



## **THE GOOD, NO SCRATCH THAT! THE BAD, THE VERY BAD AND THE BUTT UGLY**

By Kerry Schmidt

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First off, Happy Trescadeckaphobia day to you all! If you don't know what that means, though shit.

The Lakers: (L-osers), A(-sses) K(-rapy), E(-gos), R(-aunchy), S(-uck)!

At least the Loser Lakers will have earned an all-time NBA finals record: Blowing the biggest lead ever in a playoff finals game. Fits this team just fine.

Suck, choke, quit, stunk, whatever. The only game they played was a great game of give-away.

I'm a Lakers' fan – but at least I'm happy for one class guy, Kevin Garnett. At 36, this may well have been his last chance to get a ring. And if anyone should deserve one, it's this quiet, non-egotistical, great player. Thus, I'll be glad to see him earn his tonight.

I just wish Karl Malone could have earned one also. If he had played the Lakers, he would have his ring.

Never in all my NBA fan days have I seen a team lie down and die like the lifeless Lakers. “Suck it up” takes on a different meaning here.

L.A. is known for smog and bad air quality, but the overwhelming stench in downtown, especially near the Staples Center, will linger like a dead skunk for a long time.

Kobe Bryant did have one great line, albeit it was not meant the way he said it. Maybe.

When asked what he would do when he got home, he replied, “a lot of wine, a lot of beer and a lot of shots. I'll down about 20.” Well, if he could have “downed” even half that many “shots” in the fourth quarter, I wouldn't be talking about this.

NOTE: I doubt that squeaky clean Commissioner David Stern appreciated

Kobe's “chug-a-lug” comments, especially given the former ref Donaghy (see below). But hey, I'll drink to that!

Well, that about covers the bad, very bad and butt ugly. A triple crown for one team.

Did you notice all the camera shots of all those celebrities they showed. Jack Nickelson was likely the only one that knew what the hell was going on. All the rest just show up because it's the “IN” place to be.

One unimpressed Celtic, back-up Brian Scalabrine, when asked if he saw anyone else, he said, “I think I saw the Shrek donkey in the third row.”

During all this Finals garbage, the NBA had to deal with former Tim Donaghy's allegations that the league conspired to extend certain playoff series for ratings purposes. He alleged the refs were told to call more fouls on the team that was about to eliminate the other, so the series, and thus TV commercial money, would last longer.

Wait, a ref call far more fouls on one team? Nah!

I asked a couple weeks ago why the home teams won virtually all the time.

Don't know, but a statistic showed that the visiting team was assessed almost twice the number of fouls than the home team. Example. Game two in Boston. Celtics shot 49 free throws, Lakers 10. Game three in L.A. Lakers shot 34 free throws, Celtics 13. Hmmm.

But as far as a conspiracy, given Donaghy as the source, no way. That's akin to believing Terrell Owens wants to take a pay cut and never causes trouble.

Speaking of the NBA. How many times do you see a defensive player “breathe on” a defender and he flies backwards like he has been sucker punched? The league calls this “flopping.” Well, Stern has heard the fans and announcers, and he says that starting next season, players who are floppers will be fined, and after a certain number of flops, they will be suspended for a game.



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About time. He even singled out the Spurs' Manu Ginobili and Cleveland's Anderson Varejao. I guess these "furriners" are used to flopping like fishes.

Final meaningless note. For some reason, China stopped televising all NBA games in the middle of the Lakers/Spurs Western Conference series.

This was at the same time that the U.S. government warned all individuals who will be covering the Olympics in China, that they say there will be a concerted effort by the Chinese government to bug, eavesdrop and copy any/all pertinent information from computers. And the bugs implanted into the laptops, could enter US main line computers when they are accessed.

Screw the Chinks!

A reader emailed me last week and informed me the NHL season was over, and asked why I had not written about this.

I emailed him back asking who had won and when did the season end. I wasn't even sure they had a season.

But then in Friday's USA TODAY, they had a picture of some "thing" named Alex Ovechkin, and the story said he won TWO NHL MVP awards.

How do you have 2 MVP awards in the same season?" Only in the NHL.

Anyway, the story was worthless, but the picture of him was great. He has to be the most butt ugly guy on the face of the earth. Toothless and with a face like the back side of a monkey's ass – sorry to degrade a monkey's ass, this guy could scare a pit bull off a meat wagon. No amount of plastic surgery could help him.

Only interesting thing I have seen re the NHL.

Well, Tiger Woods is back playing this weekend. I knew because there are golf stories in the papers again.

Jack Nicklaus was quoted as saying that he could not see how Tiger could possibly win given that he has only had four days to really practice after his knee surgery. He then added, "but if anyone could, it would be (Tiger)."

Tiger offered after his first round (he was four shots back), that the knee did give him some pain, but "I'll be fine." After Friday, he was only 1 shot back at 2 under par, tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The TV folks sure are happy he is back. Ratings while he was rehabbing were down nearly 69%. A "celebrity money" list came out last week. Oprah, all 250 pounds of her, made the most last year, at \$213 million. Tiger was second, with a paltry \$123 million. Brad Pitt was third, with a mere 20 mil. I wonder if the whites will start complaining about inequality.

