

NFL

High School Crisis Committee



Background Guide

Virginia Invitational

V I M  N C

Model United Nations Conference

11th Session

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VIMUNC XI



Esteemed delegates and sponsors of VIMUNC XI,

Welcome to the eleventh annual Virginia Invitational Model United Nations Conference. As the MUN year winds down, we hope to provide the best experience yet, with paramount service and attention to detail that creates the greatest conference. From broad UN organizations to regional bodies, from corporations to criminal organizations, VIMUNC has committees that truly serve every interest. With experienced chairs, czars, and staff, we will ensure that every delegate truly has a positive experience, and we hope that you can enjoy your experience with us.

VIMUNC's 21 committees and over 850 delegates make this year's conference one of the largest editions ever, and we look forward to expanding our outreach across the DMV region to continue to provide a wonderful experience for all delegates. With a large MUN team that has years of experience, we hope that every single minute of the committee is filled with substantive debate that will create learning experiences that last for years to come.

So much hard work has been put into every single crisis update, background guide, and dossier, and we sincerely hope that the work and care placed in each aspect of this conference is displayed in its quality. If at any time you feel something about the conference is unsatisfactory, please don't hesitate to talk to your chairs, a staffer, or a member of the Secretariat.

Thank you so much for your commitment to VIMUNC XI, and best of luck in your committee, future conferences, and ambitions.

Sincerely,
Mei Torrey
Secretary-General, VIMUNC XI

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National Football League

TOPIC A: *Fighting Corruption Allegation*

TOPIC B: *Winning the Big Game*

Overview of the Body

Founded in 1920, the American Professional Football Association (now known National Football League or NFL) is a United States professional football organization. Its first eight teams were the Chicago Bears, the Chicago Cardinals, the Green Bay Packers, the New York Giants, the Boston Braves, the Portsmouth Spartans, the Staten Island Stapletons, and the Brooklyn Dodgers. The first official game of the league occurred on October 3, 1920, featuring the Rock Island Independents against the St. Paul Ideals.

The League was divided into two conferences - the National Football Conference and the American Football Conference. Each conference contains 16 teams split into four divisions based on region - North, South, East, and West. This conference system was introduced in 1970 when the NFL merged with the rival American Football League. During the regular season, teams compete against divisional opponents and conference foes for playoff spots. The four division winners in each conference automatically qualify for the playoffs, along with two wild card teams with the best records. After an

exciting playoff tournament, the NFC and AFC champions meet in the Super Bowl to determine the NFL champion, who takes home the Vince Lombardi Trophy and rings for every player on the winning team's roster. This conference model fosters intense rivalries between teams as they battle for playoff positioning and division titles.

The early era of football in the 1950s and '60s, the "ground and pound era" was defined by tough, grind-it-out run games. Coaches like Vince Lombardi established an emphasis on physicality, discipline, and execution. Running backs like Jim Brown glorified the power running style with their rare combination of speed, strength, and determination. This ground-and-pound approach formed the backbone of offenses during football's formative years. The hard-nosed style of play during this period helped drive football's exploding popularity at both the college and professional levels.

The 1970s through '90s brought about the wide use of Bill Walsh's West Coast offense where teams placed greater emphasis on passing rather than rushing. They were led by revolutionary quarterbacks like Joe Montana, Dan Marino, and Troy Aikman. The pinpoint passing accuracy and coolness under pressure from these hall-of-famers revolutionized the quarterback position. Meanwhile, the idea of "Football dynasties started to take place where the Pittsburgh Steelers (1970s), San Francisco 49ers (1980s), and Dallas Cowboys (1990s) dominated their respective centuries and were consistent contenders for the Lombardi Trophy

In the late 1990s through 2010s, the emergence of Tom Brady and Peyton Manning took quarterback play to new heights. Their skill, leadership, and competitiveness mesmerized fans, while their epic matchups defined a generation. Manning AKA "The Sheriff" was the ultimate field general, while Brady thrived under pressure and showed the world that your draft position simply doesn't matter. Peyton Manning and Tom Brady faced off 17 times during their careers, forging one of the greatest rivalries in NFL history. Their epic matchups in AFC title games often overshadowed the Super Bowl in terms of significance, and together they set new benchmarks for excellence and intelligence from the sport's most

important position. The Manning/Brady era firmly established elite quarterback play as integral to success in the modern NFL.

