



FROM CRIMINAL TO CRAZY TO COMICAL. IT JUST DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS.

By Kerry Schmidt August 13, 2006

Some readers have written to me saying that my sense of humor is sometimes rather sick, or cruel. My response is, you're right.

Why do you think we call this column off the wall sports?

I can make fun of train wrecks. And I'm darn proud of it.

Yes, while there is sadness and/or tragedy involved, I can still turn it into a joke. A bad joke, perhaps, but a joke.

Let's start with today's sports-line up. As is criminal line-up.

Of course, the head dude of this group is former Ohio State running back, Maurice Clarett.

For those of you who don't remember him, or, as quite a few don't want to be reminded of him, he was the phenom freshman who led Ohio State to a Fiesta Bowl win over Miami and the 2002 National Championship.

He was hailed as the next Barry Sanders, and many thought he might sue the NFL (he did, but lost) to come out after that frosh season and jump in with the big boys.

Well, he has gone from wunderkid to wunder-whatinhell went wrong kid.

What may well be his last run was ended last Wednesday when Columbus, Ohio police tried to stop him after he was spotted driving his SUV erratically in the early morning hours. A high speed chase ensued and finally ended when police tackled him by using road spikes, taking out his tires.

Clarett immediately became combative and it took several police over five minutes until mace finally subdued him and four officers were able to get him into the police car. Part of the reason was the taser gun they used had no effect, because Clarett was wearing a bullet proof vest.

Then, when the cops searched the SUV, they found an assault rifle, a 9mm pistol and two other guns. They also found a bottle of Grey Goose vodka, among other things. His bond was set at \$5 million, partially because he was apprehended in the vicinity where a woman lived that was set to testify against him in an earlier alleged armed robbery arrest case. Plus, his bond in that case will likely be revoked, due to this recent fiasco.

Given his past since his glory days, it is likely the only running Clarett will do the next few years is from some huge prison dudes who want him as their b...h

It is easy to say what a stupid thing (s) this kid has done to ruin his life, and he has done many, but it really is a simply a story of possession of a larger than life ego and a persona of false entitlement.

How did a 19 year old freshman go from world class football player to world class – and some say drugged and drunken out – pathetic loser?

The whole story would take two columns, but some of the low lights.

By suing the NFL for early admission, he lost this college ability, and began his spiral into prison.

He moved to Los Angeles, Malibu, actually, and was befriended (?) by those ever so righteous rap singers. They liked Maurice and felt that he could help them into the field of sports agent/management. Maurice looked at the rappers, driving luxury cars and living on the beach in Malibu and saw his easy ticket to the good life.



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They put him up in a mansion on the beach, gave him a BMW 745 and set him up with trainers to prepare him for the riches and stardom of the NFL.

By 2004, he had ballooned up to 245 pounds and most of it was misguided ego. He would demand that everyone who tried to help him must cater to his every whim and desire. He quit trainer after trainer and, instead, started working out hard at the L.A. party scene. After all, he was quoted as saying during one of those gigs, "Yep, I'm the next greatest NFL star."

He bombed out at the NFL combine, and was very lucky that Bronco's coach Mike Shanahan gave him a chance, drafting him in the third round.

His stint with the Broncos was short and not sweet. He would always insist on carrying around his own water bottle, which he called "The Goose."

But it contained vodka, not water.

He argued vehemently with assistant coaches, alienated teammates and felt he was "too good" to work out with them.

He was quickly and unceremoniously bucked off the Broncos and back to the street.

But this time, there were no rich rappers to cater to this fallen star.

Then on New Years Eve, 2006, he was charged with armed robbery, and the descent quickened.

Some of his recent comments and actions were so incoherent and unfathomable that you would almost think he was Bi-Polar, or suffering from other mental problems.

No, folks, it was just his misguided ego, which kept growing larger and larger, despite this troubles, which likewise began growing faster than his ego. Here was simply a young man who had lost all sense of reality and reason.

Do I feel sorry for him? Well, a tiny bit, maybe.

You can't blame it on the rich rappers who pushed him into luxury. Clarett knew he had one and only one talent, and that was football.

