



Point of View

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Ohtani Gambling Scandal

by BRIAN CHOI



Image Source: nbc News

The Japanese Two-Way baseball player and Los Angeles Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani has been the top news headline due to a recent gambling scandal. News first broke out when Ohtani was in Korea preparing for the Seoul Series when an anonymous member of Ohtani's group of advisers told ESPN that Ohtani was paying \$4 million of gambling debt made by Ipe Mizuhara – Ohtani's longtime interpreter, manager, and friend. After a couple hours of the initial report by ESPN, Ohtani's lawyer said that Ohtani has done no such thing and claimed that Mizuhara stole the \$4 million worth of money to pay off his own gambling debts and told ESPN a false story. Unsurprisingly, the media went into panic mode. Ohtani had never been involved in any sort of scandal in the past and was always looked up by millions of fans as being the nicest player in all of sports. He famously said that picking up trash during games brings him good luck and deferred 680million of his 700 million contract so that the Dodgers would sign better players to help elevate his team. Due to such a pristine image Ohtani made for himself, fans believed that Ohtani could be nice enough to pay off \$4 million debt for his friend, but other fans speculated that Ohtani did in fact gamble and Ipe was just taking the fall for him.

With the internet arguing whether or not Ohtani was guilty, prosecutors and government officials did their own investigation into this scandal. After weeks of careful examination, the final verdict came out and it shocked the world. Shohei Ohtani: a victim of a \$16 million bank theft carried out by Ipe Mizuhara.

As mentioned above, Mizuhara was not only Ohtani's interpreter, he was also his manager and friend, and he abused this position. All the way back in 2018, Ohtani came overseas to the United States for the first time and had to make a new bank

account where all his Major League earnings would be sent to and over the years the money inside that account piled up in the millions. Ohtani had never entered this particular bank account since most of his income came from sponsorships – these income were sent to a different account – and also never got any alert that money have taken out of his account because Mizuhara had changed the settings so that no alert messages would be sent to Ohtani's phone. On top of this, Mizuhara once again abused his position, this time as a translator, and impersonated Ohtani to take out larger cash at once and told Ohtani's agent, lawyer, tax preparer, and financial consultant that Ohtani wanted to keep his baseball earnings private.

Ohtani lost \$16 million and got hit hard on his public image, but most heartbreakingly he has lost a friend of ten years. Ohtani never once logged into his account and never once inquired Mizuhara about his money because he trusted him to the fullest. This case undoubtedly would haunt him mentally and would make it hard to trust anyone else for the rest of his life. On the bright side, Dodgers manager Dave Roberts has said that Ohtani has been talking more and more with his teammates after coming back from Korea and he has been hitting the ball better and better which suggests his recovery from this scandal has been fast. There are no answers to why this is, but a wild guess would be that Ohtani's wife has been supporting him throughout hardships and that is why Ohtani is not struggling as much as many thought he would. With this scandal in its final stages, and with Ohtani playing better than ever, fans around the globe anticipate to see a healthier and stronger Shohei Ohtani in the 2024 season and who knows, he might win another MVP and maybe even a World Series.

What are some changes occurring next season in the UCL?

by MINSEOP CHIN

In today's society, there are varied UEFA(Union of European Football Association) competitions such as the Champions League, Europa League, and the Europa Conference league that has been recently established after the 20/21 season. But most people would be most familiar with the Champions League which is a fierce competition between various top clubs from various countries. However, starting from next season which would be the 24/25, there would be a significant fluctuation in the UCL structure in which the number of teams participating

