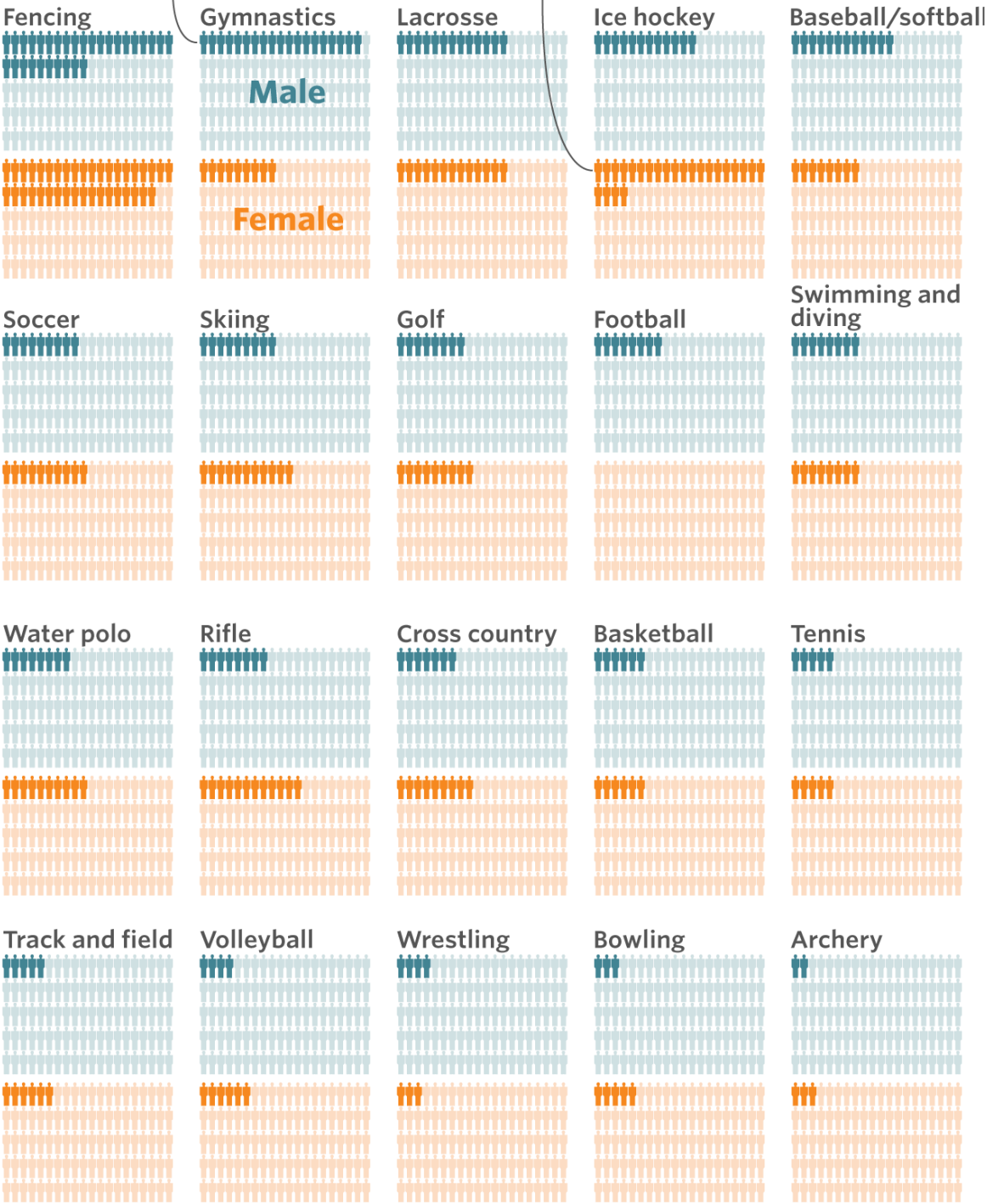
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Chances of playing college sports in the U.S.

Percentage of high school athletes that could compete in college (2015-16)

19 out of 100 male high school gymnasts could compete in college

24 out of 100 female high school hockey players could play in college



Source: ScholarshipStats.com

In case you missed it!

Three of my most recent blogs below on MINDSET and THE ODDS OF SUCCESS.

The Hardest Fight Any Baseball Player Will Ever Have To Face

Written by Ryan Rohmiller

medium.com



The Hardest Fight Any Player Will Ever Have To Face

Part 2: The BIGGEST Regret

medium.com



The Hidden Secrets of Baseball Being Kept From Youth Players For Far Too Long

Written by Ryan Rohmiller

medium.com



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With thousands of players and hundreds of coaches across the country in our [Rawlings Tigers Baseball Club](#), it allows us to not only focus on player development, but also coaches development along with being able to provide coaches the resources needed to not only save time, but also free up time to focus on developing players.

