



FAVRE, WIE, CHINA & OLYMPICS, MLB TRADES AND TIRES. AND ALL OF THEM ARE IN A MESS

By Kerry Schmidt

08-03-2008

I was sure hoping that I was completely through with the Brett Favre thing, but it has only been growing, like a malignant tumor, and it is ready to either burst or subside.

Last Saturday, the first NFL pre-season game (scrimmage) was held and six players were inducted into the Hall.

But all that is being virtually ignored.

A banker friend/client of mine who is a friend and business associate of Bus Cook, is Favre's agent. And some of this info. comes from that source.

But, time is rapidly approaching the boiling point on this fiasco.

Favre had a private jet ready to fly himself and Cook to Green Bay Thursday evening, but after conversations with Commissioner Roger Goodell, Packers' GM Ted Thompson and team president Mark Murphy, the flight was put off.

The latest:

Yesterday, Goodell spoke to Packers' management and Favre and said he would sign Favre's reinstatement papers Monday at 4PM EDT

That means that Favre and the Pack have until then to work this out or bring this mess to a heads on confrontation.

The upped ante is now \$25 million for him to retire (for 12 mil and 13 mil in the next two years if he played). Hey give me that money and I'd be drunk before the ink dried.

But it is not about the money for Favre. Friends close to Favre say he still wants to play and his wife, Deana, has told him to report to camp.

According to ESPN NEWS reporter, Ed Werder, on Saturday at 5PM EDT, said, "Favre is seriously considering rejecting the (retirement) agreement and showing up at camp."

The Pack said only "his locker is still in the same place.

As stated above, if Favre does report on Monday, we may see the biggest media circus of all time. The Pack will then have only 24 hours to trade, waive or keep him on the roster. If the latter, well, see circus above.

Packer's management is really in a pickle over this situation. Favre is a God in GB, and many T-shirts have been seen lately, saying "Bring back Favre." Also, on Hwy 49 up there, a big billboard says the same thing.

A poll of Packer people says 63% want Favre back.

So, Favre is holding most of the cards, ah, footballs right now.

Early on, the Pack said they would try to perhaps trade Favre, but not to another team in their NFC North (see Minnesota), but Thursday, they hinted they may consider doing just that.

Favre said, "I want to play for the Packers. If not, I want to play against them."

Cook said, "He would love to go back in GB," he told ESPN News. "I mean, that's why he started working out. But right now, it looks like he's the QB for Oak Grove High School." (A local school where he has practiced with the team for many years. Funny, but not really).

If Favre does report to the training camp, it will not be Packer Land, it will be Disney Land.

Regardless, it is most certainly a no-win situation for the Pack. They have stated that 4th year QB, Aaron Rodgers is their starting QB. Period.

But the fans are on Favre's side, so regardless, management will be the bad guys (to them).



It's a virtual lock that Favre will not be the QB. Regardless of what happens – retirement or playing elsewhere, Packers management is up the river, sans paddle, with the fans taking Favre's side.

And poor Aaron Rodgers is under all sorts of pressure.

Look ahead. Favre is gone. The Pack had a 13-3 record last year and was one (Favre) INT from going to the Super Bowl.

They have a great young team, and much is expected of them this year.

In Rodgers, you have a talented QB who has been holding the clipboard for three years, but has never started an NFL game. And his back ups are a rookie and a mediocre veteran.

So what happens if the Pack flops this year and does not even make the playoffs?

The fans will riot against management and Rodgers. His mental state could go psycho.

Talk about finally getting your shot, (not literally) and, no pressure at all. Right.

Though the Pack people are on Favre's side, I think Favre is much to blame also.

As he hinted above, take the \$25 and enjoy life, thus letting the Pack enjoy it also. (Unless they go, say 7-9).

One thing for sure. Should he wind up in Minnesota, I think the TV ratings for those two games may be decent.

Michelle Wie. She burst upon the scene at 14, a 6 foot young lady who was beating everyone else, some pros included.

Well, it has been pretty much down hill from there. Her father has hardly helped manage her career. It's been a near disaster.

She has yet to win a WPGA event. The women's British Open, a Major, is this week, but Wie has chosen to use her sponsor's exemption and play in the men's Legends Reno-Tahoe Open in Reno. She has played in eight other men's tournaments and has never made the cut.

She continued that poor play, shot and 80 and was cut after Friday's 2nd round.

Wei is not a member of the WPGA, thus she has no official pro status. She must get sponsor's exemptions to play therein.

If she were a member, she would be ranked 244th.

She has one more exemption to try to make the top 80, or she will have to go back to qualifying school.

So why in hell does she want to play vs. the men and not in her own league?

Who knows, but her father or whomever is really screwing up her career, or what is left of it.

