

## Ling 194 – Language and Sports

### Assignment 1

Due January 23

Choose a lexical item (word or static phrase) from a particular sport.

1. What does this lexical item mean? How is it used in the sport? Is it core or peripheral? Is it used by participants, spectators, or reporters?
2. Trace your lexical item using Lexis-Nexus and/or the archives of the New York Times, Boston Globe, or other long-established newspaper. What is the earliest citation you can find? Describe some of the early usages you find, and quote an entire paragraph or more if you can.
3. Does your lexical item appear in the Oxford English Dictionary and Merriam-Webster dictionaries, in the sense in which you are researching it? Does OED provide a dated citation? If so, is your earliest citation older than their earliest citation?

Tips: All the archives and electronic resources you need are available through the university library's website. If you are trying to access them from off campus, you will need to log on via a proxy server connection first, then follow a link back to the library site from there.

Save your work. If you can download search results, or take screen shots, or obtain hard-copy or pdf printouts, do so.

Be reasonable about the item you choose to research. For example, "ball" would be a difficult word to trace, since the word itself is presumably older than any sport that uses it.

You may prepare together but you must write your own work. In fact, I **strongly** suggest not using the same lexical item as a classmate.

Type your work.