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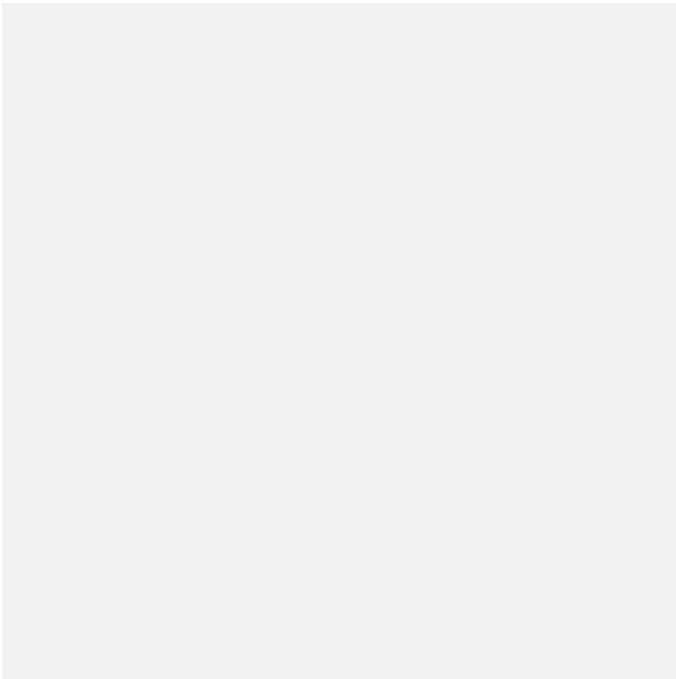
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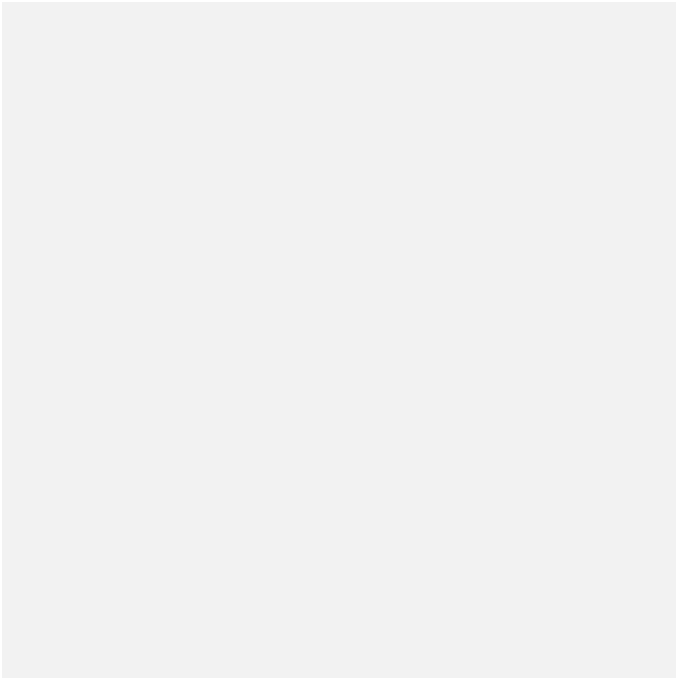
A Brief History of High Five

S M Mamunur Rahman in The Masterpiece



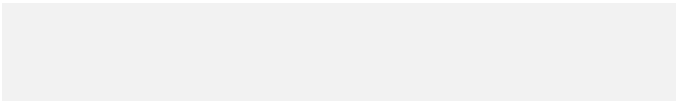
2019 NFL Draft NFC fantasy football fallout