The 2016 NFL season marked the beginning of the end of an era. After a record-breaking 18-year career finishing with a Super Bowl 50 victory, quarterback Peyton Manning retired, leaving for what some argue, no one to rival the Patriots Quarterback, Tom Brady. Meanwhile, Cam Newton was coming off an MVP 2015 season leading the Carolina Panthers to the Super Bowl. While underperforming in the



big game against Manning, his unstoppable combination of athleticism and arm strength, made him a dual-threat quarterback like the Falcons Legend, Michael Vick. As the new season kicked off, football fans wondered if Newton could repeat his success and if the Broncos could defend their

championship without their future Hall of Fame quarterback. The Patriots were viewed as top contenders as usual, but all eyes were on the Rams as they drafted Jared Goff first overall. With veteran stars moving on and exciting rookies coming in, the 2016 season was shaping up to be an intense one, filled with unpredictability and high-stakes drama.

Current Situation

The Atlanta Falcons were the surprise story of the first half of the 2016 NFL season. Led by MVP-caliber quarterback Matt Ryan, the Falcons offense looked unstoppable. Ryan's precision passing allowed him to maximize the talents of All-Pro wide receiver Julio Jones and create room for the best dual running back core in the lead, led by Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman. Under the aggressive play-calling style of offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, the Falcons developed a pass-heavy, quick-strike attack that overwhelmed opponents. On the other side of the ball, the young Atlanta defense

came off a struggling 2015 season ranked 22nd in the league. Things only got tougher when the Falcons lost top cornerback Desmond Trufant to a season-ending pectoral injury in Week 9. Still, dynamic defensive stars like Vic Beasley made game-changing plays. And with one of the most explosive offenses in NFL history, the Falcons emerged as legitimate Super Bowl contenders, racing out to a 6-2 first-half record and leading the NFC South. At the midway point, only the Dallas Cowboys had a better record at 7-1, as they led the NFC overall.

On the other side of the league, the controversial Deflategate scandal was in full effect. After the 2014 AFC Championship game when allegations surfaced that the New England Patriots had deliberately deflated game balls to gain an unfair advantage over the Indianapolis Colts. A lengthy investigation occurred where the NFL determined that Patriots personnel had improperly tampered with the air pressure of balls, violating league rules. As a result, star quarterback Tom Brady was issued a 4-game suspension to start the 2016 season for his alleged role in the scandal. Despite the lack of concrete evidence and the Patriots organization denying any intentional ball deflation, the suspension was upheld after a 2-year long legal battle. The Deflategate created suspicions about the Patriots bending rules under Bill Belichick and cast a distaste among fans over the team entering the 2016 season.

Yet even without their star quarterback, The New England Patriots once again started the season on fire. Despite the 4 game suspension, the Pats overcame the early season challenge thanks to backup QB Jimmy Garoppolo and a top 5 defense led by linebacker Dont'a Hightower. After a 3-1 start without Brady, the Patriots were the team to beat once the star QB returned in Week 5. With Gronkowski having his quarterback back, the Patriots were an NFL powerhouse once again. New England reeled off four straight wins after his return to establish a 7-1 record and would soon win the AFC's 1st seed for the 7th time in Brady's career.



The 2016 NFL regular season wound down with several teams fighting for playoff spots and division titles. The biggest of the bunch was the Green Bay Packers vs. Detroit Lions - Dubbed as the "NFC North Championship Game," this matchup determined the winner of the NFC North division. Yet while some were fighting for playoff spots, the Patriots fought for the #1 seed beating out the Dolphins in a 35-14 blowout, locking up home-field advantage, and cementing their status as championship contenders. Powered by Brady's precision passing, New England boasted a dominant offense that led the NFL in scoring. In the NFC, Matt Ryan emerged as a leading MVP candidate entering the postseason, leading the Falcons to an 11-5 record and the conference's #2 seeds. But the #1 seed was held by rookie sensation Dak Prescott who was a dominant force on both sides of the ball entering the playoffs. Additionally, the Pittsburgh Steelers ended the season with a 7 game win streak which led some fans to believe they had a shot at the trophy. With the playoff bracket finalized after a thrilling regular season finish, and the Patriots, Chiefs, Cowboys, and Falcons all boasting first round byes, the stage was set for an action-packed postseason.

