

Sports & Entertainment Beat

Sports & Entertainment Spotlight: Neil Young's Song Catalog Removed From Spotify After a Public Ultimatum Over COVID-19 Misinformation in "The Joe Rogan Experience"

By Joshua Bloomgarden on 1.27.22 | Posted in Sports & Entertainment Spotlight

After a compelling weekend of playoff football in the NFL, in which all four of the matchups came down to the final play of each game (serving to drive even more eyeballs to the NFL in what has been a fruitful season for the NFL), it's only fitting that I write this piece against my weekly submission deadline. Well, if Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes can engineer a bananas game-tying drive in thirteen seconds, surely I am up for the task here. Apples to oranges comparison? Yes! But as someone who wasn't allowed to play contact sports growing up (and with my diminutive frame, I might not be writing today had I been) I'm turning lemons into lemonade (and also plum-surprised at the amount of fruit-related idioms I'm using). Without further ado or meandering thoughts, let's check out this week's peachy Spotlight.

- *Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, Neil Young's song catalog was removed from Spotify after a public ultimatum over Spotify's providing a platform for COVID-19 misinformation in its wildly popular podcast, "The Joe Rogan Experience." A cynic might point to the fact that Spotify has a \$100 million contract with Mr. Rogan. A realist would agree.*
- *Picasso NFTs of ceramic works are about to make their debut, with a starting price of a misplaced arm and a leg.*
- *Rock legend Bob Dylan and R&B singer John Legend (no relation) strike gold selling their respective music copyrights to companies banking on long term royalties.*
- *Speaking of banks and royalty, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Harry and Meghan find themselves being used - without authorization - for crypto investments.*

Endorsement Deals, Sponsorships & Investments

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Zendaya Stuns in Peep-Hole Top for Lancôme

January 26, 2022 via The Inquisitr

Zendaya is looking drop-dead gorgeous as she poses for a new photo promoting beauty giant Lancôme.

F.Major Enters 2022 With Growth and Endorsements

January 25, 2022 via MarketWatch

Shire Hill Partners, LLC, designer, manufacturer, and distributor of F.Major, a luxury direct-to-consumer shoe brand, announces its growth plans, charitable partners, and celebrity endorsements as it enters the new year.

Grammy-Award Winning Artist "Macklemore" Joins Sparkling Yerba Maté Beverage Brand CLEAN Cause as Investor and Creative Director

January 25, 2022 via GlobeNewswire - Basic Materials

CLEAN Cause, the Austin-based sparkling Yerba Maté beverage company, today announced Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Ben Haggerty, better known as "Macklemore," as the Brand's first Creative Director and celebrity investor.

Hip Hop Singer, Olakira Gets Endorsement Deal From Luxury Car Brand, Maserati

January 25, 2022 via The Street Journal - Top Stories

2022 has started on a good note for Nigerian singer and record producer, Ade Ebenezer, more popularly known as Olakira, as he's recently bagged a massive global endorsement deal with vehicle manufacturer, Maserati, an Italian luxury vehicle manufacturer.

Vilab, Actoplus Ink Partnership to Tap China's Virtual Celebrity Market

January 25, 2022 via ZDNet

Two companies in Hong Kong have inked a pact to develop digital social influencers as part of efforts to tap opportunities in China, where virtual characters increasingly are used for marketing purposes.

Ohio State Forms Internal Advisory Group to Assist Athletes With NIL Deals

January 24, 2022 via News Break - Top Stories

The formation of the group, known as the NIL Edge Team, was announced Monday, January 24, as part of updated NIL guidelines. The department had not previously been facilitating NIL deals for athletes, working with them on limited areas such as education and personal branding in addition to compliance monitoring.

Professional Fighters League Announces Multi-Year Deal With Nxt Lvl as Official Water Partner

January 24, 2022 via Markets Insider - News Ticker

The Professional Fighters League (PFL), the fastest growing and most innovative sports league,

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today announced a multi-year deal with NXT LVL as the official water partner of the PFL. The partnership begins in January and spans through December 2024.

Irish Soccer Club Launches Bob Marley Jersey Paying Tribute to Late Singer's Final Outdoor Concert

January 24, 2022 via Forbes – Business (subscription may be required)

An Irish soccer club has unveiled a new jersey with an image of the iconic reggae musician Bob Marley. Bohemian Football Club, in collaboration with the Bob Marley family and Bravado, Universal Music Group's global merchandise division, announced the release of the club's 2022 away jersey.

