



SOME POLITICAL POMPOUS ASSES AND A PUMP IN THE ASS

BY Kerry Schmidt 02-17-2008

I was all set to write today's column on one of my most popular topics: My NFL All-Name team. In fact, I spent over seven hours this past week perusing the rosters of each and every NFL team to deliver what is a different and light side of this violent sport. And, it is quite funny.

I also do this for the "March Madness" and that name list is even funnier.

I will put the above off till next week.

NOTE: I have won two LA and one national award for best column for these name-game writings.

Butt (not a miss-type, see later), along came the Roger Clemens Super Bowl/World Series mega event in front of a congressional sub committee!

Yessirrrrrree, that event was, well, a total, worthless waste of time and our tax dollars at work. As L.A Dodger outfielder Torii Hunter said, "Come on, didn't we already go through this? Who cares who did what 10 years ago? I'm wasting my tax dollars on this?" Hey, not all baseball players are stupid.

Cubs' manager Joe Torre said, "It's sad this is going on. Sic. Shouldn't we be worrying about finding jobs for people or feeding the hungry? See, managers are smart. Smarter than Congress. I did not watch it live, but I heard about it on Thursday, then went to the internet and to USA/TODAY (both paper and net) for comments and details, I then watched it on the web. Before I get into this BULL SHIT waste, I must talk politics for a moment, mainly because the news made it so.

First off, why in the freakin' hell do several members of Congress have to take up our time and tax money (some sources said the cost for said hearing was over a half million bucks of our money). And that was just the one day. Millions more were spent before we got to Wednesday. In fact, before the hearing, Christopher Shays, R-Conn. said, "Our (Congress) job is not to determine the legacy of any player or whether his records should stay on the books. That's not our responsibility. Why are we talking to one player (sic) and not all 70 of the (players) listed in the Mitchell Report? I'm just not comfortable with the way we are using our power."

Now there is someone who has his shit together. RIGHT ON!

So why did these politicians make this their business? Glad you asked.

All these friggin idiots really wanted to do was get themselves on TV and pretend to be guardians of our morality and all that is right with the world of sports.

I'm serious! Those FUBAR Congressmen/women were all pimped up and primed to get themselves over 4 ½ hours of TV time. And remember, this is an election year!

I am using seven sources of information for this column, and three of them dealt SOLELY with how the hearings were blatantly divided among Republicans and Democrats. The republicans were most all BEHIND (he he) Roger and against his former trainer, Brian McNamee, while the democrats were all for McNamee and versus Clemens. So, what does that REALLY tell you about this circus. It tells you how each party wants to belch long and loud for their own beliefs and causes. This was called a hearing, but screw that, the only hearing that the politicians wanted was themselves being heard. And shown, live on TV.

Each and every one of them heard and saw the exact same thing, yet, the two sides came up with totally opposite results.

THIS ENTIRE CRAP WAS STRICTLY POLITICAL!

In case you forgot, in the Mitchell report that came out a few weeks ago, McNamee testified that he injected Clemens' butt "between 16 -21 times with steroids and HGH."



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

The first story I read was by Christine Brennan of USA/TODAY.

Her lead by-line read, “Before Congress, Clemens knocks self out of box.”

She said things like, “This hearing was much worse for him than the Mitchell Report;” She said, “He stumbled, sic, groped for words and couldn’t explain obvious inconsistencies in his stories and was reprimanded several times by Congress.”

“It was an absolute nightmare for Clemens,” she added.

She then stated how D-Henry Waxman, the head of the committee said BEFORE the thing even started (remember, dems – McNamee, repubs – Clemens), that “...we have found conflicts (and other stuff) in Mr. Clemens account.”

Hey, Clemens had not yet even given his damn account.

You get the point. Brennan threw out any format of objectiveness – which you can do in a column – and went on to just hammer Clemens, only stating the dems side.

OK, like I said, a column is an opinion, but when all the other stories report a totally different outcome and evidence, that should at least be mentioned.

Some of the other headlines. “Room 2154 (where the hearing was held) yields no verdict,” this by USA/TODAY writer Mike Lopresti.

“Statements Conflict at Clemens hearing,” Dick Patrick, USA/TODAY.

