

*CBS Mornings*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: WNBA Ejection]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Caught Our Eye; Enes Kanter Freedom Ejected From WNBA Game]

ADRIANA DIAZ: Finally, the debate over transgender female athletes took center court last night at a WNBA game. Former NBA player Enes Kanter Freedom was ejected from the arena. So, you can see Chicago Sky guard Natasha Cloud shouting at him as he made his way toward the court. It started after Freedom showed up at the game wearing a shirt that said, “Woman, noun, adult human female.” Freedom, who legally changed his last name back in 2021, stirred up controversy earlier this month after he declared for the WNBA draft in an attempt to get the league to clarify its rules on transgender eligibility. The league has also found itself in the center of the debate after star player Sophie Cunningham said young girls should — “shouldn’t have to go against biological men.”

MAJOR GARRETT: So, here’s what the collective bargaining agreement reads for the WNBA —

GAYLE KING: Okay?

GARRETT: — “Only players who are women are eligible to play in the WNBA.” That is exactly the same language that the collective bargaining agreement has for the National Women’s Soccer League and the Professional Women’s Hockey League. It does not, however —

NATE BURLESON: Hmm.

GARRETT: — define to the satisfaction of those who are curious —

KING: Yeah.

GARRETT: — about this, like Enes Kanter, what a woman is.

KING: What a woman is, exactly.

GARRETT: Yes.

KING: You wouldn’t think you’d even have to have a conversation about what a woman is —

GARRETT: But we are in a place now where there are where there is —

KING: — but we are where it is.

GARRETT: — this dialogue about what is that definition —

KING: Yes.

GARRETT: — and how does it apply to the league? And even Caitlin Clark said, look, the league governing body has to figure this out, has to decide those definitions because you can't leave it up to the players.

BURLESON: Yeah. And I know his shirt was pointing to his statement that he wanted to make, and my concern with him is not about his right to free speech.

KING: Yeah.

BURLESON: It's — it's his inability to have restraint when he's in a professional setting. As a former athlete myself and him as a former NBA player, how can you go there, sit that close to the court, and then get that involved with the player doing her job?

KING: Mmhmm.

BURLESON: So, for me, in him being an athlete, that's been on the other side of that, that had to deal with fans stopping and harassing him while he's playing —

KING: Yeah.

BURLESON: — how come he didn't just sit there, make your point with your shirt, enjoy the game, just like every other fan.

KING: I can appreciate the point he wanted to make, but the way he did it, I think, has a lot of people going, I'm not so sure!

BURLESON: Yes, sometimes the noise and the energy you create —

KING: Yeah.

BURLESON: — will overshadow the point you're trying to make.

GARRETT: Right.

KING: Exactly right.