The Rock's Under Armour Brand Named Official Footwear Provider for UFC

January 21, 2022 via Baltimore Business Journal - Headlines

Under Armour Inc.'s Project Rock brand featuring former pro wrestler and movie star Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson has inked a deal to become the official footwear partner of the Ultimate Fighting Championship mixed martial arts promotion.

Houston Dynamo, Fubo Gaming Ink MLS-Record Sports Betting Deal

January 20, 2022 via Sportico – Business (subscription may be required)

Houston Dynamo FC has signed a multi-year deal with Fubo Gaming, a partnership that could be worth \$178 million, making it one of the largest commercial deals in MLS club history.

Harry and Meghan Misused in Fake Investment Endorsement

January 20, 2022 via BBC News - All Sections

Fake endorsements from the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are being used on social media to promote Bitcoin-related investment schemes. Photos and bogus interviews with Prince Harry and Meghan and other celebrities are being used to attract investors.

Sports

NFL's Playoffs Fever Spikes as Championship Sunday Ads Hit \$2.5 Million

January 25, 2022 via Sportico – Business (subscription may be required)

As much as it seems unlikely that anyone will figure out a way to top Sunday night's tachycardia-inducing Bills-Chiefs showdown, the enthusiasm generated by the Divisional Round capper is certain to spill over into Championship Sunday.

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Step Aside, Brady: Josh Allen and Patrick Mahomes Ignite a Bright Future for The NFL, and Their Bank Accounts

January 24, 2022 via Forbes – Business (subscription may be required)

You could see every ounce of disbelief on Josh Allen's face. With just 13 seconds left on the game clock, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes snatched away what had seemed like a shocking — and certain — come-from-behind upset for Allen and his Buffalo Bills.

Winter Olympics Sponsors Caught Between Beijing, U.S.

January 23, 2022 via Wall Street Journal – General (subscription may be required)

With less than two weeks to go before the start of the Winter Games in Beijing, several Olympics sponsors are skipping what is usually an Olympics-themed advertising blitz.

Music Biz

Neil Young Demands Spotify Remove His Music Over Joe Rogan COVID-19 Misinformation

January 25, 2022 via CBC Canada - Top Stories

Late Monday, January 24, Canadian singer and songwriter Neil Young posted an open letter to his personal website, demanding that music streamer Spotify remove his music from its service. 'I am doing this because Spotify is spreading false information about vaccines,' Young wrote CBC News.

Bob Dylan Sells All Recorded Rights to Sony Music

January 24, 2022 via Register Citizen

Bob Dylan has sold the rights to his masters to Sony Music Entertainment, the company announced on Monday, January 24, marking yet another blockbuster deal for artists.

ABBA Reaches Settlement With Abba Mania Over Name, Dismisses Trademark Lawsuit

January 23, 2022 via News International

The Swedish pop super group ABBA has settled its lawsuit accusing a British cover band of using the name Abba Mania without permission.

Whitesnake's David Coverdale Sells Catalog to Round Hill Music

January 22, 2022 via RTT News - Top Stories, All Sections

Whitesnake frontman and Deep Purple lead singer David Coverdale has sold his music publishing, master rights and master rights royalties to Round Hill Music Royalty Fund Ltd.

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John Legend is the Latest Music Superstar to Sell Entire Music Catalog

January 20, 2022 via *The Columbian - News Headlines*

John Legend is in very good company with his money moves. The singer, songwriter and producer is the latest star to sell his music catalog.

Estate of Emergency: Jimi Hendrix Estate Preemptively Sues Noel Redding, Mitch Mitchell's Heirs

January 19, 2022 via *Rolling Stone Magazine*

Are you experienced in contract law? The folks running the estates of all three deceased members of the Jimi Hendrix Experience hope they are.

Akon's Former Business Partner Claims He's Still Owed Nearly \$4 Million: Suit

January 19, 2022 via *News Break - Top Stories*

Akon's former business partner claims the R&B singer still owes him nearly \$4 million from a prior settlement agreement, according to new court papers.

Film & TV

Disney+ to Launch in 42 Countries; Channel 4 Orders 'The Bridge' Series Two; 'Normal People' Writer to Adapt 'The Abstainer' for TV; Candour Restructures – Global Briefs

January 26, 2022 via *News Break - Top Stories*

Disney+ has moved to the next stage of its rapid international rollout and will launch in 42 countries and 11 territories this summer.

ESPN Extends PFL Deal

January 26, 2022 via *News Break - Top Stories*

The Professional Fighters League (PFL) and ESPN have announced a new, multi-year media rights agreement that will see expanded coverage on ESPN linear networks and ESPN+ in the US.

