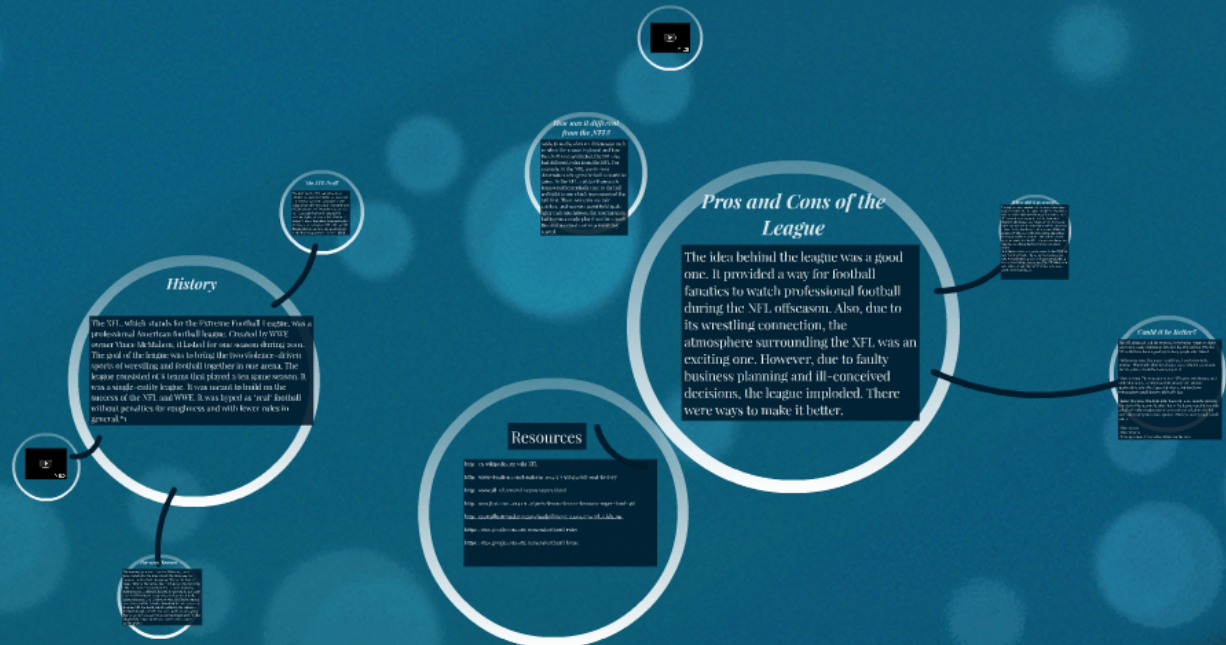


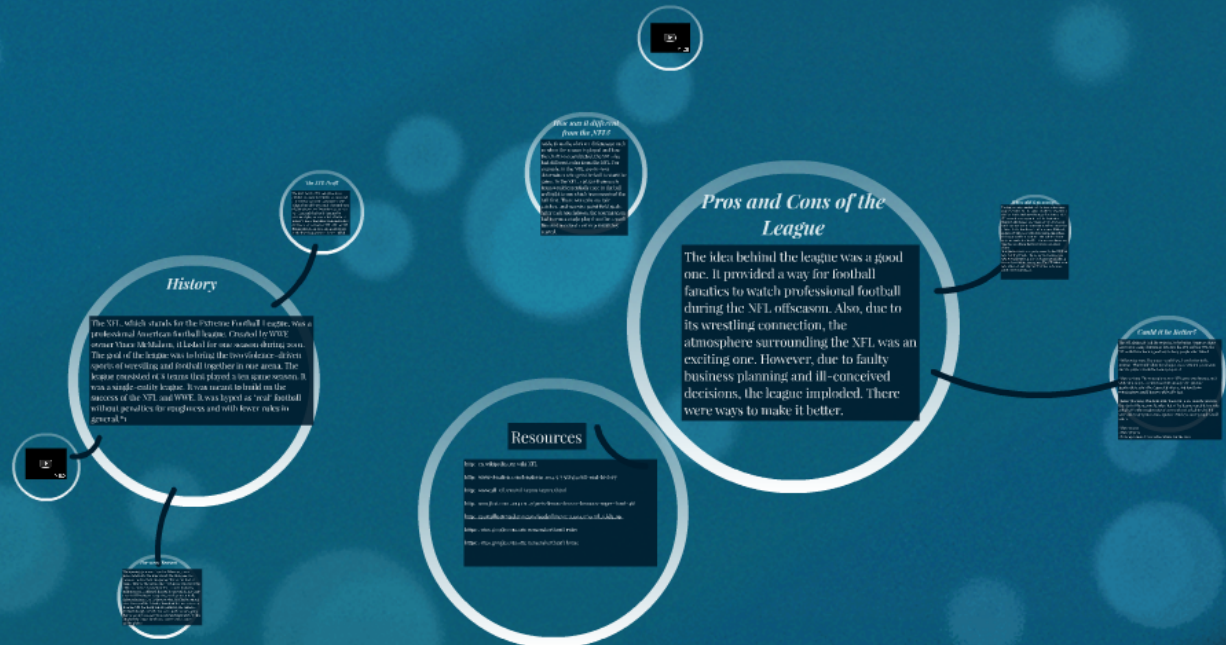


XFL: History of the Sport and How it can be Improved





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History

The XFL, which stands for the Extreme Football League, was a professional American football league. Created by WWE owner Vince McMahon, it lasted for one season during 2001. The goal of the league was to bring the two violence-driven sports of wrestling and football together in one arena. The league consisted of 8 teams that played a ten game season. It was a single-entity league. It was meant to build on the success of the NFL and WWE. It was hyped as "real" football without penalties for roughness and with fewer rules in general.*1



The XFL Draft

The draft for the XFL took place from October 28, 2000 to October 29, 2000 and consisted of 71 rounds. 472 players were selected overall from a pool of around 1000 eligible players. On December 29, 2000, a supplemental draft took place and 15 additional players were selected