Annika Sorenstam, at 37 and in her last year, who has won 10 majors and made over \$20 million, more than any other woman golfer, is not happy with Wie.

"I really don't know why (she) continues to do this. We have a major this week and if you can't qualify for a major, I don't see any reason you should play with the men."

Talk about a promising career going down the toilet.

The Olympics open this coming Friday. Man, I'm excited?!

As if we have somehow forgotten, the Olympics, which is supposedly an armature's event, is not. Like all pro sports, it's simply about the money!

Tons of money.

China is a rapidly growing economic power, and the US does billions of dollars in business with them.

So, that explains why a country with one of the worst civil rights records, among other wrongs, was awarded the event.

When they were bidding for the event, China promised that "There will be no restrictions on media reporting and movement of journalists." They also promised that they would clean up the air quality in Beijing.



Well, the air is so bad that you cannot see more than a quarter mile, and just last week, China completely backtracked on their promise of no censorship.

Chinese spokesman Sun Weide said that journalists at the media center would have “sufficient access” to the Internet, but that several “sensitive” websites would be blocked.

Furthermore, China has demanded that every hotel housing all of the media worldwide must install “monitoring video cameras” in many places.

These cameras will be supplied by the Chinese government.

It is well known that China will “do everything within their power to ‘hack into and interfere’ with all foreign individual’s computers in Beijing. It is even stated that they also may well attempt to hack into large mainframe computers of the US Government by planting a virus into computers at the games, which, when the individual gets home and uses same, that would spread the virus. I.E. they’re at least attempting to access as much US “secrets” re technology, military and other information as possible.

But so what, they are paying over \$2 billion for this, so it’s OK.

It is estimated that as many as 1/3rd of all sites will be inaccessible!

A number of countries have decided to not send their journalists.

Why a country with the horrible record China has was awarded this, is, oh hell, it isn’t beyond me. It’s the big bucks, baby.

But, as we are always told, the Olympics are about pure, amateur athletes with no politics involved. Right!

Also on Chinese athletes. Two gymnasts’ ages are in question. One, He Kexin is considered a gold medal contender. Her official birth certificate shows she was born Jan. 1, 2004, meaning she is not 16, the minimum age to compete. But the Chinese produced a passport indicating both are over 16. OK?!

And the doping doctors, those who will be testing, “as thoroughly and as scientifically possible, they say not a single athlete could get past them.”

One thing you can bet on. NO Chinese athlete will test positive!

There were several last minute MLB “blockbuster” trades made before the 4 PM EDT last Wednesday for contending teams to acquire players that may help them in their push for a division title and/or pennant.

I love this one. The Dodgers acquired embattled Manny Ramirez from Boston, and Dodger GM, Ned Colletti said, “Manny’s one of best right-handed hitters of this generation.”

Manager Joe Torre said, “When a player like Manny becomes available, I don’t think there’s a manager in baseball who wouldn’t say they’re interested.”

Ah, Torre, only two teams in the entire league, Florida and Philadelphia showed interest.

Manny had more than worn out his welcome in Boston. He missed games saying he was injured, when nothing could be found by the doctors, he constantly ridiculed his manager and management, and said that Boston “doesn’t deserve a player like me.”

He did add a bit of humor when a camera caught him in the dugout holding up a (trade) sign that said, “Me for Brett Favre. Straight up.”

But here is my favorite part. Colletti said, “He just may be the missing cog we need to win our division and perhaps the pennant.”

And Ramirez’s agent, Scott Boras said, “He is looking forward to playing for Torre, and for a place that is contending. He feels he can help lead them to the WS.

WHAT?! Last time I looked (Friday). The Dodgers were in 2nd place at 53-54. Oh yea, they will really go far in the postseason. Go Manny go.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Last weekend's NASCAR Allstate 400 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway was beset with 10 caution flags, thrown intentionally, due to the fact that the cars could go no more than 13 laps without needing new tires.

The Goodyear tires were "most certainly inadequate for this race course," said Dale Earnhardt Jr. He added, "It's the most bizarre race I've ever seen. I'm ashamed. I feel bad for NASCAR and the fans. They don't deserve to pay good money and then see this."

"That wasn't a race, it was ridiculous," said Ryan Newman. He added, "That's a lack of preparation from NASCAR to Goodyear to the race course."

And what did Goodyear have to say? "It's nobody's fault," said spokesman Greg Stucker. "We need to know how and why that happened."

That sure must have appeased the nearly 90,000 fans who paid to watch one of the bigger races of the season.

So, a whole bunch of messes. At least my single malt scotch won't mess up. Well, a bit more could mess me up, but that's just fine.

Can't wait for the Olympics!!