



# When the Game Stood Tall: Using Sports Scholarship to Understand Cultural Change and Promote Social Justice

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# Background

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Between the NBA's dramatic role in the American Covid-19 shutdown to the emergence of NASCAR's Bubba Wallace as a voice for social justice and work stoppages in support of Black Lives Matter, contemporary sports through its absence or its influence stands at the center of 2020's seismic changes and provides a vehicle for preparing students for future cultural change and social justice movements.





## Session Description

Educating students for the future requires preparing them to engage with cultural changes and social justice. This session examines sports scholarship as a tool for social justice education.

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The Session will

- Examine how to use sports scholarship to explore critical literacy and culture change
- Discuss the role of sports scholarship and social justice; and
- Explore how sports scholarship can motivate students to engage actively in cultural change and social justice movements.







# Teaching Using Sport vs. Sport Scholarship

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- Not just examples
- Critical examinations
- Past and present
- Re-visiting old “myths”
- Using various culture theories





# Research Foundations





# Sports and Society

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Sports functions as a microcosm for society, meaning sports scholarship encourages deeper understanding of cultural change and social justice (Rodesiler and Premont, 2018).



# Sports Scholarship

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- Students often use sports to address their need for heroes (Gahan, 2014).
- Watching sports figures address inequities and other contemporary issues also encourages students to move beyond interest and towards action (Rodesiler, 2017).





# Role of Sports and Athletes

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Scholarly examination allows sports to become a vehicle through which students can explore, analyze, and participate in a changing world (Rodesiler, 2019).





Lessons from the Past- How Many Do  
You and Your Students Know?





