



SPORTS: S(OME) P(RETTY) O(OUTRAGEOUS), R(IDICULOUS) T(HINGS) S(OMETIMES).

By Kerry Schmidt 04-03-2005

It is with deep sadness that we report this will be Kerry Schmidt's last column, since he tragically passed away April 1 of unknown causes.

Single Malt Scotch is a prime suspect.

April 1?! OK, APRIL FOOLS.

Hey, sure got your attention, didn't I? Always start out with an attention getter.

There may be some readers who wish the above were true, but...

Yes, sports can often come up with some pretty outrageous and ridiculous things sometimes. Like this week.

"March Madness is finally real interesting, now that it is April. By this morning, we will know who will be playing for all the marbles tomorrow night.

Since Dick Vitale always picks the wrong winner – he says North Carolina, I'll go with Louisville, only because they were a huge underdog to even make the Sweet 16.

PC for PI. Political correctness for Poor Illinois. Their team mascot, "Chief Illiniwek," is a student dressed in Native American (NA) - (PC for Indian) garb, but he has been benched from the tournament. Seems it's offensive to NA's to have someone dress up as an NA. Brian Jewett, a professor at Illinois, has even started a website,

www.retirethechief.org.

Stick to teaching, you darn ORG.

Did you know? 42 of the teams in this year's tournament had a graduation rate of less than 50% last year. Profs. not teaching enough, I guess.

Soccer. In one of the bitterest rivalries in the sport, Mexico defeated the USA, 2-1, at 7,400-foot altitude Azteca Stadium last Sunday, only partially avenging a 2-0 loss to America in the 2002 World Cup

Long history here, but just a couple of lowlights. In a 2004 World Cup qualifying match, the Mexican fans constantly chanted "Osama, Osama" at the game.

Redolfo de la Garza, a professor of Immigration Studies at Columbia University, says "Central to Mexican Nationalism is Anti-Americanism." At least he has no PC website. If they hate us so much, how come hundreds of thousands of them illegally come here? Not PC, so onward.

More soccer good stuff. An African World Cup qualifying match held in Bamako, Mali versus visiting Togo ended early when Togo scored to take a 2-1 lead. The fans immediately started rioting, setting cars ablaze, looting and destroyed historical monuments.

Mali President Ousmane Issoufi Miaga restored order by saying the players will be punished for the loss. "All the players acts (or lack thereof, I guess, since they lost) will backfire," as opposed to set a fire, I guess.

Summer's steroids studs start swinging the bats this week, so get ready for the press to continue their hailstorm rage over 'roids.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Speaking of same, Jason Giambi, who admitted to using steroids was not one of the Yankees picked for random testing. Neither was Gary Sheffield, whom Jose Canseco said he had injected with the stuff. Make sense to you?

Derek Jeter and Hideki Matsui were tested. Jeter was clean, but Matsui tested positive for sake, causing MLB officials to run to their medical journals to find out what sake was. More 'roids.

The NFL admitted there are loopholes in their testing program. Whoa, stop the presses. This after CBS' "60 Minutes Wednesday" reported that three Carolina players filled prescriptions from Dr. James Shortt, a South Carolina MD targeted in a DEA investigation. NOTE: Since this is the Dan Rather show, the truth in this story is not yet verified.

Here's the part I love, baby. One of the players was Todd Sauerbrun. The punter! A punter on steroids?! Maybe they helped his foot go from a size nine to a size 13, I don't know. An anonymous source said his toes had brown three inches, all muscle.

Final steroid stuff, very significant. Irish showjumper Cian O'Conner was stripped of his Olympic Gold medal because of a doping offense. The shocking news said a urine sample from Waterfield Crystal tested positive for two human antipsychotic drugs.

Lordy, I know Waterfield Crystal is expensive, now I know why. It is antipsychotic, but I believe I will most certainly refrain from drinking from it.

The NFL awarded New York the 2010 Super Bowl last week on the condition that the Jets build a new stadium on the old Metropolitan Transit Authority rail yards on Manhattan's West Side. Two days later, it was announced that Cablevision had outbid the Jets for the property.

NY immediately sent a delegation to Louisiana to consult with their politicians on the proper methodology of obtaining the rights even though their bid was less. If NY can't build the stadium, New Orleans may get the SB, but rumors abound that the corrupt capital of the third world has explained the bribery process to the northern scum, and thus, with all pockets well lined, bet your bucks on the Jets getting the "winning" bid. The San Francisco Giants have added power this season. It is said they will really light it up this year. No, not steroids, solar panels. 27 of them have been added, each one generating 167 watts an hour. The stadium uses about 4 million watts for a game, thus saving .001127th of the cost. That'll cause them to lower the ticket prices, you think? The NBA. Shaq is the highest paid, at \$27 mil and change this year. His total contract, and that of 11 others is over \$100 million. That happens to be more than the total net worth, according to "Forbes" and "Business Week" of five owners, including the Hornets, from down here in Nawleeeens.

All right, all right. I'll finally give you the results of the most-wanted sports story of the month. In an epic battle, one soon to be on ESPN's greatest sports moments, Sweden defeated the USA, 10-4, to win the World Women's Curling Championships in Paisley, Scotland. Whew! Hey, tough it out, get on with your life.

Not a bad column for a dead person.