

It his career and  
in bold strokes. Last  
vibrant colors across the  
again, announcing he  
federal law and  
retracts to accept  
al and college

defy the 20-year-  
ts betting in all but  
some form of it at  
s announcement

rt was approved  
ging, ing handily in all  
s move toward legalization  
political backlash.

ve become comfortable with  
nctioned g...ing, whether  
ing, paring...etting at  
e bewilde

Advertisement

---

They see no difference between plunking down \$50 on number five black on a roulette wheel and plunking down \$50 to back up a belief the Giants are three points better than the Redskins.

They point to the billions wagered illegally — all of which directly benefits larger criminal enterprises while depriving government of millions in tax revenue and turning otherwise law-abiding citizens into criminals.

The arguments advanced by the National Football League and the NCAA against sports betting — principally that it undermines the integrity of the games — is no longer accepted.

Critics dismiss the league's stance as hypocritical, pointing out that it maintains an ongoing collaborative relationship with media outlets that regularly broadcast or print point spreads, reports of injuries to key players, which could potentially alter the outcome of a game, and predictions by self-appointed experts.

Such information has but one aim: helping those who wish to place a bet gain a bit of an edge. It is naïve to believe it's designed to add to one's general storehouse of knowledge about football.

While sports betting would be an additional draw to bring customers to casinos and spend money on hotel rooms, dining, shows and shopping, it is not the windfall for government some supporters claim.

In Las Vegas, the largest sports book in the

country, for instance, it accounted for only \$129 million, 1.2 per cent of the \$10.9 billion in total gaming revenue, according to figures from 2010.

Moreover, should the federal prohibition be overturned, Pennsylvania and New York —