Topic A: Fighting Corruption Allegations

Topic Background

Entering the playoffs, the tensions between the two top seeds are rising: The Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots. Both teams have been practicing the hardest they have ever practiced, and the coaches are furiously coming up with strategies to destroy the opponent. Aside from the teams themselves, multiple allegations have come up from a former referee who wanted to stay anonymous stating that he refused to change the outcome of the game and favor

one team over another which has resulted in his firing. While the NFL profusely denies these allegations, fans across the nation are demanding an answer.

The NFL has issued a statement claiming that no biased coaching is taking place and that all games are fair to both teams. Many suspect this statement by the NFL to be a cover-up of what happened, and many claim that the upcoming playoffs are rigged. Whilst nobody is sure they are rigged in a certain team's favor, many are calling for the “truth” from the NFL. The rumblings have expanded into social media platforms, but no affirmative action has been taken yet. It is up to the players, coaches, and head executives of the NFL to combat this issue together, otherwise the playoffs will not be the same anymore...`

Questions to Consider

- How can your role be integrated into the NFL regarding public image?
- What powers can your character use to appease the public
- How would you handle the situation from the other side of the screen?
- Is the best course of action to just use public relations or something else?

Topic B: Winning the Big Game

Topic Background

To many players and coaches, winning the Super Bowl is everything. For the players of the Falcons and Patriots, the eyes are set on hoisting up the Lombardi trophy in front of tens of millions. With the single-elimination bracket, there can be no room for error. The practices and drills that players go through are all in preparation for America's biggest stage.

Many people inside the committee are eager to win the Super Bowl, including the coaches. However, since there are opposing 1-seeds inside the committee, there is tension inside the room, as both sides want to beat the other to a pulp. Since the post-season just kicked off, the teams must plan accordingly to breeze through the first, second, and third rounds of the playoffs. Otherwise, your team has to wait a whole year before getting another shot at the one game that many dream of winning.

Making swift and effective moves during the off-season, while respecting the salary cap is pivotal to building the strongest team before the week 1 kickoff. Collaboration between teams is extremely important to foster a healthy relationship and allow for smoother transactions. Mid season acquisitions play a crucial role in coming out victorious.

Then ultimately the entire season comes down to one night: The actual Super Bowl. Small effective strategies play vital roles in coming out on top. Whether that is making the right decisions during overtime, when to throw the challenge flag, when to fake a punt, or even if the quarterback should pass or throw the ball on the one yard line. These essential micro decisions build on top of each other to come victorious.

Additionally, a pressing matter about the Superbowl is who owns streaming rights and how the Superbowl will be broadcasted to millions on the special night. Members of the National Football League executive board need to make a deal and come up with an effective strategy to be most profitable and reach the largest audience.

Questions to Consider

- How can you utilize your role to gain an advantage before the Super Bowl?
- What characters can you cooperate with to make big moves to prepare for the big game?
- How can you put your opponents at a disadvantage before the game?
- Where can you solidify your team and staff and how can you make sure that you will win the games preceding the Super Bowl?
- Should your character prioritize the safety of their career over the survival of the company?

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Roger Goodell - NFL Commissioner

Roger Goodell has served as the Chief Commissioner of the NFL since 2006. His role is integral in the NFL's business functions, operations, and even officiating. As the Commissioner, he also has the power to suspend and fine players and coaches, such as in 2007, when he suspended Cowboys Head Coach Wade Wilson. Thus, Goodell has major executive power that can cover most of the NFL's functions and can influence many decisions made by the board of the NFL, including heightening his already massive salary.

Brian Rolapp - Chief Media & Business Officer; power to make posts on NFL social media
Brian Rolapp serves as the Chief Media and Business Officer. His main powers lie in the landscape of the internet, as he makes all executive decisions regarding social media posts and acquisitions. Handling advertisement revenue and business deals with mega-corporations, Rolapp has significant influence over how the NFL displays itself to its audience, proving to be a vital source of connection between football and America.

Cathy Lanier - SVP & Chief Security Officer.