in this competition will increase from 32 to 36 teams next year in the 2024/2025 season. In the fluctuated format, instead of playing against three different teams two times home and away, they will be playing with eight different teams, half home and half away. In order to determine those eight teams, there will be four seeding pots. Each team will be drawn to play two opponents from each pot playing one match against a team from each pot at home and one away. The remaining spots will be given to four competitive leagues in European competitions. As it stands, four top premier league teams are originally qualifying for the Champions League ticket. But from the new format of this UCL competition, the Premier League will be expected to have five teams participating in this competition. However, for the next 24-25 season, it looks like it will be the same four team qualification in the Premier League after every English team have kicked the bucket themselves in every UEFA competitions with sole Unai Emery's Aston Villa surviving in the European Conference League. This is due to the unfortunate performance in the Europa League. De Zerbi's Brighton have been eliminated in the last-16s against Roma while Liverpool and West Ham have also been out in the quarter finals against Atalanta and Bayer Leverkusen. Instead, Italy and Germany will be in the spot for the extra ticket as Atalanta and Bayer Leverkusen are progressing well in the Europa League while Bayern Munich and Dortmund are also into the UCL semi finals.

Good Samaritan Act

by LUCIA LEE

About 50 people. About 50. This is the number of people who passed by a man who was bleeding in Guro-gu, Seoul, on the 11th.



Image Source: The History Junkie

Have you heard about the 'Good Samaritan Act'? It is the law that punishes a person who does not come to save a person even though he sees a serious danger to the life or body of one even though there is no special burden or damage. This is derived from the Bible, and it was from the fact that the priest and the Levites passed by the robber and died, but only one Samaritan took care of and saved him. In the end, the 'Good

Samaritan Act' is the law that enforces moral rights. In particular, it is argued that it is necessary to solve the self-interested attitude and bystander culture that is increasingly evidenced in modern society. Let's find out the good things about the 'Good Samaritan Act'.

First, promoting social responsibility. In modern society, they think individual profits tend to be more important than common profits. The Good Samaritan Act overcomes this selfish attitude and strengthens social responsibility by stating that the act of helping the people is not simply an option but an obligation. This law encourages people not to remain bystanders when they have to help people in danger, resulting in a sense of communal debt beyond selfishness. And in the current modern world, when individualism is emphasized and community consciousness is weakened, the Good Samaritan Act can contribute to strengthening social solidarity and community consciousness by legally emphasizing the value of mutual help and cooperation beyond selfishness. This is because, if this law is enacted, people will actively engage in actions to help others based on legal responsibility, and it is expected to have the effect of promoting a sense of social solidarity.

Second, crime prevention. If the Good Samaritan Act is formed, people around you lead from the front in urgent situations to reduce the crimes. This helps prevent crimes and reduce damage, especially by utilizing the active intervention of witnesses in the event of a crime. These good Samaritan laws play an important role so that members of society are not uninterested in their neighbors in crisis.

Many people don't like Good Samaritan over these advantages. Because, first, the standard of punishment is uncertain. Because the standards are uncertain, they can damage people who have nothing to do with them. If you were in danger, would you punish someone with a weak sense of judgment, such as a child? And how would you know that they had a will to rescue or not?

First, the standard and targets of punishment are very uncertain. If someone is in danger, and the rescuer is less judgmental, like a child. How would you punish them? Also, how would you divide them if there was a will to rescue or not?

Second, Korea has more cultural characteristics of self-defense than other countries. If the Good Samaritan law applies relief responsibilities and punishment standards, it could cause confusion. For example, a stranger comes to your family in a critical situation and a patient dies. Won't you hold the person responsible? Even if a complementary policy such as the jury system is used to judge whether there is intention, the mental damage caused by the rescuers cannot be reversed. So, there is no system for rescuers.

People who disagree about the Samaritan law think that the ethic should exist as an ethical and moral obligation, not a law, given the many social disruptions that occur when the law is alive. What do you think?