Professional Fighters League Reaches Multi-Year Renewal With ESPN for Expanded Media Rights

January 25, 2022 via *PR Newswire*

The Professional Fighters League (PFL), the fastest growing and most innovative sports league, and ESPN have announced a new, multi-year media rights agreement that will see expanded coverage on ESPN linear networks and ESPN+.

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Esports Industry to Reach \$4.75 Billion, Globally, by 2030 at 17.5 Percent CAGR: Allied Market Research

January 25, 2022 via PR Newswire

According to the report published by Allied Market Research, the global Esports industry garnered \$0.94 billion in 2020, and is expected to generate \$4.75 billion by 2030, witnessing a CAGR of 17.5 percent from 2021 to 2030.

Why Apple May Finally Be Ready to Carry Live Sports

January 25, 2022 via Sportico – Business (subscription may be required)

Wedbush's Dan Ives (managing director, equity research) recently wrote in an investor note that Apple is on an "aggressive hunt" for live sports rights.

Issa Rae's Raedio Inks Exclusive Multi-Year Deal With Audible

January 23, 2022 via Fox Rochester

Fresh off of the finale of her hit show "Insecure," which she has been nominated for 12 NCAA Image Awards, Issa Rae is already on to the next step in her career.

Why NFL's Television Partners All Saw a Rise in League Games Viewership In 2021

January 21, 2022 via Biz Journal - Accounting News

With the NFL playoffs underway, top executives from the NFL and its television rights holders are celebrating the regular season's rebound in viewership, calling it a reminder of the league's resiliency and unique strength compared to other media properties.

NBC Eyes a Half-Billion-Dollar 'Super Gold Sunday' Between NFL, Olympics

January 19, 2022 via Sportico – Business (subscription may be required)

NBC has designated Feb. 13 as "Super Gold Sunday," and with less than a month to go before the NFL title tilt and the Winter Olympics align for the very first time, the ad dollars are piling up like so much alpine powder.

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)

Picasso's Descendants to Sell More Than 1,000 NFTs Linked to Never-Before-Seen Ceramic Work

January 26, 2022 via Washington Post - Top Stories

Descendants of Pablo Picasso are planning to auction off more than 1,000 digital pieces representing a never-before-seen ceramic work by the Spanish artist in what they have described as an attempt to integrate the worlds of fine art and crypto assets.

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The Wombats and John Lennon for Sale as the Latest NFT Music Collectibles

January 26, 2022 via Music Week

There has been a steady stream of NFT announcements since Music Week began reporting on the tech trend a year ago. But the latest launch underlines the range of mainstream artists (or at least their heirs) embracing non-fungible tokens.

Why Facebook and Twitter Opened the Door to NFTs

January 25, 2022 via Bloomberg – News (subscription may be required)

Facebook and Instagram are reportedly working on ways to let users display NFTs on their profiles, and on building a marketplace to let users buy and sell these digital art objects and collectibles.

Beatles Memorabilia to Be Sold as NFTs

January 25, 2022 via Bloomberg – News (subscription may be required)

Press Association An assortment of Beatles memorabilia, including outfits worn by John Lennon and hand-written notes by Paul McCartney, will feature in a new digital auction.

NFTs and the Future of Music

January 24, 2022 via Forbes – Business (subscription may be required)

Interest in, and excitement about, NFTs exploded in 2021 and the first few months of 2022. Today, NFTs — digital tokens stored on a blockchain that can record ownership of items—have been developed for a wide swath of items, from digital art to event tickets to real-world luxury goods.

UFC, Dapper Labs Announce UFC Strike in Bid for NFT Knockout

January 20, 2022 via Sportico – Business (subscription may be required)

UFC and Dapper Labs announced digital collectible platform UFC Strike on Thursday, January 20, with plans to launch and release the first set of NFT packs Sunday.

How Nas is Changing the Way We Think About Celebrity NFTs

January 20, 2022 via Co.Exist

The market for non-fungible tokens swelled to \$41 billion in 2021. And, broadly speaking, there's no better way to capture the interest of celebrities than with a lot of easy money.

The Balance Between Art and IP Theft in NFT Culture

January 19, 2022 via CoinDesk – News

From "Squid Game" to Olive Garden, the NFT boom is a series of intellectual property infractions. The most popular show in Netflix history, "Squid Game," earned an estimated \$900 million for the streaming company. And the producers are not stopping there.