Cathy Lanier as the NFL's head of security is the former D.C. police chief and is leading the charge off the field as the NFL's head of security. She manages all security personnel and makes sure that all fans are safe during the games. From counter-terrorism measures to cybersecurity techniques, Lanier handles the safety of everyone, and has all the security personnel and technology at each stadium at her disposal

Dawn Aponte - Chief Football Administrative Officer

Dawn Aponte has been the chief administrator of football operations for the National Football League, since 2017. She oversees relationships between officials, coaches, and owners. This is extremely important, as she holds the NFL together in terms of legal action. Additionally, she has very close ties to the New York State Bar, the overseer of all attorneys in New York, including huge law firms such as Skadden and Wachtell Lipton.

Joe Siclare - EVP & CFO.

Joe Siclare is the Chief Financial Officer of the National Football League. As the head of financials, Siclare handles all the transactions that enter and exit the NFL and has tremendous power regarding how the NFL utilizes its revenue, whether it be acquiring programs bringing on more employees, or even constructing a stadium. Outside of the NFL, he has major connections to telecommunication industries, as he was a senior executive in the past for Millicom Inc.

Renie Anderson. EVP & Chief Revenue Officer.

Renie Anderson is the NFL executive vice president and chief revenue officer. As an officer, she writes about the league's work to promote women into leadership positions. Renie oversees the league's partnership divisions, including sponsorship, and is also responsible for all media sales for the league's owned and operated media assets.

Matt Patricia - Play caller for the Patriots

Matt Patricia was the Defensive play-caller for the Patriots and contributed to the Patriots' success in the regular season, as well as the postseason. Outside of football, Patricia has close ties to engineering companies, as he was a former engineering major in college, and was offered several jobs to manage huge government projects such as nuclear submarines and aircraft.

Sylvester Turner Mayor of Houston at the time of Super Bowl LI

Sylvester Turner is the Mayor of Houston. He graduated from Harvard Law School with a Juris Doctor degree and formerly worked as an immigration lawyer in Houston before beginning his career in politics. As the mayor, he plans to use the Super Bowl as an event for fundraising as well as make sure that the city is "safe" and "secure" for the big game. He has huge sway over what the public sees, as well as public relations to several communities within Houston

Erin Andrews - On-field reporter

Erin Andrews is a big-time reporter on the field: a trailblazer in office-player dynamics who gets all the inside information as to how the coaches and players feel during the game. She holds major sway in news sources such as FOX News and Dancing With the Stars ABC broadcast. Her power lies in social media and advertising, which makes the NFL very influential, as they watch for Erin. Thus, she has become the face of person-to-player interaction and handles the majority of the journalism field.

Tom Brady - Patriots QB

Tom Brady is the star Quarterback for the New England Patriots, four-time Superbowl champion, and the face of the NFL. He has incredible passing abilities and unparalleled poise, proving to be the greatest quarterback of all time. Tom also has immense sway over the Patriots and the players, as he is well-liked among the shareholders and owners. Additionally, he has a lot of social media presence off the field.

Rob Gronkowski - Patriots TE

Rob Gronkowski is an all-pro tight end for the New England Patriots who has ties to large corporations that range from insurance companies like State Farm to SportsBetting companies like Fan Duel. Not only is he the face of these companies, but he has sway and power over some decisions that these companies make as he is a large shareholder.

Bill Belichick - Patriots Head Coach

Bill Belichick is the head coach for the New England Patriots and has one of the most impressive resumés as a head coach of a football franchise. Boasting 4 Super Bowls thus far, Belichick has made himself an extremely respected name not only in the locker room but around the country. His play-calling skills and intelligent strategies gave the Patriots success thus far, and he hopes to add a 5th ring to his collection. His position allows him to impact the game's outcome significantly, and can utilize his players to the fullest extent to win the postseason

Kyle Shannahan – The Offensive Coordinator and Play-Caller for the Atlanta Falcons
Wielded significant influence over the team's offensive strategies and game planning. Renowned for his innovative schemes and aggressive playcalling, Shanahan played a pivotal role in orchestrating the Falcons' high-powered offense. His ability to maximize the talents of players and exploit opposing defenses contributed greatly to the team's success, making him a highly respected figure within the organization and establishing himself as one of the greatest offensive minds in the league

Dan Quinn – Dan Quinn, as the Head Coach of the Atlanta Falcons
Holds a position of power within the organization. Quinn played a pivotal role in shaping the team's identity and performance in their dominant season. Under his guidance, the Falcons experienced notable success, with Quinn's emphasis on teamwork while using his connections with other organizations, notably the Seattle Seahawks as he used to coach there to push his team to new limits. His tenure as head coach solidified his reputation as a respected leader both on and

off the field, earning him admiration within the Falcons organization and the broader NFL community.