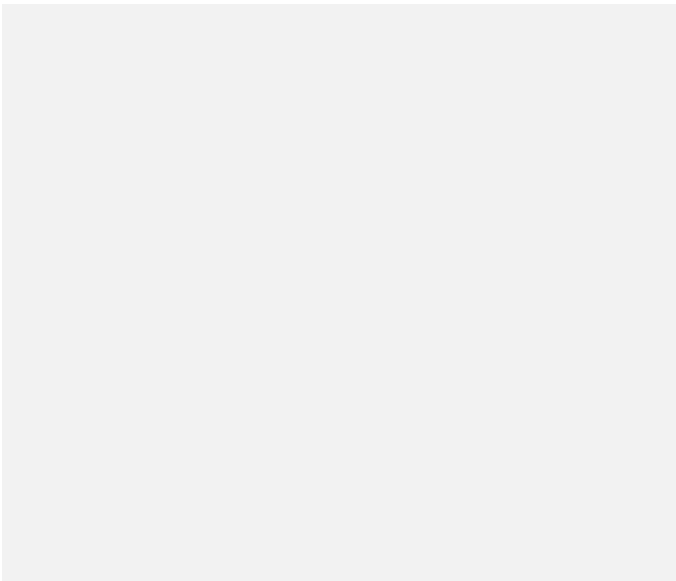
Brandon Anderson



4 Defensive Surprises the Los Angeles Lakers Could Unleash During Playoffs!

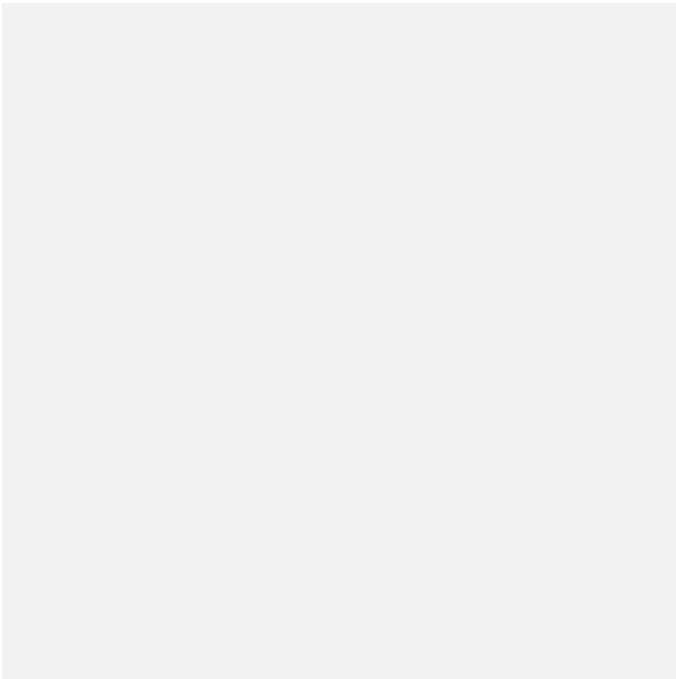
LakerTom





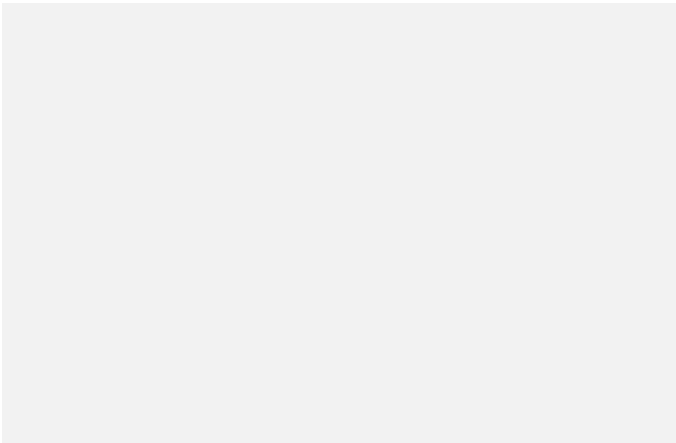
The MLB Manager Who Thought All Games Needed Fistfights

