



SPORTS. FROM THE IMPORTANT TO IMPROBABLE TO IMPROPER.

BY Kerry Schmidt 10-10-2004

First off, I'm actually watching some of the baseball playoffs. Mainly because they are an escape from the Presidential debates. The debates themselves are bad enough, but then the incredible spin from both sides afterwards. There is a saying in journalism that sometimes writing a story is like making chicken soup from chicken...." Those spin doctors can sure make up the BS. You come away thinking you watched a totally different show than they did.

Also, the playoffs are important, and at press time, the underdogs are all doing well, which is fine with me. My two favorite teams are anyone playing against the Yankees and Braves.

Improper. CBS got fined \$550,000 last week for the Super Bowl half-time show wherein Janet Jackson's right breast was exposed. Wow! 55 grand for one boob. I know many women get breast enhancements (boob jobs), but that would be \$110,000. Maybe I'm just old, but 550K for one boob. Nah!

But that is a cheap "body part" compared to Kobe Bryant. His body exploration escapades have already cost him over \$40 million in legal fees and lost endorsements, plus a civil suit will likely add more to the pile.

Never knew a human body was worth that much.

Dale Earnhardt, NASCAR's darling, got fined \$10,000 for saying s... on camera last week. And, he had 25 points deducted from his total, causing him to lose the title lead. That set off a heated debate. Not being fined, but taking points "off the board" after the "game" is over. Never been done before in any sport.

Hit the rich athlete (or team) hard, like two million or something. What if a baseball player swore on air after winning the seventh game of the World Series? Do you take a run or two away and change the outcome?

Improbable. Whacked-out Williams wants to play football again. His new spokesperson, Mary Juana said he has his passion back and denies rumors that he is out of shape and gone to pot.

Somehow, I think the fact that an arbitrator ruled last week that he must pay back to the Dolphins the \$8.6 million on his contract brought him out of his haze. But I know he's serious, because he had a huge Hookah house sale.

However, he could well face a one year suspension for his love affair with Mary J. And, some of his Dolphin teammates are less than enthusiastic. Pro-Bowl DE Jason Taylor said that (sic) nothing made Ricky happy, then "His word doesn't mean a lot right now." He added, "At some point, you have to grow up." As opposed to grow Mary J. Then he finished by saying, "I don't care what he does." Several other teammates have said they do not want him back. Run Ricky run. Hey, maybe the Saints can trade eight draft choices and re-sign him.

Speaking of the Saints...

Aaron Brooks "airs it out" with DE Charles Grant. Brooks says he needs to "re-evaluate" his situation in New Orleans.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

I was in the locker room after the SF game, and I felt a sense of disharmony, at best, and disarray at the worst.

The Saints are the most undisciplined team in the league. Last week, 12 penalties, including five more false start penalties. Twice Brooks fumbled the snap from center. I like Jim Haslett, but he has not been able to get this team under control in his five years at the helm. In fact, they seem more undisciplined than ever.

Compare that with the NY Giants. Tom Coughlin is a super-strict coach, so much so that some of their stars have complained. Yet with much less talent than the Saints, they are 3-1. Judge for yourself.

Impossible. Now, they bring a very talented, but much troubled new player into the fold, CB Mike McKenzie from Green Bay.

He caused considerable dissension in GB, mainly railing against his contract, but also he openly feuded with head coach Mike Holmgren and publicly criticized defensive coordinator Ed Donatell's defensive schemes and the hiring practices of other coaches. I hope he works out well, but the last thing the Saints need right now is someone known for disrupting team chemistry.

Hey, Tiger Woods got married last week. Couple hundred folks worth a couple zillion dollars attended.

I certainly will never criticize someone for getting hitched, but I personally believe that falling in love has diverted his concentration, thus he is not the same Tiger. At least on the course.

Let me close out with some really worthless improbables.

An entrepreneur in Vegas is looking for investors to start the "ThoroughBrest Racing League, which would allow betting on women racing topless. At the Janet Jackson rate, could be a lot of money there.

Are you in a fantasy football league? Consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas (yes, real name) says each player spends an average of 10 minutes a day at work tracking their teams. That, they say, adds up to a \$2.7 billion loss of productivity to their employers.

Maybe Ricky Williams could go to work therein. He lives in a fantasy world anyway.