# Charles Follis





George Taliaferro





# The Negro League





# Jackie Robinson





Frank Robinson





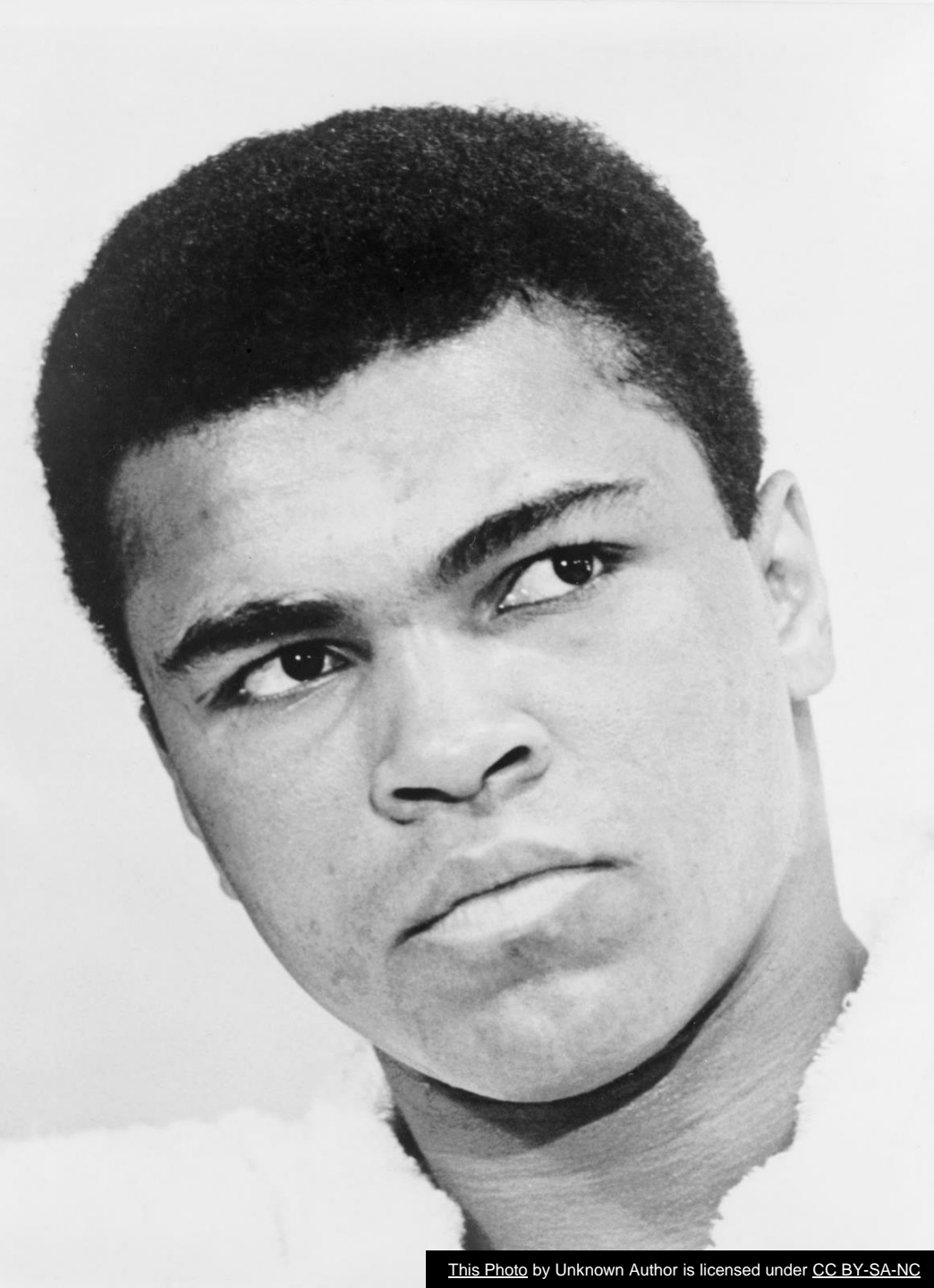
# Roberto Clemente





Curtis Flood





# Cassius Clay/Muhammad Ali



# Tommie Smith and John Carlos





# Wendell Scott





# Accidental Activism



# Vince Lombardi



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# Arthur Ashe



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# Magic Johnson



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# Robin Roberts



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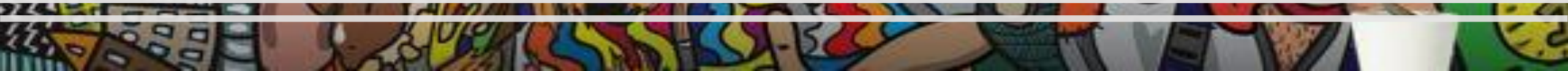


# Stuart Scott



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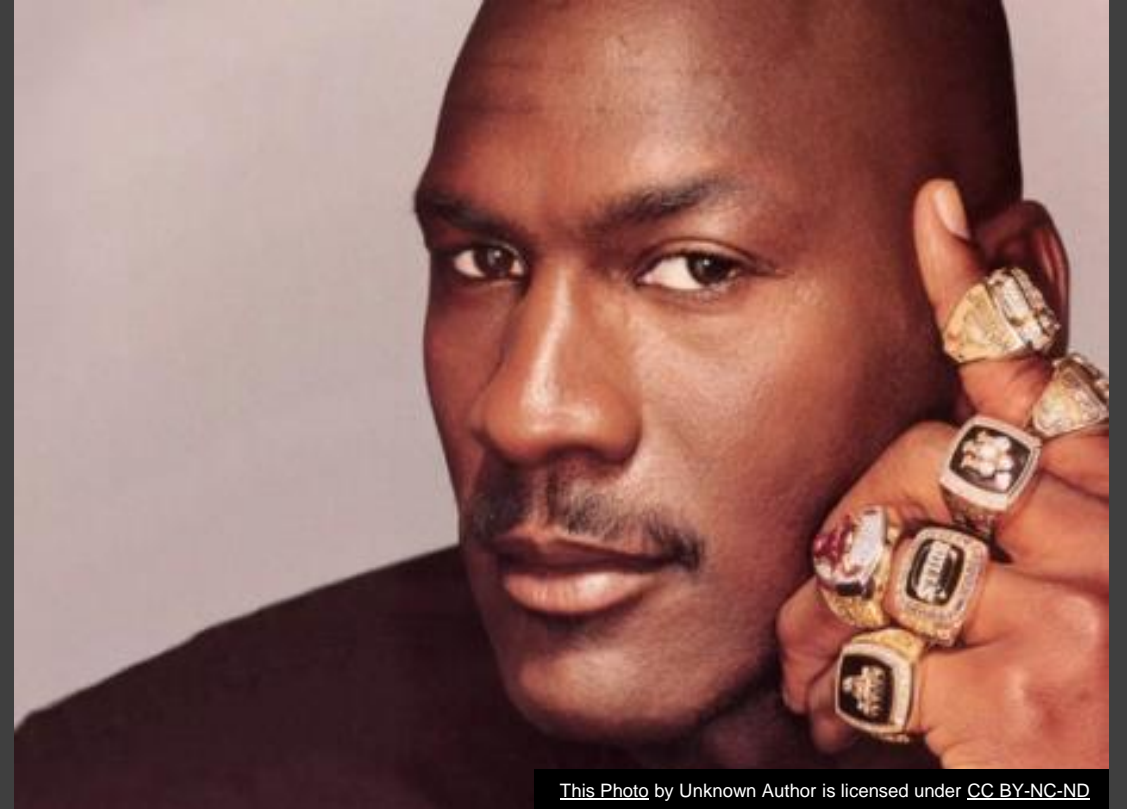




