



BLUNDERS, BLOOPERS, BARKLEY AND CRAZY QUOTES

By Kerry Schmidt

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First off, I sent an email to Sports Illustrated. In their current issue (June 9), their lengthy – way to lengthy – story on the Celtics – Lakers finals had many virtual quotes and comments that were EXACTLY, nearly word for word, right out of last week’s column!

Imagine a great magazine like SI having to steal stuff from an unknown, broken down idiot.

Anyway, between all the sports publications and TV, you would think that this NBA finals was the end all for the universe.

Never seen or heard so much redundant garbage about a simple 7-game title match-up. One great column on the history of the rivalry was plenty, right?

OK, on to the really worthless stuff.

Going to the web, I found reams of funny, crazy quotes, blunders and idiocy.

Since it is NBA finals time, let’s start with my man, Charles Barkley.

He called the Washington Wizards “The dumbest team in the history of civilization,” due to a Wizards’ player saying LaBron James is overrated before they played Cleveland.

Only Barkley could get away with saying as much as he does. His comedic, self-deprecating and honest statements seem like he is made of Teflon, which is why he could through a guy through a plate glass window after the guy called him a racial name.

Other old and new chuckles from Chuckles.

In response to what he considered a stupid questions from a reporter, he said, “This is why I hate white people.” He calls conservatives “Fake Christians,” and refers to the Rev. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson as “race baiters.”

He said the NBA is “just like football without the helmets.”

Going way back early in his playing days with the 76’ers, he was asked why they were losing so much. His answer: “We’re a bad team, man, a bad F...ing team.”

On a pair of basketball shoes he was endorsing, he said, “These are my shoes. They’re good shoes. They won’t make you rich like me, they won’t make you rebound like me, they DEFINITELY won’t make you as handsome as me. They make you have shoes like me. That’s it.”

Once asked about the problems in Angola, he replied, “I don’t know a damn thing about Angola, but I know they’re in trouble.”

During the 1992 Olympics when he was on the dream team, he said, “I’m quitting the basketball team. I’m going to the pool where they have all these babes with no tops. You’ll think I’m Mark Spitz.”

When he was in Monaco, he said, “This is a great place for alcoholics. Beer costs \$40 a bottle, so you can’t afford to get drunk.”

“Thank God for Jerry Springer,” he said. “I thought only black people were that screwed up until I saw his show.”

When he was asked what people may think of him, he replied, “I don’t care what people think. People are stupid!”

His coach for those Olympics said of Chuckles, “I love Charles, ‘cause he’s so honest. You can see a thought form in his head and then move right out of his mouth without stopping.”

With so much of all the garbage about these finals, some idiot asked Lakers reserve Jordan Farmer how excited he was about those olden days. “Wow, a whole bunch, he said. I probably s..t my pants. But that was OK, since I was only six months old!”

A number of other athletes have had some good ones.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Muhammad Ali had so many, but one of my favorites was re his big rival, Joe Frazier. “Joe Frazier is so ugly that he should donate his face to the US Bureau of Wildlife.”

In a bit I’ll get to the incredible stupidity of many clichés, but Wilt Chamberlain had a point about one. “They tell you nobody is perfect, then they tell you ‘practice makes perfect.’ I wish they’d make up their minds.”

Tug McGraw is THE man. The best quote ever! He was asked if he preferred grass or AstroTurf. “I don’t know, I never smoked AstroTurf.” Tugger, you the man!

Darryl Cheney was asked how to keep the Atlanta Braves on their toes. “Raise the urinals,” he responded. Makes sense to me.

Before Shaquille O’Neal won his 4 NBA titles, he was asked about winning. “I’ve won at every level I’ve played in, except college and the pros.”

Middleweight boxing champ Rocky Graziano said, “I quit school because of pneumonia. Not because I had, it, because I couldn’t spell it.”

Here’s a brilliant one.

Golfer Greg Norman said, “I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mom and dad!”

Good ole Dizzy Dean. During the 1934 WS, he was hit in the head by a line drive. He said, “they X-rayed my head and found nothing.”

A few players were funny just by their names.

Gaylord Perry, Giants pitcher. That would be politically correct today.

Henry Colon, DB of the Lions. Rusty Kuntz (he legally changed the spelling from Cuntz). Rod Tugnut, Dallas hockey goalie. Dean Windass – “beans, beans, the musical fruit...” - an English soccer player.

My favorite, Misty Hymen, U.S. Olympic swimmer. She had a brother named Buster.

Dick Trickle, an old NASCAR driver. He did commercials for STP (Steady Trickle of Pee?).

Soccer player David Beckham said, “I can play on the right side, left side or in the center of the field. I’m very volatile.”

Stupid Blonds. When Tiger Woods told Christina Aguilera that he liked her music, she responded, “I’m sorry, I don’t know much about you. I’m not a tennis fan.”

Former Yankees manager (several times) Billy Martin said, “Reggie Jackson and George Steinbrenner were made for each other. One is a liar (Jackson) and the other is a convict.”