And then, of course, the political outing. “Republicans tend to favor Clemens,” A.J. Perez, also from USA/TODAY. This was followed by the headline from McNamee’s attorney, Richard Emery, “McNamee Lawyer Cries Partisanship.” OK, but it was both ways, you dork.

In Lopresti’s column, he states that “There were only two things wrong with (the) partisanship.

One is that it made you wonder if getting at the facts had taken a back seat to outdueling the other side.

“The other was how malicious the questions grew...”

“Many opinions, few answer in Clemens vs. McNamee” headlined an unknown writer

And a final headline about the lawsuit Clemens has against McNamee for defamation of character.

In other words, despite what blabber mouth Brennan said, it was a two way street, not a one-way.

There was no clear winner or loser. In fact, both were losers, really.

I will not bore you with all the dribble and other BS that went on, but a few “malicious” questions from both sides will suffice.

First, the only potentially really damning statement came from Andy Pettitte, a former teammate and long-time (ex?) friend of Clemens who stated (in a letter to the committee – he did not attend) that back in 1999 or 2000, Clemens had told Pettitte that he had used HGH.

But even that is “he said – he said.” Clemens stated that Pettitte “misremembers.” That word will hang around like a bad curve ball.

Elija Cummings, D-Md, said to Clemens, “this saddens me. You are my hero, but I find it hard to believe you,” then later in he hallway, said, “I found McNamee more believable because of Pettitte.”

Others also questioned his truthfulness.

D- William Clay asked, I guess sarcastically, “What uniform will you wear when you go into the Hall-of-Fame? Clemens just smirked.

But the repubs, they were really on McNamee, viciously at times.

Dan Burton, R- Ind, said to McNamee, “This is really disgusting. You’re a sworn witness. You’re here to tell the truth..... yet we have lie after lie after lie.” Then he added, “I don’t know what to believe, but one thing that I don’t believe, and that’s you.” Whoa!



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

To summarize, besides Burton, Virginia Foxx, R-N.C. and Darrell Issa, R-CA, at varying times, labeled McNamee a lying drug dealer who is out to capitalize on a 7-time Cy Young winner with a book deal. Issa also referred to McNamee as a “drug pusher.”

McNamee admitted he had not been truthful in past newspaper accounts dating back several years, but stated he told the truth to the Mitchell Report.

About the only congressman that made sense was with the obvious. Tom Davis, R-VA said, “Both (Clemens and McNamee) can’t be telling the truth. Wow, he must be REALLY smart to figure that out.

I can only guess that Ms. Brennan missed all that, or simply chose to ignore what she did not want to hear. Her job is to hang Clemens.

Mark Souder, R-Ind had made a good point that was not directed at either, but rather at MLB as a whole.

He found a troubling revelation in McNamee’s deposition. McNamee said in 2000 that Yankees pitcher David Cone told him during a team flight that the owners did not want drug testing, but they needed the player’s cooperation as a ruse.

Souder said he was worried that baseball can’t be trusted in policing itself.

That’s a shock!

Regardless, it’s finally over and I hope to hell we never get another farce like that.

Clemens’s reputation is tarnished, guilty or not, and McNamee’s career as a trainer is kaput.

No one got a “win” on this thing. I don’t know who looked worse, Clemens or McNamee.

Personally, I think the damn group of Congress jerks came out of this thing looking the worst.

But they did get 4 ½ hours of free TV time, and, as they say, no publicity is bad publicity.

Ironically, just as this ended, pitchers and catchers will report to spring training.

Did Clemens take something? Certainly possible, but as one lawyer pointed out, “with enough money to pay the best lawyers, it is likely that if they thought he could get convicted of perjury, they would have not let him testify.”

That, of course, does not mean he did not take something, but just that a consensus of lawyers say it is extremely difficult to convict someone of perjury.

Obviously, one of them did, and just two blocks from the Supreme Court.

However, I don’t really think we will ever know who did. And I am damn sure no one really cares.

Now maybe, just maybe, the ass wiped Congress will go back to doing something worthwhile – when did that last happen?

I mean, the public polls show that only 23% of people think well of them!

As I said, whatever did/did not happen, it transpired well before these drugs were illegal in baseball. And they were not illegal because the owners wanted them to not be illegal. Long home runs and 99 MPH fastballs bring fans into the seats.

If you had to define this in one word, hypocritical will do.

Next week, you will get the “NAME – GAME.”