



## DUMB, DUMBER AND DUMBEST, IN THE SPORTS WORLD

By Kerry Schmidt 05-01-2005

The NFL draft is over, and I'll let everyone make up their own minds on the outcome. From New Orleans, they say that the Saints got, possibly, the best offensive lineman to come out in several years. The dumb part is that they desperately needed help for the 32<sup>nd</sup> ranked defense, and got zilch. Oh well.

At least the best quote of the draft came from Saints 5<sup>th</sup> round pick, Adrian McPherson, a very talented QB from Florida State, who has had several problems with the law. He said he knew they were interested in him when the Saints called his probation officer to check on his status. Sweet!

Speaking of my locals, according to figures just released, only five teams have a lower payroll than the Saints, at \$73.3 million.

Then, given the huge new TV contract, each team will make an additional \$100 million each year, so Mr. Benson sure needs those concessions that he is demanding from the state. Yes, I'm sure many of you feel akin to this problem in your city, so, whatever.

One more quickie note on my locale. USA/TODAY said of the (NBA) "Horrendous Hornets" (18-64) that, "Hands down the closest and best seat for the money (\$51) in the league.

Great view, horrible scenery.

Huge ego, huge dumbness.

Kobe Bryant. For the first time in nine years, the Lakers are not in the playoffs, and the sole reason is Kobe.

In the celebrated whining match after last season, Kobe was able to run off Shaq and Coach Phil Jackson.

After he showed his dumbness with that "incident" with the young lady in Colorado that cost him over \$40 million in endorsements as well as his reputation, he put his diapers on and cried long and loud on how he wanted to be THE man, how he himself could carry a team to the promised land. He would show 'em that he did not need Superman (Shaq).

As this is written, Shaq has led Miami to the best record in the East and his team is up 2-0 in the first round of the playoffs, while Dapper (I mean diaper) Dan Bryant is home for the summer.

Since everyone else seems to be writing books, maybe he should also. Title it "My Story. How to ruin a reputation and destroy a dynasty." It would be a top seller and maybe get some of his 40 mil back. With his new contract, a Master Card moment: Being Kobe, \$78 million. Loosing all respect from everyone, priceless.

Potentially dumb. The PGA is riding a crest of their highest ratings ever, with Tiger back at the top and Singh, Mickelson and Els have fan interest at its highest level ever.

So what is the major discussion going on right now with the old fogies who run the PGA? They have a bunch of engineers studying the golf balls used today to try to find a way to make them go, yes, LESS far. They seem to think that by making it so the stars cannot drive the ball 300 yards, they will improve the game.

How dumb is that.



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

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Just like baseball fans love to watch more and longer home runs, golf fans really come out with the ooohs and aaahs when Tiger or another star crushes one down the fairway, leaving the fans drooling in their dreams that they could do that.

So why would they want to kill the goose that laid the golden egg, or in this case, the golden ball? Like the old saying, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

To paraphrase a Rod Stewart song, "Forever Young," how about "Forever Dumb."

The BCS folks are showing their mental miscues again.

When the AP poll pulled itself out of the formula, it left the BS stuff to just the coach's poll and the computers.

Rather than come up with what the vast majority of the fans want, a playoff system, they are talking about finding some new fangled poll to replace the AP, so that the new entity can screw things up. At press time, basically, they said that if they could not come up with a new poll system, they could always go back to the old method of individual conferences pledging themselves to particular bowls. Whoa, "Back to the Future."

At press time, they are talking about the Association of College Athletic Directors doing a poll or the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame doing one.

Great! More 80-year old fossils deciding which teams are better by turning up their hearing aids when watching the games.

Two years ago, Oklahoma, instead of USC, played for the title. Last year, OK again got the nod over Auburn.

Most likely again this year, you will have the same dumb controversy.

Last but not the least dumbness. And sad.

Former Philadelphia legend, Lenny Dykstra, whose tough, hard nosed play earned him the nickname of "Nails," was accused by a former business partner who is suing him of both steroid use and gambling on baseball.

Even though MLB cleared him of gambling on baseball in 1991, just making an accusation against someone is deadly. Perception is what counts, not fact. No matter how much proof someone may have that nothing happened, if someone hears the accusation, the perception is he is guilty.

I know Nails liked Las Vegas and the night life, but I have no idea what he did/did not do 15 years ago. If baseball says he was OK, then why does the public believe some scumbag who has an axe to grind with Dykstra? The American public itself is dumb here. Let's close on another dumb, sad note.

A team of Tibetan mountaineers and volunteers are ascending Mt. Everest, not to reach the summit, but rather to try to remove some 615 tons of garbage that pervious climbers have so politely left there. Good conservationists, these former climbers.