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## THE GOTCHA' GAME

By Steve Bakke  June 25, 2018



*Here's what provoked me:*

*That pesky "taking-a-knee" thing won't ever go away. With the Philadelphia Eagles and Trump throwing cold water on the planned celebration at the White House, there was a face-off - not about who would blink first, but about who would make the other look the dumbest.*

*Here's my response:*

### **The Gotcha' Game**

Trump "disinvited" the Philadelphia Eagles from a White House event. Four days prior, 81 Eagles players and officials were planning to attend. On the morning of the event, there were only about five attending, including just two players (but the team mascot was getting dressed up for the occasion).

Suddenly, there were virtually no players willing to attend. It was no coincidence. This was just more foolishness about that "taking-a-knee" thing. We'll never know for sure who planned this and how it came together. Anyway, it happened. Let's not waste our breath discussing what was being protested by NFL players before last year's games - it's not important for this analysis. The President simply told the Eagles to stay home, and he held a patriotic celebration without them.

There's been serious conflict between Trump and the NFL about players "taking-a-knee." Animosity developed between Trump and the league, team ownership, and the players. This was no "schedule conflict." Unified action was taken by the team and players to snub the President, but Trump turned the tables on them.

It came down to who was to going to humiliate whom the worst, and I think the President won this silly gotcha' game.