to the 8 teams. Some of the players selected in this draft were either former NFL, CFL, or NFL Europe players, or went on to play in one of the three leagues once the XFL folded.

The 2001 Season

The opening game was played on February 3, 2001, immediately after the Super Bowl. The first game was between the New York/New Jersey Hitachi and the Las Vegas Outlaws. The game ended with a 40-0 victory for the Outlaws, and was watched on NBC by an estimated 14 million viewers. Although the XFL began with better-than-expected TV ratings for the opening-week games as initially delivered ratings double those of what NBC had promised advertisers and the Saturday broadcast had more viewers than the NFL Pro Bowl and fair publicity, the audience declined sharply after the first week of the season, going from a 9.5 rating to 4.4 in just one week. [4] and the media attacked the league for what was perceived as a poor quality of play.

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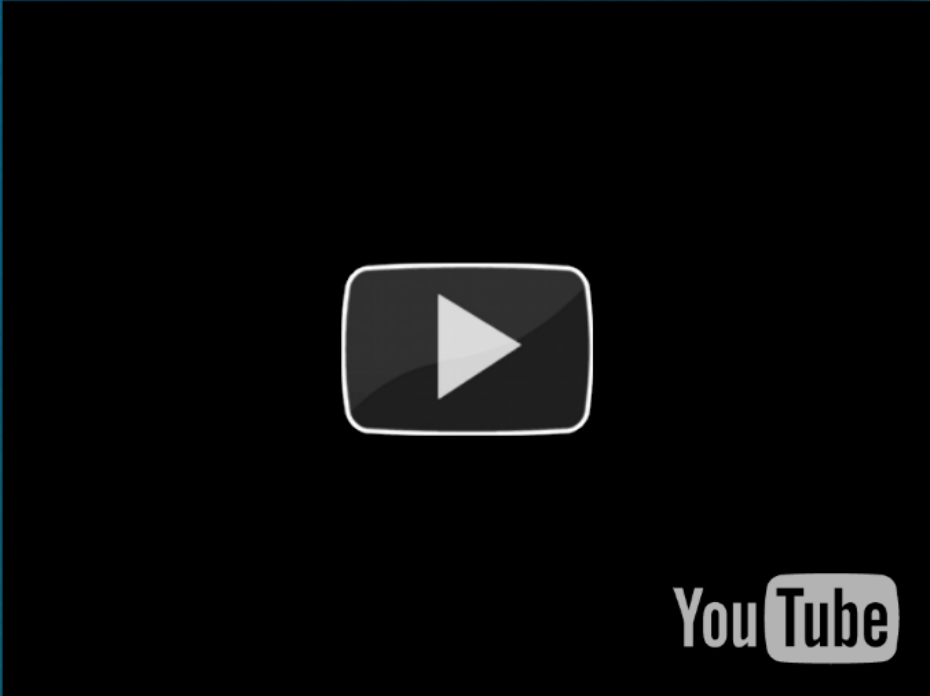
YouTube

