LGBQ Experience and Sports

Introduction

- LGBQ is an acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning/queer.
- The question of one’s gender began as late as the late 1670s but early 1900s.
- Oftentimes people confuse one’s sex, which is the biological distinction of being male or female, with one’s sexual orientation, which is what one desires.
- In the sports world, LGBQ athletes get looked at differently because of their sexuality; sometimes they are even mistreated.

Research Question

- Why do members of the LGBQ community join sports teams knowing the challenges they may face?

Findings

- A study by Walker explores how white girls or boys are less intimidated to let people know that they are gay than people of color who already deal with racism and do not want to add more wood to the fire, so to speak, by coming out as gay.
- The mistreatment Jennifer Harris endured led to “Think Tank on Homophobia,” which turned discussion into action when dealing with the problems of homophobia in sports.

Interview

Juliet’s Interview (openly gay athlete)

- plays travel soccer and school soccer (high school)
- is out on her travel team
- has experienced some mistreatment from some players
- has a tremendous support system from her travel soccer coach, her friends, and her family
- “I’m optimistic about the future that gay athletes around the world will be able to play freely without judgment; how lovely that will be.”

Conclusion

After doing this research project, we have come to the conclusion that it is still unfair for LGBQ athletes because sexual orientation should not matter to play a game, as that has nothing to do with one’s performance. LGBQ at this day and age are still treated unfairly, and hopefully that will change over the course of the years.