## **Thursday Night Football Controversy**

## By Jorden Hampton April 4, 2023

NFL owners agreed to allow teams to play two Thursday Night games during the season. NFL Network Reporter Tom Pelissero shared the news after the change occurred.

Thursday Night Football has been a hot topic in the NFL. The conversation about Thursday Night Football continued during the annual league meeting in Phoenix.

Twenty-nine NFL teams voted to have teams play two Thursday Night Games. The Chicago Bears, Las Vegas Raiders and New York Giants voted against it. The Carolina Panthers and Denver Broncos did not vote.

According to the <u>Sports Business Journal</u>, there was a 22 percent decline in viewership during the 2022 season. Some matchups did not appeal to NFL fans. Thursday Night Football moved to Amazon Prime Video and some fans don't have the streaming service. Amazon pays the NFL \$1 billion for streaming rights.

NFL players are not happy with the news regarding Thursday Night Football. Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes shared his frustration on <u>Twitter</u>. Kansas City voted for multiple Thursday Night Football games. Kansas City plays a lot of primetime games because of the team's popularity.

San Francisco 49er's Tight End George Kittle shared his discontent on <u>Theo Von's</u> YouTube Show. Kittle said, "I'm in multiple car accidents every Sunday." Kittle puts his body on the line and takes his recovery time seriously. Kittle said," If I'm not doing football, I'm recovering." Kittle said it is harder to recover when the 49ers play games on the East Coast.

Playing Thursday Night games is psychically taxing for players. Players don't have a lot of time to recover and are expected to play well four days later.

The controversy with Thursday Night Football shows what the NFL is really about. The NFL is a billion-dollar industry. The NFL wants its money and uses Thursday Night Football to gain revenue. Players get caught in the crosshairs and are subjected to the NFL's rules.

Thursday Night Football (gridironheroics.com)