2024 South Korean legislative election

by YESEONG LEE

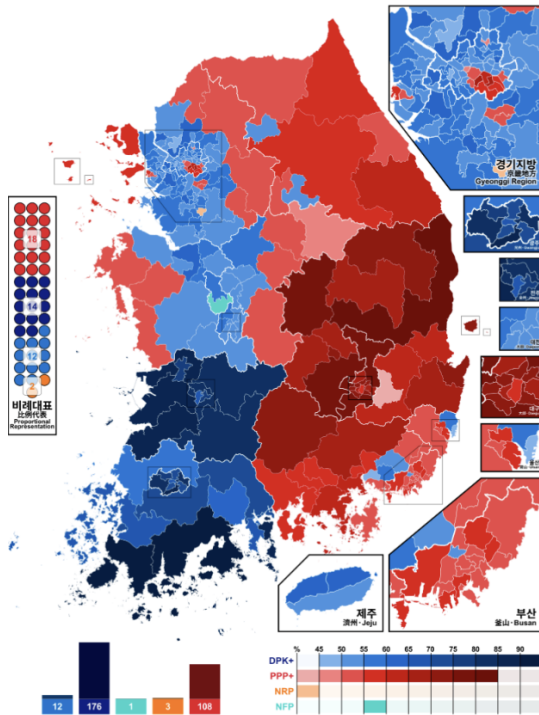


Image Source: Wikipedia

On April 10th, the 22nd South Korean legislative election was held to pick 300 members of the National Assembly. Due to the maintenance of semi-mixed proportional representation, the large two parties, DPK and PPP, made the satellite party for more proportional seats in the National Assembly, named the Democratic Alliance of Korea (united with Progressive Party and New Progressive Alliance, alliance of Basic Income party and Social Democratic Party) and the People Future Party. Led by Junseok Lee, the PPP separated into the New Reform Party. Led by Nak-yeon Lee, DPK separated into the New Future Party. Also, Kuk Cho created the Rebuilding Korea Party to attract people who did not want to vote for DAP because of unification with progressive parties.

For constituency members, the DPK won 161 seats, the PPP won 90 seats, and the Progressive Party, NFP, and NRP each got one seat. The Progressive Party got one seat through candidate unification negotiations with the DPK. The NFP got one seat by the DPK's candidate nomination mistake. The NRP miraculously won one seat in the Hwaseong B constituency by Representative Junseok Lee's individual ability, without support from the big party. The common ground of these wins of small parties was that it was the constituency with strong support for the DPK. As expected, DPK took all the Gwangju, Jeonnam, Jeonbuk, and Jeju, and won most of the Daejeon, Chungnam, and Chungbuk constituencies. Also, the PPP took most of the

PK (Busan, Ulsan, Gyeongnam), TK (Daegu, Gyeongbuk), and Gangwon constituencies. For the metropolitan area (Seoul, Incheon, Gyeonggi), where the most seats (122 seats) are, the PPP suffered a painful defeat, only winning 19 seats, DPK won 102 seats, and the NRP won one seat, Representative Lee.

For the proportional representative, the PFP won 18 seats, DAK won 14, RKP won 12, and NRP won 2. The Green Justice Party, NFP, and Liberty Unification Party (attracted supporters of PPP who are dissatisfied with Dong-hoon Han) expected to win at least one seat but failed to win any seat for proportional representation. Democratic parties, including the DAK and RKP, took the most seats. The political interpretation is that the appearance of the RKP made the people who disliked the large two parties go to the polling place. The interesting point is that due to the maintenance of semi-mixed proportional representation and the satellite parties, the only party that disposed of both constituency seats and proportional seats, the NRP almost could not get one more seat because Representative Lee got elected. Additionally, the results could be different if the election system was different (hypothetical scenarios here:

UK Banning all the smokes from students born in 2009

by JULIE SONG



Image Source: Euronews

Britain is trying to promote a no-smoking generation and banned selling smoke to anyone born after 2009. In the House of Commons in the United Kingdom, among 450 people, 383 agreed with the new policy and had 67 disagreements. The government says that the United Kingdom will make the "first smoke-free generation". The legal age of sale for people in Britain will be raised one year each year until it is illegal for everybody in the country to buy tobacco or cigars. They decided to ban selling tobacco because according to official figures, 6.4 million people, or 13% of the population still smoke, which causes 80,000 deaths a year in the United Kingdom, which causes poor health to the people who just pass by the smoker. According to the most recent statistics for the UK, 19% of the population caught cancer due to exposure to tobacco smoke. Moreover, an analysis of the 2022 National Youth Tobacco Survey found that 11.3% of middle and high school students smoke, which is a pretty high rate among young students. Since there is nothing good about smoking, I don't think there will be

