

PLIGHT OF THE FIGHT

Sports are an American pastime because of the passion that comes along with playing them. Sometimes, tensions can reach a breaking point, leaving us with a display of an explosion of emotion. Five of the most exciting and memorable fights in professional and Paly sports are recounted below.

by Lincoln Bloom, Griffin Kemp, and Josh Lai

5. KHABIB VS EVERYONE

Following a fourth round submission victory for the undefeated Khabib Nurmagomedov against the notorious Conor McGregor, Khabib sprawls over the cage of the octagon to attack fellow UFC fighter Dillon Danis, who was watching the fight on the outside. A swarm appeared in the first few rows of the arena to break up the commotion, simultaneously, members of Nurmagomedov's team scaled the cage into the octagon and cheap shotted Conor McGregor. Both players and coaches were reprimanded with suspensions from fighting and heavy fines.

4. EMCC VS DELTA

This JUCO football fight was between East Mississippi Community College and Mississippi Delta Community College. The game between the two junior colleges was broadcast on the first season of the fan-favorite Netflix series Last Chance U. EMCC led 48-0 at the end of the second quarter, and with 59 seconds left in the game the brawl began. Benches on both sides of the field cleared quickly, and the whole situation snowballed. As punches flew left and right, players fought coaches and trash cans were used as projectile weapons. The game spiraled into utter chaos. The game was called with law enforcement stepping in. Both teams faced harsh consequences, including team suspensions and forfeiting the postseason for their league.

3. PALY VS GUNN

In the last game before the Earl Hansen era began at Paly, the Vikings faced a Gunn football team that was notorious for getting fights that 1990 season. Tensions came to a breaking point when Paly's quarterback was pushed out of bounds into a Gunn player who fell down and then shoved him back. The two teams ensued to get into a shoving match that escalated into a full scale brawl with several players from each team throwing punches. The brawl continued for a couple minutes before both teams were separated, and the game was called.



2. ODOR VS BAUTISTA

Rangers 2nd Baseman Rougned Odor initiated a fight with the Blue Jays Jose Bautista when Bautista dangerously slid into him at second base on a ground ball. Odor took offense to Bautista's slide and quickly confronted him after the play took place. A fight broke out between the two, and Odor landed a shot to Bautista's jaw before the two were separated. Both players were suspended after the incident.



1. MALICE AT THE PALACE

The Malice at the Palace is considered to be one of the most famous fights in sports history and showed how dangerous fan-player interactions are. The brawl occurred in an NBA game between the Indiana Pacers and the Detroit Pistons. For the majority of the game, there was heavy tension between both sides, with many fouls being called. With less than one minute left, Pacers forward Ron Artest committed a hard foul against Pistons center Ben Wallace, causing Wallace to push him back. The scuffle led into a fight between both teams, eventually causing fans to react negatively, with one in particular throwing a cup of beer at Artest. Eventually, the fight turned into a large-scale brawl between fans and players.

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