

Aaron Rodgers vs The media

KJ Lee

Many people know Aaron Rodgers as the three-time National Football League's most valuable player and one-time superbowl champion quarterback for the Green Bay Packers.

Aaron Rodgers is widely considered by many as an all time great NFL quarterback. But it isn't Rogers' play on the field that has his name in the media this time. Aaron Rodgers recently tested positive for COVID-19. Now, that news alone would have already been a big deal in the sports world because it would cause him to miss some time in action on the field. It caused him to miss a very anticipated matchup with another one of the NFL's top quarterbacks in Patrick Mahomes. The bigger issue at hand here is what's causing all of the controversy in the media. Reporters went back to a previous interview with Rodgers and asked him if he was vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus, to which Rodgers replied he was "immunized." It has now come to surface that Rodgers is in fact not vaccinated and has been breaking COVID-19 protocols set in place by the NFL.

A reporter by the name of Milton Kent on the podcast "Sports at Large on WYPR" tells us some more information about the situation and gives us some of his own views on the topic. He tells us that Rodgers has been reporting to press conferences and was recently seen at a Halloween party without wearing a mask. The reporter seems to be pretty strongly against Rodgers actions and tells us that Rodgers should have accepted responsibility for his actions and had some accountability, but instead Rodgers takes to social media and begins to point the finger at others. Kent states "But rather than admit to his misdoings, Rodgers retreated to the new normal for people caught doing the wrong thing, he blamed others. Rodgers blamed the so-called

woke mob and cancel culture for his own woes, rather than placing blame right where it belonged, on his own shoulders.”

I personally agree with Kent here. I believe Rodgers was in the wrong for lying about having the COVID-19 vaccination. I am all for standing in what you believe in and if Rodgers were to have come out and said that he simply didn't want to get the vaccine and that he wasn't going to get it to begin with, then I personally would not have an issue with it. Take Kyrie Irving for example. Kyrie Irving is a NBA guard for the Brooklyn Nets. This season, Irving refused to get the vaccine and because of it, he cannot compete in any of the Net's games all season unless he gets the vaccine. He is receiving a lot of heat from the media saying that he is a disturbance to the locker room and all that he cares about is himself, but I personally have no problem with what he is doing because he is standing up for what he believes in and doing so publicly without hiding anything. If Rodgers would have taken a stand similar to that then I wouldn't have an issue with it, but since he lied about it to the media, that is where I have an issue.

A global pandemic sucks for everyone and it takes away a lot of things that people love to do. I am an athlete myself, so I understand the fact that for the most part you are willing to do almost anything to be able to play your sport. But even with that being said, in my eyes, it isn't cool to lie about important things such as your vaccination status and on top of that break guidelines meant to protect not only yourself, but the people around you as well in order to play the sport that you love. I also agree with Kent on the fact that Rodgers could have simply just taken accountability for his actions, and I feel like it could have maybe been less of a big deal. But the fact that he took it to social media and started blaming people other than himself is just a bad look and made the situation even worse than it already was. It can be hard at times to own up to your mistakes and admit that you were in the wrong, but I feel like in this scenario, the only

option you have is accountability because you did it to yourself. No one forced you to make the decisions that you decided to make, so to me, Rodgers could have helped himself out a bit by owning up to his wrongdoings. To make things even worse, Rodgers also tried to use a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. which talks about unjust rules to help justify his case of not being in the wrong. King wrote about discriminatory laws that enforced segregation which were set in place during the time. King wrote all of this from a jail cell in Birmingham, Alabama. I feel that this decision by Rodgers once again made matters worse. The two circumstances are completely different and cannot be compared. Laws enforcing segregation and rules set in place by the NFL to help stop the spread of a global pandemic are two completely different subjects and are incomparable.

To me, Rodgers just had a downhill snowball effect with the decisions he made. First the decision to lie about being vaccinated, then the decision to point the finger at others instead of taking accountability, and finally trying to compare two circumstances that are incomparable. I agree with the podcast here in the sense that Rodgers is definitely in the wrong here and does deserve whatever punishment the league will give him.