

Best In Tech

A tribute to the 15 best sports innovations since 1998

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Abridged for Unequal® use

Twitter No filter. No middleman. No agent or coach approval. The platform, which was only developed in 2006, has been a megaphone for athletes, coaches, agents and fans, alike. For the first time in history, Twitter has enabled the voice of the athlete to go straight to the fan...

1st & Ten line system Not every line system has won multiple Emmys. But the 1st & Ten, which indicates to TV viewers the distance required for a first down, is highly decorated...

HDTV (High definition television) Today, we can sit in our armchairs and complain about a wide receiver's toes being out of bounds and the in the color-changing Oregon Ducks Fiesta Bowl jerseys, thanks to HD...

Online fantasy sports Can you believe there was actually a time when fans kept fantasy league stats by hand? That was so 1990s. Now we have real-time stats, auto-drafts and more websites devoted to fantasy sports than you can count...

Instant replay Talk about on-again off-again. Instant replay actually dates way back -- we're talking 1955 "Hockey Night in Canada." At the risk of knocking hockey, though, it seems that the more notable early use occurred in a 1963 Army-Navy game with Navy quarterback Roger Staubach...

Olympic advancements Every four years, we get the opportunity to watch more than the patriotism and athletic competition of the Olympics. We get to see the latest tech by which to judge it all...

NASCAR FanVision If you're a sports fan and have never been to a NASCAR race, add it to the bucket list. In addition to being able to bring your own cooler -- which deserves the honor of being on some sort of list in and of itself -- the sport is jam-packed with vehicle advancements, inside and out...

Advancements in protective gear With bigger hits than ever on the field, athletes want to be more protected. Two behind-the-scenes companies are standing out when it comes to protective gear in sports. First, there's Unequal Technologies, a company that soared in popularity after Michael Vick discovered it (the company also makes military gear). Today, the company outfits the Pittsburgh Steelers, including Troy Polamalu and Big Ben as well as James Harrison, who searched for better helmet padding after a helmet-to-helmet hit broke his eye socket. Unequal Technologies' CEO stands strong behind the technology: Rob Vito guarantees that players won't get hurt on game day...

Scoreboards Scoreboards have come a long way. Take the Cowboys Stadium's scoreboard, for example, which holds the Guinness World Record for the largest high definition video display...

YouTube Whether you're reliving Michael Jordan's best dunks from the '90s or sharing Blake Griffin's posturing highlight reel with your entire social network, YouTube has it all.

Sports medicine technologies and Dr. James Andrews What do Adrian Peterson, Nate Burleson and RG3 have in common? Their doctor. When celebrities have an issue they call Dr. Drew. When athletes have an issue they call Dr. James Andrews...

Speedo LZR Racer swimsuit This high-tech, patented swimsuit relied on three years of research and NASA wind tunnel testing before it made waves in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. There, 3,000 of the \$550 suits were handed out to any Olympian who was interested...

iPads as playbooks In the 2011-2012 season, NFL teams using the iPad as a playbook went up. That's because iPads aren't just more convenient, they have also changed the speed and access to film, enabling coaches and players to use a private, secure app for reviewing plays, scheduling and virtual notes...

Monitoring/data capturing devices While these come in a bevy of brands, it's undeniable that personal data trackers have changed the game for both the consumer and pro athlete...

Flex-Foot Cheetah While the carbon fiber Flex-Foot Cheetah has been on the market since 1996, it didn't get its due spotlight until last year's Paralympics. The Ossur blade has changed the course of track and field and put a spotlight on Paralympians and other athletes using assistive technology...