



MANY LITTLE BITS AND PIECES. ALL WORTHLESS, BUT...

By Kerry Schmidt 09-21-2008

Mother Nature won again as IKE visited Texas, thus knocking out a multi-million dollar event – the Texans, Baltimore game. MN 1, NFL 0.

On the cover of Sports Illustrated on May 5 of this year, they had a picture of the latest Japanese sensation, with the caption “It’s gonna happen. Fuku-something can end the Cubs 100 year wait.” I love his name. I think it’s spelled Kosuke Fukudome, or something. I’ll go with Kissku Fukmeordome.

Anyway, he was real hot for the first half of the season, batting .329 and making the All-Star game. Since then, he has gone into the toilet, hitting about .219 and sitting on the bench most of the time.

The Cubs have the best record in the NL, so they will be in the playoffs, just have to see if Fuk – you can help them end the 100 year draught for the WS.

Regardless, I’ll call him on December 7 and wish him a happy Pearl Harbor Day.

Hey! The NHL has opened training camps and the Ryder Cup is this weekend. My response: PFFFFFITTTTT!

There was (another) riot at a soccer, this one in Butumbo in eastern Congo. As the game started, accusations were made that one team was using witchcraft during the match. Just the thought of that sent the panicked fans storming the exits, and 13 people, mostly between the ages of 11 and 16 were suffocated. Bongo Congo.

Do you remember the end of last year’s MLB season? The Yankees were eliminated in the playoffs in the first round, losing to Cleveland, 3 games to one.

After the loss, Hank Steinfukodome, who has taken over for his obnoxious father, George, came out screaming about manager Joe Torre. His most infamous statement said, “With all the great talent he (Torre) had on this team, and then he could not win the WS, he doesn’t really deserve to be the manager of the Yankees. They need someone who can best utilize all our great talent.”

So, Torre went to the very talent-less L.A. Dodgers. They are a BAD team, but Torre has them, likely, to win the hapless NL West. Thus, he will take a team with minute talent to the playoffs. All Torre did with the Yankees was win 9 straight AL East titles and made the playoffs 12 straight years. He won 1158 games, 2nd most of any Yankee manager.

His replacement is Joe Giradi. How has he done with this same, great talent?

As this is written, the Yankees are 10 games out of first place and 8 games out of being the wild card. So, for the first time in 13 years, the “Damn Yankees” will NOT make the playoffs. What a shame. I’m really upset. So much so that I am going to buy a bottle of the best single malt and toast the losers!

But Steinfukudome gave Giradi a contract extension. Go figure!

Anyway, I wish the Yankees all the worst of luck. Forever.

But speaking of the Yankees, this Sunday is the final game in the venerable and famous Yankee Stadium, which first opened on April 18, 1923.

It is a huge understatement to say that this stadium is arguably the most storied stadium in all of baseball. It played host to many of the most famous players of all time, from Ruth to Gehrig to Mantle, and, among thousands of things, it hosted the only perfect game in WS history, pitched by Don Larsen in 1956. And who can forget Gehrig’s “luckiest man of the face of the earth” speech in 1939.

Yogi Berra was the catcher, and he will be one of many great former Yankees on hand Sunday.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

No one ever hit a fair ball out of Yankee Stadium, but I was at a game in 1963 when Mantle hit one that crashed off the façade of the upper right field roof. Had that ball gone 6 inches left or right, it would have been gone.

Hate the Yanks, but what a stadium.

It will be torn down and the playoff-less Yanks will move across the street to the NEW Yankee Stadium, all \$1.3 billion of tax payer's money.

Speaking of a-holes. Oakland Raiders' 83-year old owner, Al Davis, who has become so senile, he doesn't know a TD from a FG, is, according to reports, ready to fire another coach, Lane Kiffin. The average tenure of his last 7 coaches has been two years. Kiffin took over a team with no talent and struggled, 4-12 last year. After losing their opener to Denver, they rebounded to pound, KC, 23-8, showing some signs that their top draft picks – Darren McFadden rushed for 164 yards, have potential, and they are 1-1 for the first time in 4 years.

I equate Davis with the Steinfueks. Only difference is Davis is older and has lost his mind. But at least he has one, Steinfuekers.

Now, many players are more stupid than management.

Last Monday night's game between Dallas and the Eagles was a fantastic game, with the hated Cowboys winning 41-37.

Many a great play was made, including 6 of over 50 yards.

But on one of them, an interception by DeSean Johnson of the Eagles, epitomized the height of arrogance, conceit and stupidity.

As he was running into the end zone, he casually flipped the ball back out of his right hand. Then he celebrated in the end zone.

Only one problem. He flipped the ball out BEFORE he got into the end zone.