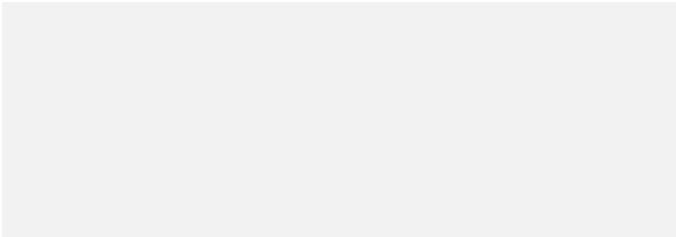
Andrew Martin in SportsRaid



Aaron Brooks Outduels Noh Kyung-eun in the KBO

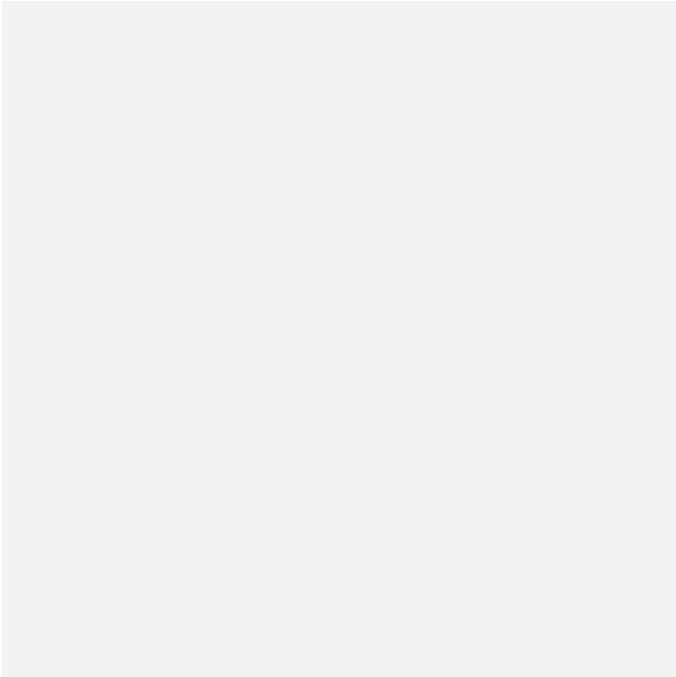
Ben Howell





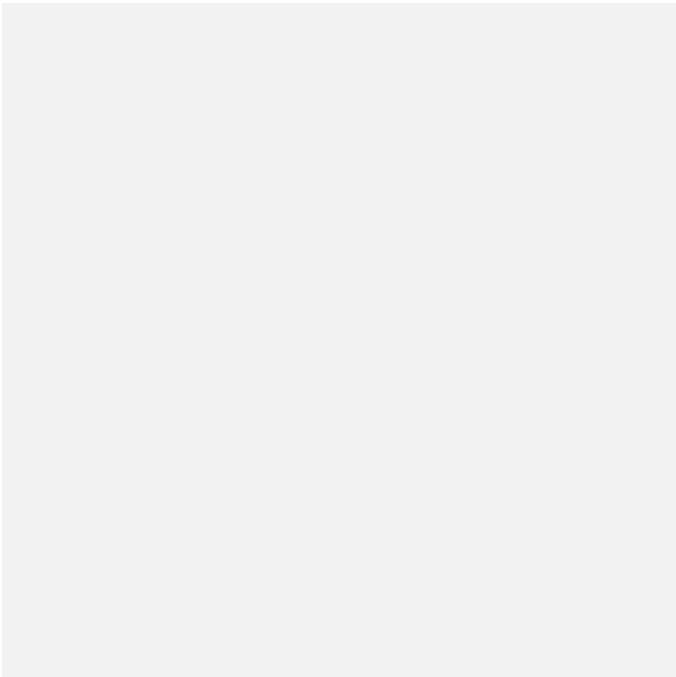
The Fight I'll Never Forget: Ali v. Frazier, March 8, 1971

Mark Morthier



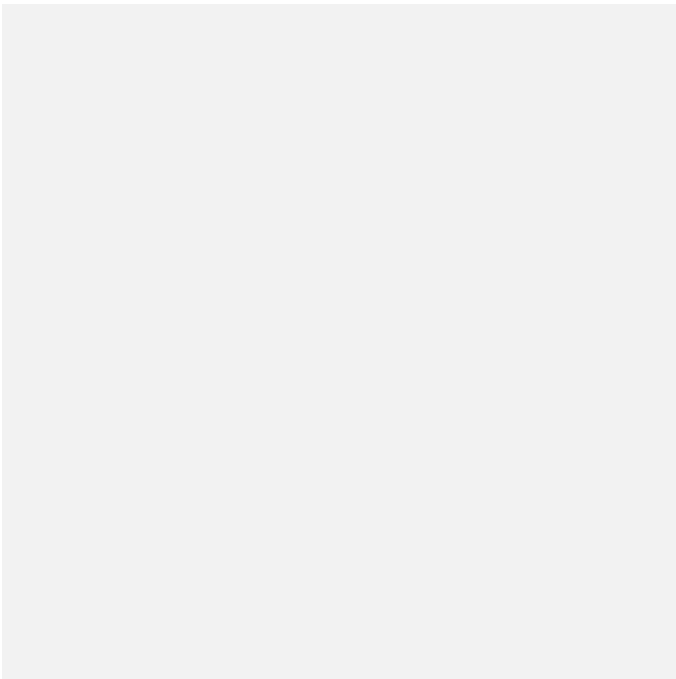
What Team Will Tom Brady Play for in 2020?

Andrew Martin in SportsRaid



The NFL Divisional Round is turning the NFL on its head

Mansur Shaheen



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