anything bad for society by banning the sale of cigarettes, except for revolts of the individuals who would assert their freedom or right to smoke. However, even though the government bans tobacco sales for the “smoke-free” generation, there are always some people who go against the law and do whatever they want. This policy will reduce the number of people, but not all like in India, where it banned all smoking in public spaces, but created specific smoking zones for minority smokers. A sudden ban on tobacco could lead people to revolt against the government, but since the law has not yet been fully established and is in progress, we will have to continue to monitor it.

Police Agency, emphasized the importance of public awareness regarding the risks associated with inadvertently encountering cannabis abroad. Travelers should exercise caution and refrain from consuming or possessing cannabis-infused products, even in countries where they are legally available.

Cannabis Cookies Being Sold in Thailand

by YEONJEONG JEON



Image Source: News1

During a recent trip to Thailand, Kim stumbled upon cannabis-infused cookies and ice cream at a snack shop. Despite his curiosity, he refrained from purchasing them due to potential legal consequences back home. This scenario reflects a growing trend in popular tourist destinations where cannabis-infused products, like jelly and ice cream, are widely available. However, travelers should exercise caution as legalities vary, and consuming cannabis abroad could lead to penalties in their home country, including in South Korea.

While countries like Thailand, the United States, Canada, and Uruguay have legalized recreational cannabis, travelers should be aware of the risks associated with cannabis possession and consumption. South Korea enforces extraterritorial jurisdiction, meaning offenses committed abroad can result in domestic penalties.

Under current drug control laws, smoking or consuming cannabis can lead to imprisonment or hefty fines. Moreover, cannabis components can remain detectable in the body for up to a year, posing potential legal and health risks. Law enforcement agencies are grappling with the challenge of combating the smuggling and distribution of cannabis-infused products. Customs data show an increase in individuals caught smuggling such products, highlighting the need for heightened vigilance among travelers. George Ho, Chief of the Seoul Metropolitan

Is There a Better Way to Measure "Loudness"?

by JIHOON CHOI

If you have thought that higher decibels equals louder sound, it's time to change your perception. This contradicts what most people think, as higher amplitude of a sound wave would mean a louder sound. But there is another variable to consider; pitch. Then, is there a better way to measure “Loudness”

Let's explore some key concepts. Sound waves are vibrations of air molecules that are created when there is a force against air, which reaches our eardrums(to tell the hammer, anvil, stirrup to tap on the cochlea), which will be interpreted in the brain. To interpret a sound wave, we have to consider pitch, and amplitude. Amplitude is the height of a sound wave, which as said above, would be most referenced when measuring loudness. Pitch is the frequency of the peaks in a sound wave. The common measurement for loudness is decibel, where Deci in this case means 10 times, while Bels are the logarithmic scale of Pascals(Pa, pressure unit).

It would be simple if decibels really measure how we perceive sound, but it seems we need another measurement for loudness, because advertisements which supposedly have low decibels sound more than TV programs. For this reason, a new way to measure loudness, called LUFs(Loudness Unit relative to Full Scale) was invented. Using this, we are able to make loudness measurements more accurate based on human perception instead of just decibels.

There is also the equal contour curve, which can allow people to see how even with different decibels, it can be perceived as the same if the pitch is altered. All these point toward the notion that some ads may sound very much loud, but it is just that they have higher pitches. So by understanding this, we can build resistance to the annoying, attention grabbing ads.

April fools and easter

by SHAWN JEONG

“April Fools is April 1st”, Easter is March 31st. And these past two days have been almost one month ago. So today let's talk about April Fools and easter. The first one is April Fools. April Fools Day was made by Britain during the 18th century, in Scotland. Scotland celebrates April Fools in different ways.

