

## Sports & Entertainment Spotlight

# Sydney Sweeney Stirs the Internet, Coldplay Gets Caught in the Crossfire and Gilbert Arenas Bets Big Off the Court

By Joshua Bloomgarden on 8.1.25 | Posted in Sports & Entertainment Spotlight

Welcome back to the Spotlight! Allow me to be among the first to welcome you to August. If you've made it this far into summer, congratulations on plodding along through joy-blunting, sizzling hot temperatures. That is not to say that I don't like the heat, but it would be nice to be able to comfortably wear jeans without having to wring the sweat out afterwards.

Speaking of jeans, you may have heard that there has been somewhat of an outcry over *Euphoria* and *The White Lotus* star Sydney Sweeney's participation in a campaign promoting clothing company American Eagle's jeans. In particular, the controversy surrounds the blonde-haired, blue-eyed actress appearing in advertising materials that say she has great jeans, an obvious double-entendre for her genes that critics maintain evokes eugenics movements from darker moments in history. What's most offensive to me, however, is the easy pun the brand used. Why couldn't they at least have considered, "our jeans cover these 'neys"? Whatever the reason and intent behind the campaign, in a not-so-surprising turn of events, the outrage has only drawn more eyeballs to the campaign, sending American Eagle's stock price soaring like...a bird of prey. Particularly in light of my wringing (not ringing) description above, the partnership and ensuing Streisand-esque reaction is arguably the best thing that happened to American Eagle since I stopped wearing their jeans after college.

- *Happy Gilmore 2* is now the owner of the Netflix record for most-viewed film with 46.7 million views. I'd like to think my free advertising in last week's *Spotlight* contributed about five viewers to that tally—not asking for money, just a "thank you" would be nice.
- Ex-Astronomer CEO Andy Byron—whose now viral and infamous marital affair was caught on a "kiss cam" during a Coldplay concert—is rumored to be weighing legal action against the British rock band for their audacity in uncovering his web of lies. If Byron is trying to strike back against being thrust into the spotlight (no relation), he may have to trade in his Coldplay fandom for that of Barbra Streisand.
- Former NBA Star Gilbert Arenas was arrested as part of a federal probe into illegal, high-stakes poker games he hosted at his California mansion. If convicted, he could face a maximum of five years in prison, but he may be able to get off with probation, if he plays

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his cards right.

Congratulations to the winners who predicted the “over” on the over/under of 1.5 Barbra Streisand references! See you next week!

For inquiries and/or unabashed compliments, please feel free to contact me at [josh.bloomgarden@foster.com](mailto:josh.bloomgarden@foster.com) or add me on [LinkedIn](#).

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#### Endorsement Deals, Sponsorships & Investments

**Sydney Sweeney's American Eagle Ads Sparked Outrage. PR Pros Say it Will Make Her a Bigger Star**

July 31, 2025 via *Business Insider*

**Sophie Cunningham Lands Podcast with The Volume**

July 30, 2025 via *Awful Announcing*

**Lionesses' Triumph: England Head Coach Wants More Investment in Women's Soccer to Mark Euro 2025 Win**

July 28, 2025 via *Toronto Star*

**Pete Rose's Rep Asks Court to Endorse Posthumous NIL Deal**

July 28, 2025 via *Sportico*

**What to Know About Donald Trump's Executive Order on NIL and College Sports**

July 26, 2025 via *NBC News*

**Magic Rookie Jase Richardson Signs Shoe Endorsement Deal with Nike**

July 25, 2025 via *Yahoo Sports*

**A-Rod SPAC Strikes Out, Canceling Long-Pending Merger With Lynk**

July 25, 2025 via *Sportico*

**Betsperts Acquires Fantasy National, Eyes Golf Betting Niche**

July 25, 2025 via *Sportico*

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#### Sports

**Former NBA Star Gilbert Arenas Faces Federal Charges in Connection with Illegal Gambling Ring**

July 30, 2025 via *ABC News*

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**Chloe Kelly and Hannah Hampton Could Become the UK's Top-Earning Sportswomen**

July 29, 2025 via iNews

**Guardians Closer Emmanuel Clase Placed on Paid Leave as Part of MLB Sports Betting Investigation**

July 29, 2025 via Toronto Star

**Jeanie Buss Recruiting Sophie Cunningham to Women Of Wrestling**

July 29, 2025 via Awful Announcing

**MLS Games are Averaging 120,000 Unique Viewers per Match on Apple TV**

July 28, 2025 via Mac Hash News

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**Music Biz**

**Why Netflix's 'Hitmakers' Might Teach Your Average Viewer About Songwriting – and Even Get Them Thinking About 'Fair Pay'**

July 31, 2025 via Music Business Worldwide

**Face Of Infidelity Wants To Sue Coldplay Because He Got Caught In Public**

July 30, 2025 via Above the Law

**Amelia Songs Forms Global Publishing Partnership with Kobalt**

July 29, 2025 via Music Week

**Fakelash: Spotify Backtracks on AI Band Velvet Sundown**

July 26, 2025 via The Blaze

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**Film & TV**

**Skydance Responds To Senators: Company Says It "Fully Complied" With Anti-Bribery Laws & Was Not Involved In CBS's Stephen Colbert Cancellation**

July 31, 2025 via Deadline

**Amazon "Cannot Wait To Get Started On 007's Next Adventure" Says CEO Andy Jassy**

July 31, 2025 via Deadline

**Cosm Sets 'Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory' As Next "Shared Reality" Film In Warner Bros. Deal**

July 31, 2025 via Deadline

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**Game, Set, Matchmaker: The First Dating Series Playing Out at the US Open**

*July 31, 2025 via US Open*

**Are You Watching, Disney? Netflix's 'KPop Demon Hunters' Becomes Most-Viewed Original  
Animated Film in Platform's History**

*July 31, 2025 via Music Business Worldwide*

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**Emerging Sports**

**PartyNextDoor Teams With 'Fortnite' for Playable Concert Event**

*July 31, 2025 via Variety*