

[[NFL Features](#) | [New England Patriots Features Page](#) | [The New England Patriots Page](#) | [The Football Server](#)]



[Click here for your NFL Visa credit card!](#)

Kansas City Star columnist Whitlock suspended for heckling fans at game

Copyright © 1998 Nando Media
Copyright © 1998 Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Oct 21, 1998 - 19:44 EDT) -- Jason Whitlock, sports columnist for The Kansas City Star, has been suspended pending an investigation into allegations he heckled fans during the Kansas City-New England NFL game on Oct. 11.

"We don't condone this type of behavior," Rick Vacek, the Star's assistant managing editor for sports, said in a statement Wednesday. "We deeply regret that this incident occurred, and Jason has been suspended pending further review."

Whitlock's column on the game, in which he made no mention of the incident, appeared the next day. His column has not appeared in The Star since then.

KMBC-TV in Kansas City said in a news story on Tuesday night that Whitlock would no longer be doing weekly commentaries until the matter was resolved.

Whitlock, whose aggressive style has attracted a wide readership since he joined the newspaper in 1994, couldn't be reached for comment by The Associated Press.

Eyewitnesses said Patriots fans seated just outside the enclosed pressbox began taunting the visiting media during the game and Whitlock responded by holding up handwritten signs, at least one of which insulted quarterback Drew Bledsoe and the team, according to Sports Illustrated.

After fans became agitated, stadium security guards entered the pressbox and stopped Whitlock.

Star executives declined to comment beyond Vacek's written statement.

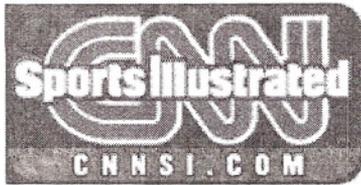
Steve Schoenfeld of the Arizona Republic and president of the Pro Football Writers of America said his organization was satisfied with The Star's action. "We applaud what they have done," he said.



[We mine the net so you don't have to.](#)

[[SPORTSERVER](#) | [BASEBALL](#) | [BASKETBALL](#) | [FOOTBALL](#) | [HOCKEY](#) | [THE SPORTS PAGE](#)]

X2899/2



Pro Football

[Scores & Recaps](#) / [Schedules](#) / [Standings](#) / [Statistics](#) / [Teams](#) / [Matchups](#) / [Players](#) / [Arena](#) / [CFL](#) / [NFL Europe](#)

'I'm putting it behind me'

K.C. sports columnist back after two-week suspension

▶ [Click here for more on this story](#)

Posted: Wednesday October 28, 1998 02:23 PM

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) -- Jason Whitlock has returned to work as a sports columnist for *The Kansas City Star*, two weeks after being suspended for an incident at Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Whitlock, 31, attended Tuesday morning's news conference with Kansas City Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer. His column, absent from *The Star* since October 12, resumed Wednesday and made no mention of the incident.

"Our examination of the matter is complete, and we are looking forward to Jason's column being back in *The Star*," assistant managing editor for sports Rick Vacek said Tuesday.

Whitlock was suspended following an incident in the press box after Patriots fans began taunting visiting writers during New England's 40-10 victory over the Chiefs on October 11. Security personnel became involved after Whitlock held up hand-lettered signs for the fans to see, one of which was personally insulting to the Patriots and quarterback Drew Bledsoe. *The Star*, in announcing the suspension, also said Whitlock had agreed to give up his weekly radio show.

"I don't want to talk about my suspension," Whitlock said Tuesday. "I want to come back and do what I've always done. I don't think my writing style is going to change.

"As far as my suspension goes, it was an unfortunate incident. I'm putting it behind me and going back to doing what I like to do."

Whitlock has attracted a devoted following with his aggressive, two-fisted style since joining *The Star* as a sports columnist in 1994.

Related information

EVENTS

- [Daytona 500](#)
- [Super Bowl XXXIII](#)
- [MJ: A Tribute](#)
- [NBA Preview](#)

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

- [This Week's Issue](#)
- [Previous Issues](#)
- [Special Features](#)
- [Life of Reilly](#)
- [Frank Deford](#)
- [4 FREE Trial Issues](#)
- [Swimsuit '98 Extra](#)

AD PARTNERS

GET 5% CASH BACK
FOR ONLINE PURCHASES

MULTIMEDIA

- [Latest Audio & Video](#)
- [Listen to CNN/SI](#)
- [Live Video](#)
- [Video Almanac](#)
- [Photo Galleries](#)

FEATURES

- [Free E-mail](#)
- [Custom News](#)
- [Desktop Scores](#)
- [City Pages](#)