

Sports & Entertainment Spotlight

Shane Gillis Cracks Up the ESPYs, All-Stars Hit Homers, and Mahomes Brews a Throne-ific Coffee

By Joshua Bloomgarden on 7.18.25 | Posted in Sports & Entertainment Spotlight

Welcome back to the Spotlight! This past week has been an interesting mish mash of Sports and Entertainment candy. Following on the heels of the Wimbledon Tennis Championship across the pond in England and the FIFA Club World Cup championship here in the States (a dry run of sorts for the FIFA International World Cup in 2026, exposing organizers to a large draw of far flung crowds, and players to the sweet air of East Rutherford, New Jersey), Major League Baseball went into its All-Star Break, headlined by the Celebrity Softball Game, the Home Run Derby and the Midsummer Classic (no, not Shakespeare)—the MLB All-Star Game.

There, spectators got to see countless celebrity appearances, a home run hitting competition won by Seattle Mariners catcher Cal Raleigh (a man whose nickname derives from the size of his posterior) and the League's best go down to the wire in a game decided by the first ever home run swing-off. To be sure, the event offered something for everyone and a level of fun and entertainment that is hard for so many sports leagues to achieve in their respective all-star exhibition contests. That task will be even harder for the WNBA with news that Caitlin Clark will be missing the upcoming All-Star festivities due to injury.

In any event, the following day the EMMY Nominations were announced, ensuring that your streaming queue remains full of enough content to last you several years. And later that day, ESPN's ESPY Awards (showcasing the greatest athletes and moments in sports from the year prior) spurred another convergence of entertainment and sports figures. For me, it was stand-up comedian Shane Gillis' envelope-pushing opening monologue that was the highlight of it all – that, and not being so heavily invested in whether my team won. But alas, that feeling is short-lived with my New York Yankees heading back to the diamond to resume their quest for their elusive 28th World Championship. Though if all else fails, I'll have plenty of shows to catch up on.

- Endangered social media platform TikTok is rolling out a feature allowing songwriters to promote themselves through the app to encourage other users to discover them. So, be sure to be on the lookout for up-and-coming writers, Artie Fishel Entelgens and Ian Notaspy.

- Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes is lead investor behind a better-for-you, ready-to-drink “sport coffee,” called “Throne” (which is suggestive both of royalty and where many end up after a cup of coffee). Perhaps the beverage will awaken referees to missed offensive holding penalties.
- 90s superhero cartoon series “Captain Planet and The Planeteers” is being rebooted by Berlanti Productions as a live-action series on Netflix. I know I will be watching, as I love 90s nostalgia as much as anyone – but I can’t help but wonder why we need a team of superheroes to address environmental disasters in this day and age. Thoughts and prayers seem to be working just fine.
- Barstool Sports Founder and President Dave Portnoy has been tapped by FOX Sports to appear on their Saturday College Football Kickoff Show, undoubtedly sending stadium concessionaires scrambling to improve their pizza recipes. In the meantime, I eagerly await word from his (and her) representatives whether his dog, the famous Miss Peaches will be in tow.

Endorsement Deals, Sponsorships & Investments

[Fox Sports Inks “Wide-Ranging” Deal With Barstool and Dave Portnoy](#)

July 17, 2025 via Hollywood Reporter

[USA Bobsled and Skeleton signs endorsement deal with Honda through 2030 Olympics](#)

July 17, 2025 via Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

[Luke DeCock: UNC tennis star’s prize-money lawsuit against the NCAA gets big boost in court](#)

July 16, 2025 via Lancaster Online

[Cantwell, Baumgartner team up to oppose legislative ‘power grab’ for college sports’ richest conferences](#)

July 16, 2025 via The Columbian

[Beauty Brands Are Investing In Women’s Sports. Here’s Why.](#)

July 16, 2025 via Forbes

[Beer sponsorships could decide NCAA Tournament expansion, per report](#)

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July 15, 2025 via Awful Announcing

Kalshi Says Its 'Odds' Hats and 'Bet' Ads Don't Make It a Gambling App

July 15, 2025 via Sportico - Business

Manchester City Signs Puma Extension Worth Record \$1.5B+

July 15, 2025 via Sportico

'Consumers Deserve Better': How Superstar QB Patrick Mahomes Is Brewing a Better Future for Coffee Drinkers

July 14, 2025 via Entrepreneur Magazine

Beyonce's Pepsi partnership redefined celebrity collabs

July 13, 2025 via Daily Meal

Ravens' Mark Andrews supporting next generation of athletes with diabetes

July 12, 2025 via Lancaster Online

Bipartisan lawmakers introduce SCORE Act bill for national college sports rules

July 11, 2025 via Sports Business Journal

Sports

Sun sell out TD Garden game, sparks push for WNBA in Boston

July 16, 2025 via Sports Business Journal

Trump set to sign executive order on national standards for college sports NIL

July 16, 2025 via Yahoo Sports

Expansion WNBA team brings back the original Portland Fire name

July 15, 2025 via NBC News

Music Biz

AI companies accused of 'largest domestic piracy of IP in our nation's history' at congressional hearing led by MAGA Republican

July 17, 2025 via Music Business Worldwide

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TikTok lures songwriters with new promotional features

July 17, 2025 via *Tech Crunch*

AI-generated music is going viral. Should the music industry be worried?

July 17, 2025 via *CNBC*

Justin Bieber's 'SWAG': Vibes, Creative Freedom, and More Vibes

July 16, 2025 via *Boardroom*

The Chainsmokers' Mantis Ventures investment firm raises \$100m for third fund

July 16, 2025 via *Music Business Worldwide*

Lady Gaga's unusual signature drink gets mixed reactions online: 'Mayhem in a glass'

July 11, 2025 via *Fox News*

Voices on Trial: Voice Actors, AI Cloning, and the Fight for Identity Rights

July 11, 2025 via *National Law Review*

Film & TV

Simon Cowell Will Look for a New Boy Band in Netflix Series

July 17, 2025 via *Hollywood Reporter*

CBS to Cancel 'Late Show With Stephen Colbert' Citing 'Financial Decision'

July 17, 2025 via *Variety*

'Captain Planet' Live-Action Series In Works At Netflix From Berlanti Productions & Appian Way

July 17, 2025 via *Deadline*

Emerging Sports

Planting the flag: Lourdes University to offer women's flag football as a varsity sport

July 13, 2025 via *Toledo Blade*