He wasted everything on the come line without even working hard enough to roll the dice.

So no, I have no real sympathy for him.

Yes, he currently heads up the class of this decades sports screw-ups and his mug shot is at the top of the criminal's list.

But, he has company, albeit ones who are not at his level of idiocy.

Ohio and the mid west must affect people funny.

In Cincinnati, the Bengals have a couple of Clarett's in training.

WR Chris Henry began last off-season with an arrest for allegedly pulling a gun in an Orlando altercation. He goes to trial on the concealed weapon and aggravated assault charge on August 21.

But ole Henry kept busy in the meantime. In March, he pleaded guilty to marijuana possession, then followed that up with a DUI in early June and before the month was out, he was charged with giving alcohol to three underage women in a Covington, KY hotel room. He was trying to convert them to Jehovah's Witnesses. You think?

Not to be outdone, his teammate, rookie DE Frostee Rucker was charged with spousal battery as well as busting up her cell phone and blackberry.

August 11 was his day in court.

The Bengals rounded out their criminal list when DT Matthias Askew was charged with resisting arrest and obstructing police business when he refused orders to move his illegally parked car and fought with police.

Ya gotta love it!

Sowing off their criminals, the Bears had their own lineup.



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CB Daven Holly was arrested when a gun was fired from his moving SUV.

The Bears shot him out of camp in June.

TE John Gilmore spent July 22 being cited for trespassing, resisting arrest and possession of pot.

We're rolling here, so let's keep it up.

CB Ricky Manning JR. (Definitely no relation to the Angel-clean Mannings) was charged with assault in April after he and some good ole buddies allegedly attacked a man in Los Angeles.

Rounding out the all-star lineup is DT Tank (great name for a DT) Johnson who allegedly scuffled with a cop who was writing a ticket for his double parked limo. Battery and resisting charges were dismissed, fortunately for Tank, since he is on probation for a gun charge.

Yes srrrrreeee, kids' role models all.

There are too many others to list, but I'll close the criminal crazies jail birds list with a real sleazer geezer.

Eddie Johnson, former NBA All-Star, 51, was denied bail last week after he was arrested for sexually assaulting an 8-year old girl. He was able to add robbery to his list.

Now that's a loser. Ole Kobe, at least he takes on a beautiful young blonde.

The last one's the comical part. Racing legends Al Unser Sr. and Bobby were arrested Wednesday in New Mexico for speeding and then for failing to leave a suspected carjacking crime scene.

You gotta love that one.

How about a bad boy gone from red to the black, as in the black ("we're in the money").

We all remember France's Zinedine Zidane's infamous head butt in the World Cup final.

Well the top rated song in France now is *Coupe de Boule*, or "Head Butt."

I makes fun of the incident and has lyrics that warn listeners to "Watch out: it's the head butt-dance," and the chorus says "Zidane he hit him" over and over to the rhythmic sound of an upbeat African tune.

It goes on to say they lost the cup, but had a lot of fun and ends with the words, "The sponsors are all upset."

I'll close with what may not be criminal, although it should be illegal, but certainly crazy and comical, at least the "leads to" progression I make of it.

You can now listen to live radio broadcasts of MLB games on your cell phones. And, says Sprint, it won't be long before you can watch them live on your cell phone."

Ok, let me really go off the wall. We know that all SUV's bought by women come with cell phones as standard equipment, and that as soon as the seat belt is fastened, the phone jumps out of the headrest and attaches itself to the driver's ear.

I'm sure we have all seen people with cell phones doing various things while driving.

Many a woman puts on make up while talking on the phone and driving. Now that's multi-tasking.

Ok, here is where a web site is better than my syndicate, because no censors are involved.

If you can get live TV on your cell, you most certainly can get PORN.

Imagine a guy driving down the road watching this crap. Who knows where or what his hands are doing.

No, I certainly don't want to go there.

Anyway, since I'm writing this on my 62nd birthday, I can leave with a non-criminal mind about a crazy, warped sense of humor. Happy Birthday to me!