Aneesh Sharma on What Changes Next Year in College Football Analytics

As technology, staffing models, and access to information continue to evolve, college football programs may approach analytics differently in the coming year.

Hanover, New Hampshire Nov 27, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - The Next Generation of Analytics Will Be More Accessible

College football analytics has traditionally been associated with programs that have the financial resources to maintain specialized departments and invest in sophisticated technology. That is beginning to change. As analytical tools become more accessible, programs with smaller budgets have more opportunities to explore information that was once difficult to obtain.

For Aneesh Sharma, this development raises an interesting question about the future of the sport: How much of a program's advantage will come from the resources it can afford, and how much will come from its ability to use those resources creatively?

The distinction matters because access to information does not automatically translate into better results. Programs still need people who understand how to organize, interpret, and apply what they collect. As more teams gain access to similar tools, the ability to ask useful questions and develop original approaches could become an increasingly important differentiator.

Player Evaluation May Become More Multidimensional

Another area worth watching is how programs evaluate potential players. Recruiting has always involved a combination of observation, relationships, performance history, and projections about future development. Analytics offers another way to examine those decisions.

Sharma's experience with recruiting at the University of Georgia gives him a perspective on the different considerations involved in evaluating talent. A player's statistics tell part of the story, but they do not necessarily explain how that individual might contribute within a particular system.

Looking ahead, programs may place greater emphasis on combining traditional scouting observations with more detailed performance information. This could help recruiting departments examine player fit, identify less obvious strengths, and consider how different additions might complement an existing roster.

The goal would not be to replace the human side of recruiting. Rather, it would be to give evaluators more ways to examine a player's potential before making a commitment.

Technology Will Change How Programs Study the Game

Video analysis and performance tracking have already influenced how teams prepare for competition. As these technologies continue to develop, the amount of information available to coaching staffs is likely to increase.

The challenge will be determining which developments are genuinely useful. More information can create more opportunities for discovery, but it can also make preparation unnecessarily complicated if

programs lack a clear process for organizing it.

Sharma's exposure to different football environments, including his work with the LA Rams during training camp, provides an interesting foundation for considering how professional approaches to preparation might influence the college game.

One possibility is that more programs will experiment with ways to connect film study, player evaluation, and performance tracking. Instead of treating each as a separate activity, teams may increasingly look for ways to examine them together.

Analytics Could Influence More Than Game-Day Decisions

When people discuss football analytics, the conversation often centers on decisions made during a game. However, some of the most meaningful applications may occur long before kickoff.

Roster construction, practice planning, player development, and preparation for individual opponents all involve decisions that can benefit from better information. These areas also offer opportunities to examine patterns over longer periods rather than focusing exclusively on individual plays.

As programs become more comfortable incorporating analytical methods into their operations, the influence of these approaches could extend further into the weekly routine.

For someone interested in both the organizational and competitive sides of football, this broader application is particularly compelling. It suggests that analytics is not simply a game-day resource but a developing part of how athletic programs manage their responsibilities.

The Human Element Will Remain Central

Despite the increasing role of technology, football will continue to depend on communication, experience, and relationships. A spreadsheet cannot fully explain how a player responds to a new environment, how teammates work together, or what motivates an individual to improve.

This is one reason the future of analytics is unlikely to involve technology operating independently of the people who make up a program.

The most interesting developments may come from finding better ways to combine different forms of expertise. Analysts, coaches, recruiters, and operations staff each bring a perspective that contributes to the larger picture.

Sharma's experiences across these different areas of football illustrate why understanding the sport requires more than familiarity with a single responsibility. The connections between departments can be just as important as the individual work happening within them.

A More Connected Approach to College Football

The coming year could bring meaningful changes to how college programs collect information, evaluate talent, and organize their operations. Some developments will come from new technology, while others will depend on how individual programs choose to adapt.

For Sharma, the broader direction of the sport presents an interesting opportunity to explore the

relationship between quantitative analysis and the many human decisions that shape a football program.

As more teams experiment with new approaches, the distinction between analytics and the rest of football operations may become less pronounced. Rather than existing as an isolated specialty, analytical thinking could become a more familiar part of how programs approach challenges throughout the season.

About Aneesh Sharma

Aneesh Sharma is a Dartmouth College student studying Quantitative Social Science, with experience across college football analytics, recruiting, and professional football operations. His background includes analytical work involving Dartmouth and Navy football, recruiting experience with the University of Georgia, and training camp operations with the LA Rams. His interests include the evolving role of technology, research, and analytical approaches in sports.

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