NASCAR has been sued for racism and sexism. NASCAR's first black female technical inspector filed a \$250 million lawsuit accusing NASCAR of sexual and racial harassment and wrongful termination.

She alleged that whites would say "she's on colored people time," if she was late.

David DICKerson was fired, allegedly for exposing his penis around her and making Ku Klux Klan references.

NASCAR has stated they are committed to a zero-tolerance policy for harassment. They did not say whether serving "WIENER-schnitzel" was covered, or uncovered, by their policy.

Overall title sponsor SPRINT said they had made "no call" to her, as to the issue, saying no one had been able to call them with details.

The New England Patriots, spy-gate or no, have been the premier NFL team for several years. But not always. In a USA TODAY survey of all-time worst teams, the 1990, 1-15 Pats won (lost?) over the 1976 Tampa Bay Bucs, who in their first year, went winless, 0-14.

I guess they had not invented video cameras back then.

After their one win, 16-14 over the Colts, Pats' tight end Zeke Mowsatt verbally assaulted Boston Herald reporter Lisa Olsen and exposed himself to her.



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NOW CHECK THIS OUT: Owner Victor Kiam's response: I can't disagree with the player's actions."

Geeze, what would Mowsatt have done if they had lost that game? Masturbated in front of her? The issue of powerhouse college football teams paying jr. college-type teams to come play them is in the news again. The teams are raising the amount they pay, just to get a patsy that they can beat 100- 0 or something to raise their spot in the rankings.

Ohio State will pay Navy \$1.4 mil to show up and get sunk in 2009. Wisconsin will pay "just under one million each time" to have Northern Illinois show up twice. Texas will shell out \$900,000 to Florida Atlantic and Arkansas is paying Tulsa \$850,000.

Not only does this make the big schools move up in the polls, it makes money for them, as each school sells out their 90,000 plus stadiums, thus huge bucks. I guess the home fans get so drunk they love a good 80-0 whipping. Sort of like the Romans watching the Christians/Lions (not Detroit) match-ups. Nothing like good sportsmanship.

Back to the NFL. Cowboys DT Tank Johnson – the one who was suspended twice after 4 arrests - and then kicked off the Bears, sent a personal message to Commissioner Roger Goodell saying, "Roger, please let him (Adam "Pacman" Jones, who was arrested 11 times and suspended for an entire year) play. From Tank. Thanks Buddy."

Quite a "formal" message to the boss of the league with whom Tank is not quite on his best buddy list. That's akin to having a murderer asking the warden to give his rapist buddy a nice break.

Anyway, at press time, Pacman has been allowed to participate in spring workouts and meetings, but no action as to the regular season.

Nice try, though. Maybe they can both get arrested together soon.

RB Cedric Benson of the Bears is not preferential to which type of vehicle he screws up in.

Last week he was busted for DUI. Just two weeks before that, he was busted for "BUI," boating under the influence. Hey, neither land nor sea, car nor boat, can keep ole Cedric from quaffing down a few and speeding around.

Anyway, the Bears had enough, and threw him off the team last week.

Speaking of Terrell Owens, seems he missed a random drug test scheduled several weeks ago. He blamed it on a "communication problem involving cell phone numbers." He must use SPRINT.

He also added that he was in New York on the day he finalized his new \$34 million contract with the Cowboys.

Hey, when you're signing up for 34 big ones, who has time to pee in a bottle?!

Every year, the NCAA gives the U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup to the I-A college team that has the best all-around college athletic program. They take into contention all men's and women's sports teams and how they performed in each season.

So who won it this year? Powerhouses like LSU, Ohio State, Florida, et al?

Nope! For the 14<sup>th</sup> CONSECUTIVE year, Stanford won the prestigious Cup. And, for the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, Stanford has ranked in the top six schools academically, including being ranked NO. 1 six times, No. 2 three and in the top 5 18 of the 22 years! Who says brawn and brain don't mix?!

Last, but certainly not least.

For any readers who are under 35-40, they may never have heard of Jim McKay.

Jim died last week at 86. He is without a doubt the most decorated sports announcer ever, with 13 Emmys and over 50 other major awards.

He teamed with Howard Cosell in the 50's to bring sports to America via TV (there were only 3 networks, back then, no cable, ESPN et al) and forever changed the coverage.



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He covered EVERY sport from log rolling to all NCAA championships to the Indy 500, Kentucky Derby, and, of course, he is famous for his Olympics.

Especially in 1972, when terrorists kidnapped and killed 11 Israeli athletes. After 16 straight hours, no one will forget when, in hushed tones, he somberly summarized, "They're all gone. They're dead."

But I for one, will always remember him for the show he started in 1961, *ABC's Wide World of Sports*.

The show covered every sport imaginable. Perhaps the most famous opening line was, "The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat."

And during that statement, the "defeat" part always replayed the Polish ski jumper who flew off the side of the ramp just before he was to launch himself. The TV shots of him cart wheeling and slamming around became the most shown film clip of sports EVER!

NOTE: The Polish ski-jumper was not seriously hurt, and became a word-wide celebrity due to this.

Regardless, McKay did it all and did it all best. He was the first and the ultimate sportscaster. He will never be forgotten.

Neither will my single malt. That, is, the thrill of...sipping.

(Trescadeckaphobia is a fear of the number 13, and Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> in particular. See, you can learn worthless stuff here