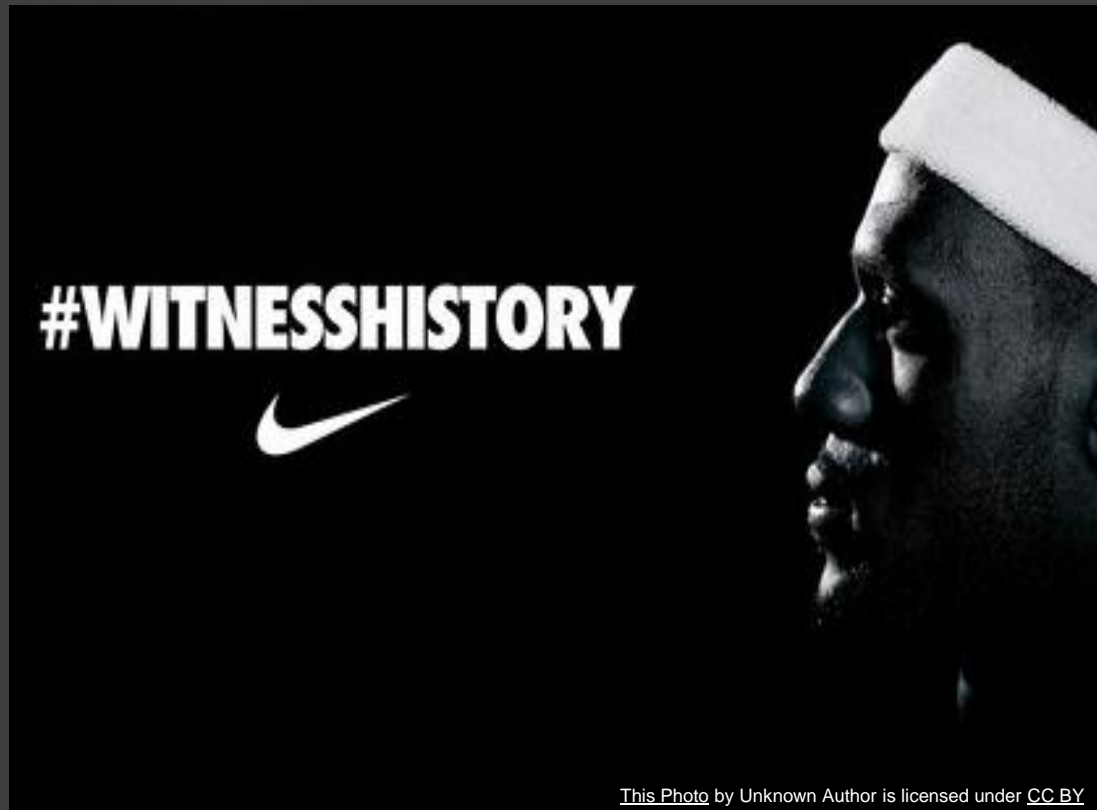
# Why 2020 is Different



# Breaking the “Jordan” Rule and The Curious Case of Colin Kaepernick



# The Hypocrisy of “Shut Up and Dribble”





A photograph of the interior of a large sports arena, likely the Scotiabank Arena. Two large white banners with the words "END RACISM" in bold black capital letters are suspended from the ceiling. Between the two banners is a red graphic of a stylized flame or torch. The arena's seating is visible in the background, and the ice rink is in the foreground. The text "Scotiabank Arena" is visible on the arena's facade.

**END  
RACISM**

**END  
RACISM**

# Major Sports Work Stoppages and Protests



## Other In-Game Visual Protests







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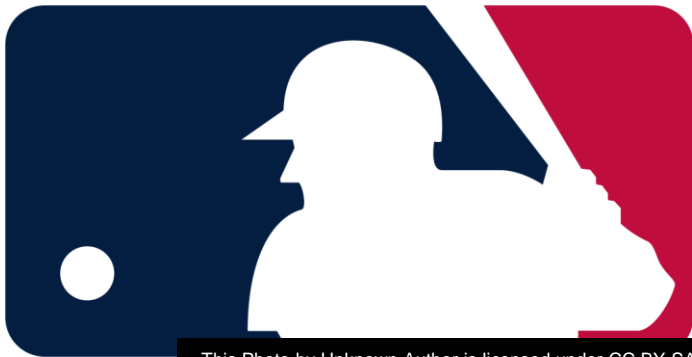


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# Other Voices



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# Agreeing to Listen and Making Changes

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Ideas for Further Study