Matt Ryan – The quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons season

The cornerstone of the team's success. Renowned for his precision passing, leadership qualities, and ability to excel under pressure, Ryan played a pivotal role in driving the Falcons' offense. His consistent performance and close connections to players and staff allowed him to excel on and off the field. As a proven leader on the field, Ryan's contributions were instrumental in the Falcons' achievements during his career, cementing his status as one of the premier quarterbacks in the league.

Julio Jones – Wide receiver for the Atlanta Falcons season

Key player for the team's offense. Renowned for his athleticism, precise route running, and remarkable catching ability, Jones was a constant threat to opposing defenses. His impact on the field extended beyond statistics, often his fellow receivers followed whatever he did and would go as far as to break rules for the receiver that they looked up to. His contributions were instrumental in the Falcons' success during his time there, earning him admiration both within the organization and across the league.

Troy Aikman - Hall of Fame Dallas Cowboys QB and commentator)

Troy Aikman was one of the most famous “cowboys” ever to throw the football, and he is now a commentator for the NFL, analyzing plays and talking to America. Since he broadcasts live to all of America, he has a powerful media presence within popular streaming services and networks. Other than his deep connections to the Cowboys, he is part-owner of the San Diego Padres and has a foundation that helps children’s hospitals, signaling that he is a very wealthy individual.

Joe Buck - Play-by-play commentator for the Superbowl

Joe Buck is a play-by-play commentator that highlights the tactics and ins/outs of the game that America loves. Buck has a major media presence, as he is a well-known individual within the NFL, and quite a few tune into the games to see Buck’s comments. Outside of football, he has also commentated for quite a few MLB World Series and has many connections to baseball as well as broadcasting companies.

Tim Ellis - EVP and Chief Marketing Officer

Oversees all the marketing strategies and activities for the NFL. He has modernized and transformed the NFL brand. He has worked to spread and strengthen the larger share of overall TV viewership. He has accumulated a number of awards because of his successful strategies.

Cam Newton - NFL Quarterback of the Carolina Panthers

Cam Newton began his career in 2011, winning Rookie of the Year with a prolific season that saw him excel in both passing and rushing. After a historically strong season just last year in which the Panthers went 15-1 and fell short in the Super Bowl, Carolina seems to have just begun its reign in the NFC South, with Newton as its leader.

Matt LaFleur - Offensive Coach

He was Kyle Shanahan's right hand man during this year's run. As a key mastermind of the Offensive team he coached Matt Ryan throughout the season that played a pivotal role in the success for the season.

Dan Quinn - Head Coach of the Atlanta Falcons

Entering just his second year as the Head Coach in Atlanta, Dan Quinn leads a potentially dangerous but historically under-performing team. With assets such as Matt Ryan and Julio Jones alongside a young and fiery defense, the Falcons have a chance to make a run in the playoffs this year, with Quinn as their leader.

Thomas Dimitroff - Atlanta Falcons General Manager

He served as the general manager of the Atlanta Falcons from 2008 to the present. He has had a career in the NFL as a scout since 1993 between the Chiefs, Lions, Browns, and Patriots. He was a key person in the 2008 Draft Room and decided on drafting Matt Ryan.

Brooks Reed - Starting Outside Linebacker

Reed was drafted as an Outside Linebacker in 2011 to the Houston Texans. In 2015, he was traded to the Atlanta Falcons and signed a \$22 million contract. Prior to the 2016 season he recorded 10 solo tackles and 7 assists in 13 games played.

Raheem Morris - Assistant Head Coach

As of 2015, Morris has served as the assistant head coach of the Falcons. He has worked additionally as the defensive backs and wide receivers coach but works as the right hand man to Dan Quinn. With influence over the performance of both the Atlanta offense and defense, Morris has strong hopes for the upcoming season.