But lucky for him, all the Dallas players were nearly as dumb, because no one picked up the ball, except for the official, who waited for a player to do so.

Thus, the Eagles kept possession on their own 2-yard line, and later scored, but, well, NFL players may be great athletes, but the brain matter is often missing.

Speaking of football "screw-ups." Ernie Davis was the first African-American to win the Heisman, in 1961. He died of cancer before he got to play pro ball, but he still is an icon.

Thus, they unveiled a statue of him outside Syracuse Stadium, his alma-mater.

Couple of minor boo-boos.

His football cleats clearly showed the Nike Swoosh. Problem is that Nike was founded almost a decade after Davis played. Also, he is holding a modern day face mask (with the crisscross protective braces), not the single one used when he played.

Oh well, it's a nice statue regardless.

Nothing like attention to details, though.

Now we know that a fairly decent number of NFL players have not been the most upright citizens. Over 20 have been arrested more than once recently. A goodly number went from the playing field to the jail house.

Well, perhaps the Washington Redskins have come up with a way to prevent this.

They have created a new "executive position" called the "Director of Responsibility." True!

Ken Harvey, a 4-time Pro Bowl LB for the 'Skins in the 90's was hired for this job.

His job description is to help players make good decisions and stay out of trouble. OK.

"I'm not a policeman," he said. "I just let them know it's a game of 'Who do you trust?'"

Everybody wants something from you, and you don't know who to trust."

There have been in house counselors before, but not with this title. His job is to have a very active role. "Way back in the past, it was like as long as you did your job on the field, no one cared about anything else."



I wonder if he will go visit Doggie boy Vick? Damn nice title, though.

Going back to baseball managers a second, the Milwaukee Brewers canned manager Ned Yost with just 12 games left in the season, the latest a manager has been dismissed.

The Brewers had lost 11 of their last 14 games before his ouster. They faded late last year also, but at the time of his firing, his team was tied with the Phillies for the wild card spot.

He was replaced by third base coach Dale Sveum, who promptly lost his first game.

Braves' manager Bobby Cox said, "I never imagined that could happen this late. It's awful.

Unheard of."

Two players, who did not want their names used, said it was "idiotic." They added, "he got us this far, so do the first 150 games not mean anything?"

But wait. You must remember that the Brewers were owned by now Commissioner Bud Stuplig. Technically, he still owns the team, he just turned it over to family management while he F's up the rest of MLB.

GM Doug Melvin said, "We were looking for a way to jump start our team with 12 games left." What a friggin idiot.

Oh, Yost led his team to a 20-7 record in August. Oh, well, "what a difference a month makes."

The Titans' first round pick in 2007, QB Vince Young, threw a couple of INT's in their win over Jacksonville last week and was booed. It appeared he did not want to reenter the game (poor baby, they booed you), but did after coach Fisher talked to him. He hurt his knee four plays later. But then came the fun. The Titans and Young's mom called the police to help look for him after Young left his house and did not return.

Both Fisher and Young have downplayed the incident, but the Nashville police report said Fisher was worried about the QB after he received a call from his therapist.

Fisher asked his therapist what made her worry about Young, and she said, "His mood, his emotions, he wants to quit, and he mentioned suicide several times." She added that, "He then left his house with a gun."

Late Thursday, Young said, "Now I'm OK. I was never depressed, just hurt a little bit.

His opponents this week, Houston, said, they would "Be gunning for him."

Naw, they didn't. Just funning. If suicide is funning. Stay tuned.

Let's give the NBA some equal stupidity.

Dallas forward Josh Howard was shown in a You Tube video bad-mouthing the National Anthem.

He was at a charity flag football game when the National Anthem played.

He approached a camera and said, "The Star Spangled Banner is on. I don't celebrate that (expletive), I'm black." And stupid

He sounds like Obama and his minister.

New England won with Matt Cassel at QB.

A quick comparison with his first game vs. Brady's in 2001

Cassel: 16 for 23, 165 yards. Brady, 13-23, 168 yards.

Bill Belichick's comments on both. Re Cassel: "I thought Matt did a good job." Re Brady, "I thought he did a great job."

Finish with college football.

I spoke last week about the big game between No. 1 USC and then No. 5 Ohio State. I talked about how overrated the Big 10 in general and Ohio State in particular were.

Well, after the 35-3 stomping, State crawled back to the "Little 10" with their tails a draggin.

In Monday's USA TODAY, the headline read, "For Ohio State, another flop on big stage."

I truly believe USC is the best team in the country, but Ohio State is/was not as good as they were made out to be, so we'll see.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Anything can happen and the season is young, but I can't see USC losing to anyone. Their defense is unreal, and their QB Mark Sanchez, well, he's just the latest in line of four great QB's. It's like USC has a QB production machine or something. On to the single malt toast to the Yankees.