He later said, “When I get out of managing, I’m going to open a kindergarten.”

Another of my favorites, from baseball’s equivalent of Barkley, John Kruk. The Krukster was sitting in front of his locker after a game and some young school girls were in there for a tour.

Kruk was smoking a cigarette, and one little girl said, “Mr. Kruk, you’re not supposed to smoke, you’re an athlete.” He thought for a second, then replied, “No I’m not, honey, I’m a baseball player.”

And sportscasters are certainly not immune to screw-ups.

Kansas City announcer Fred White read the story he was given off the wire, and said, “(Pitcher) Terry Felton has just relieved himself on the mound in the fifth inning.”

A few others from unknown broadcasters. Rugby commentator: “Andrew Mhertens loves it when Daryl Gibson comes inside of him.”

Auto racing. “The lead car is absolutely unique, except for the one behind it which is identical.”

BBC weathergirl announcer the day after it was supposed to snow and didn’t, to Black newsreader Trevor McDonald: “So, Trevor, where’s that eight inches you promised me last night,?” quickly followed up by “Oh hell, are we still on the air?”

A golf commentator on caddy Fanny Sunneson: Some weeks Nick Faldo likes to use Fanny, other weeks he prefers to play with himself.”

A marathon announcer: “Paula has a quick look between her legs and likes what she sees.”



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

James Allen was interviewing Ralf Schumacher at a Grand Prix race: “What does it feel like being rammed up the rear by Barrichello?”

Cycling commentator: “And there goes Juantorena down the back straight, opening his legs and showing us what balls he has.”

My favorite. Weightlifting commentator: This is Gregoriava from Bulgaria. I saw her snatch this morning during her warm up and it was amazing.”

Boxing analyst: “Sure there have been injuries, and even some deaths in boxing, but none of them really serious.”

Back to basketball: “He dribbles a lot and the opposition doesn’t like it. You can see it all over their faces.”

Soccer: “Julian Dicks is everywhere. It’s like they’ve got 11 Dicks on the field.”

Horse show: “This is really a lovely horse, and I speak from personal experience, since I once mounted her mother.”

Olympic rowing: “Ah, isn’t that nice, the wife of the IOC president is hugging the cox of the British crew.”

Last but not least, Tennis: “One of the reasons Andy is playing so well is that, before the final round, his wife takes out his balls and kisses them... Oh my God, what have I just said?!”

And these people get paid big bucks to screw up.

Now what would sports announcers do without clichés?

There are so many and most of them are, well, to quote Chuckles, “really dumb.”

How the hell can a team give 110%, and why do they keep asking.

“The key to the game is”... Geeze, if you care enough to watch you know what it is.

My favorite/unfavorite. Why do players look to the sky and pray to God before a game?

Do you think God gives a hoot who wins. Did He wager with a bookie?

I can just imagine Him saying, “you know what, I like that overpaid steroid freak more than the one on the other team.”

And this really must upset Him. After a HR, good play, whatever, the player points his finger in the air. Do you think God likes getting flipped the bird?

“Play for pride.” Translation: We suck so bad let’s at least not look so bad.

“He’s a player!” No shit? I though he may be the mascot.

This team “came to play.” Really? I thought they were just there for pictures.

“They gave it their all,” and “they took it to the next level.” How do you know what their all is and definitely tell me what the next level is.

“This player has tremendous upside.” Means he sucks right now, but if he takes enough ‘roids he may be good.

“Good work ethic,” means he shows up for practice – sometimes.

“Back against the wall.” Big ass, small Arena Football Stadium.

“They just executed better.” They killed more people?

Here we go again. “God was on their side.” Hey, Notre Dame went something like 3-9 last year. Who you kidding?

“Overcame adversity.” They upset a better team.

“A must win game.” None of the others matter?

“He knows what it takes to win.” Hell, he should, he’s getting paid a zillion bucks.

“I thank God for this win.” Not again! Did God make them win so He could win the above-mentioned bet? Not likely.

So you jerks, quit using God to help you. If you suck, it’s your own problem. He has a whole lot more important things to do.

“They just know how to win.” They lucked out today.



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“On any given day.” What the hell. It could rain, snow, the world could end, whatever.

“They just wanted it more.” How the hell do you know? They just happened to win, that’s all.

And a million more such worthless verbiage. And like the ones who screw up, these guys also get paid huge sums of money to belch out asinine clichés.

Remember once a few years ago, when, as an experiment, one of the networks showed the game without a single word from the “play-by-play” guy or the “color man.” What, Obama is announcing? Yep, time for change.

Hey, I loved it. It was more enjoyable than listening to so much worthless crap. “He got the first down, so he went the extra yard?” Wow. Amazing.

Enough. My cliché, “Take it to the house.” Quit babbling, you’ve endured enough.

Or, “It’s party time!!!”

Me and Chuckster are going to have some single malt.