The XFL Draft

The draft for the XFL took place from October 28, 2000 to October 30, 2000 and consisted of 59 rounds. 475 players were selected overall from a pool of around 1600 eligible players. On December 29, 2000, a supplemental draft took place and 65 additional players were selected to the 8 teams. Some of the players selected in this draft were either former NFL, CFL, or NFL Europe players, or went on to play in one of the three leagues once the XFL folded.

The 2001 Season

The opening game was played on February 3, 2001, immediately after the Super Bowl. The first game was between the New York/New Jersey Hitmen and the Las Vegas Outlaws. The game ended with a 19–0 victory for the Outlaws, and was watched on NBC by an estimated 14 million viewers. Although the XFL began with better-than-expected TV ratings (the opening-week games actually delivered ratings double those of what NBC had promised advertisers and the Saturday broadcast had more viewers than the NFL Pro Bowl) and fair publicity, the audience declined sharply after the first week of the season, going from a 9.5 rating to a 4.6 in just one week,[9] and the media attacked the league for what was perceived as a poor quality of play.



How was it different from the NFL?

Aside from the obvious differences such as when the season is played and how the draft was conducted, the XFL also had different rules from the NFL. For example, in the NFL, a coin-toss determines who gets the ball to start the game. In the XFL, a player from each team would essentially race to the ball and fight to see which team received the ball first. There were also no fair catches, and no extra point field goals. After each touchdown, the scoring team had to run a single play from the 2-yard line and received 1 extra point if they scored.

Pros and Cons of the League

The idea behind the league was a good one. It provided a way for football fanatics to watch professional football during the NFL offseason. Also, due to its wrestling connection, the atmosphere surrounding the XFL was an exciting one. However, due to faulty business planning and ill-conceived decisions, the league imploded. There were ways to make it better.

Where did it go wrong?

The league was promoted well. As soon as few more people watched the first game, whether it was due to the fact that it aired after the Super Bowl or that the NFL seemed to be a good idea at the beginning. However, due to poor business planning, the league could not maintain its momentum and became seen as a failure by the fourth week of the season. With only six days of business contracts being taken place, the league could not even to make a deal with any major networks besides NBC. Games were shown on Saturday as well and had to compete with other shows.

Also, the fact that it was perceived to be WWE led to better that some of the other taking place was false. It would not be like the league because due to the overly energetic atmosphere. The NFL didn't seem to be able to decide whether it wanted to be more about sport or spectacle.

Could it be Better?

The XFL definitely had the potential to be better. Seeing as there weren't too many differences between the NFL and the XFL, the XFL could have been a good way to keep people entertained.

-Different season. The season would have been better in the summer. This would allow for a longer more efficient preseason and the players would be better prepared.

-More serious. The atmosphere at an NFL game was intense, and while that may be an ideal football atmosphere, profane spectators, overly-the-top celebrations, and long team introductions could become old really fast.

-Better planning. The draft took place only a few months prior to the start of the season. Besides that, if the league was able to strike a deal with other major networks or work out a deal in which it were able to get prime-time spots on Sundays, more people would watch.

-More teams
-More players
-Develop a more immersive culture for the fans.

Resources

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