

After Superbowl, then what?

In 1968 we were fortunate to take a trip to Europe for five weeks following the advice from the book, "Europe on five dollars a day." Besides visiting many museums, taking a ride to the top of Mount Pilatus, a gondola ride in Venice, etc., one of my favorite sites was the colosseum in Rome.

The Colosseum is an elliptical amphitheater, the largest in the world, the scene of thousands of hand-to-hand combats between gladiators, between men and animals and mock naval engagements. The Colosseum was built in 72 A.D. and opened in 80 A.D. The Structure was built by Jewish slaves like the building of our White House. The battlefield contained 36 trap doors for special effects with a seating capacity of 50,000. There was even an awning installed to protect the spectators.

The whole atmosphere reminds me of the NFL playoffs. There will be the overpaid gladiators battling it out till the end with thousands of screaming, sometimes drunken fans yelling at the top of their lungs for their favorite gladiator.

For the last several weeks television has been announcing their new season arrivals, and they all ended with the same disclaimer, "AFTER THE SUPERBOWL." What have we come to? So much of our lives are centered around sports, personalities in People Magazine and clamoring for a glimpse of Taylor Swift at some Kansas City Chiefs game.

Intertwined between all this football drama between the gladiators on the field and the screaming fans in their seats is gambling and how the NFL can get more of our money. Yes, I watch the games from my couch, making not a sound and doing research for my next essay.

Surfing through my I Pad searching for when the games were to be played and at what station I was bombarded with the temptation to “BET NOW FOR \$5 and get a \$158 Bonus Bet now.” Besides all the betting surrounding our sports today is the racket being played on us on how to watch the game. Unless we join Direct TV, FUBO TV, Peacock, Sling or Hubu the game will not be available to us.

WHAT A RACKET. JUST FOLLOW THE MONEY AND SEE WHO IS WINNING OUT.

Maybe someday we'll fill the stadium with people eagerly watching a painter move her brush, or a poet writing another sonnet, or a teacher working with a class on social science, or a nurse skillfully dealing with a dying patient or a theologian skillfully interpreting a Biblical text with the latest in tools.

Just a thought. Most of the screaming fans are White and most of the gladiators are Black.

Sincerely,

Couch Potato Dennis Siebert