



HEADSMART™

LABS

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The Science Behind “Deflate-Gate”

The Pressure In AFC Championship Footballs Could Have Changed By 1.95 PSI From Weather and Field Conditions

Pittsburgh, PA (January 23, 2015) -- [HeadSmart™ Labs](#), a Healy Ventures LLC company, today announced findings from a study on football inflation levels in different climates. The study indicated that the pressure in the footballs used in the AFC Championship game could have dropped 1.95 PSI from weather and field conditions alone.

HeadSmart Labs set out to discover if weather during the AFC Championship Game on Sunday, January 18 could have affected the inflation levels in the footballs. The Lab designed a study that would simulate the external elements the game footballs were exposed to. The study encompasses the timeframe from when referees would have initially tested the footballs prior to the start of the game, to the time when the footballs were found to have a lower air pressure during halftime. Reports state that when the game officials tested the New England Patriots’ footballs during halftime, 11 of the 12 were found to have lost pressure of about 2 PSI.

“We took 12 brand new authentic NFL footballs and exposed them to the different elements they would have experienced throughout the game.” said Thomas Healy, founder of HeadSmart Labs. “Out of the twelve footballs we tested, we found that on average, footballs dropped 1.8 PSI when being exposed to dropping temperatures and wet conditions.”

During testing, twelve brand new footballs were inflated to 12.5 PSI in a 75 degree Fahrenheit room. This was to imitate the indoor conditions where the referees would have tested the footballs 2 hours and 15 minutes before kickoff. The footballs were then moved to a 50 degree Fahrenheit environment to simulate the temperatures that were experienced throughout the game. In addition, the footballs were dampened to replicate the rainy conditions.

HeadSmart Labs found that on average the footballs dropped 1.1 PSI from the 25 degree temperature change alone. The Lab also found that when the leather was wet, the ball dropped an additional 0.7 PSI. In combination, it was found that on average the footballs lost 1.8 PSI with a max of 1.95 PSI from exposure to game day elements.



About HeadSmart™ Labs, a Healy Ventures LLC company

HeadSmart™ Labs is a research company that is working on developing new approaches, testing devices, and products to aid in the prevention of head injuries from impact sports where helmets are required. HeadSmart Labs is currently working with researchers from Carnegie Mellon University, as well as student athletes from the Carnegie Mellon football team. Learn more at www.HeadSmartLabs.com.