1. Antitrust and labor laws are very important to the professional leagues. Antitrust is needed to guard commerce and trade from price fixing and price discrimination. Antitrust is put in place to provide competition among all organizations. In most major American sports things such as the draft, trades, and salary caps are made to keep the competition level. This is a great thing for the fans and for the sport but this is bad for the players. Players have worked their entire life and bring tons of money but is being told that there is a limit of money that can be made to them.

Recently one of the most well known news is about Pittsburgh Steelers Running Back Leveon Bell not showing up this season to preserve his body. He chose to do this because the Steelers would not pay him a long term deal that he felt that he deserved. This was maybe  one of the first times somebody ever did this by choice. It was really put in perspective when Seattle Seahawks Free Safety Earl Thomas came close to making this same decision this season but showed up anyways. However, Thomas suffered a season ending injury and dont know where his next team will be. Thomas while being carted off gave the seahawks sideline the middle finger because of his frustrations.

MLB shouldnt enjoy an exemption in my opinion. I dont feel as if MLB players put their bodies under as much stress as other sports. You could also see the difference in leagues. Larger baseball markets like the New York, Boston, and Los Angeles make it difficult for others to compete. They throw all of the big amounts of money to the best players and it shows on the field. It makes it hard for the smaller teams to win against them and when they do they sometimes take their players by throwing them large amounts of cash that other teams just do not have. This makes it understandable to why other leagues have salary caps.

2. The term ***antitrust*** can be used to describe any contract or type of conspiracy that illegally restrains trade and promotes anti-competitive acts. In order to protect the rights of workers/athletes, unions have been formed to negotiate employment contracts collectively in order to achieve a collective bargaining agreement. As for sports industries the particular unions that represent the players are often known as the players association. The reason you see so many fights/challenges in professional sports is because the huge numbers of employees that make up these organizations. Its impossible to please everybody which is exactly why you particularly see so many in the MLB, and NFL. Baseball however, has held a unique exemption from antitrust laws with the interpretation of the Supreme Court v. National League clubs. The court held that antitrust laws do not apply to professional baseball. Major League baseball has had a system in which once a player signed with a team he then became the property of the team until they no longer wanted him. Having been drafted and gone through this process the current timeframe in which a player gets drafted by his particular team results in 6 seasons for high school kids and 4 seasons for college drafted kids. I believe and have watched many teammates who have gotten fed up with knowing the profit their team/club is making while still considering themselves under paid upon their value and production. This is extremely evident in the minor league system in which each Major League team operates. While all drafted kids and free agents may take home a signing bonus it is an absolute joke the minor league salaries for their first 3-4 years and especially in the lower levels.

  The most obvious example of labor contention that is out there in sports currently is most definitely the LeVeon Bell situation. While getting the franchise tag as the Pittsburgh Steelers running back he felt his yearly salary of 14.5 million dollars was under is current value. Bell wanted a deal in which he would make more than $17 million per year, and a total of $45 million guaranteed. In this decision Bell stood his ground and most recently chose to forego the 2018 season as he and the Steelers were at odds and couldn't work out a deal. The huge question that remains now is whether Bell's decision to sit out the entire season will help or hurt his free agency status. Could a year off and a break that long on the body for an aging player at a position that gets brutalized actually be a good thing, we shall see.

  I do believe Major League Baseball should enjoy an exclusive partial exemption to antitrust law. Because there are so many players that make up both Major and Minor League baseball system its unlike any sport out there. Most people actually don't even know or understand how major league baseball operates and the levels that make up the farm system in order to reach the major league level. Many people see their favorite team without and knowledge of the 7-8 minor levels that rank up from the Dominican Academy all the way to the Triple-A level which is the closes level to the majors.