



THE WILD WORLD OF SPORTS

By Kerry Schmidt 10-19-2008

No, the above is not a typo, i.e., not the old Wide World of Sports.

WILD.

Right now, many sports are in play and all of them are wild. And crazy!

You have the MLB playoffs, with the WS to start Wednesday, Oct. 15, hopefully with Tampa Bay and its lowly \$44 million payroll). College football is at mid season and already the top five have lost and 9 of the top 14!

And the ever controversial first BCS poll comes out today. Lot of BS'ing over that thing. Again. Pro football has a number of crazy things going. And, I will actually cover the wild world of X-Sports, wherein young kids try to kill themselves.

Yea, the NHL has started, but, as Forrest Gump said, "That's all I got to say about that."

Haaaaakeeeee. El Sucko.

Plus, the NBA pre-season is on, so you get an early chance to see zillionaire glandular cases run around in their underwear. Good stuff.

Start with October madness, MLB!

The Yankees did not partake this year. YEA! Joe Torre took a mediocre, at best, team to the second round, to meet the Cubs, the 100-year team of destiny.

One Cubs fan wrote in that the latest "jinx" was that they were on the cover of Sports Illustrated. BS, dude. Your boys just plain sucked. Hard to win many games when you can't hit the ball.

Nope, no billy the goat, no black cat, no Steve Bartman to foul up a foul ball, no Murphy curse. If they must say it was a curse, OK, it was a broom

Curse, as in a 3-0 sweep.

So Cubs fans, just wait 'til 2108!

But Torre's magical run ended, 3 games to 1 to Philly.

There were a few good fist-a-cuffs almost going on. Great shot in SI of half the Dodger team trying to hold Manny Ramirez back when the benches cleared in game three.

So, this leads us to the unreal Tampa Bay Devil Rays and the Philadelphia Phillies, the infamous team that has lost 10,000 games.

Tampa has never had a winning season in their 11 years, until now. Their best finish, usually dead last, saw them "only" 19 games below .500.

What a turn around!

Now there is certainly no love lost between these two teams.

Their "ready to rumble" history goes back eight years..

Pitchers on both sides repeatedly hit batters, and come in "high and tight" several other times.

Tampa's Johnny Gomes looks like he belongs in a biker bar. He doesn't start, but he is their "hockey goon." If a Rays' player takes it in the ribs, the players on the bench look to Gomes for their cue – should I stay or should I charge?

Gomes is the most active member of the Tampa - Red Sox-Rays fight club, which in the past eight years has produced eight altercations resulting in 25 ejections and 22 suspensions totaling 98 games!

There have been accusations of eye-gouging, hair-pulling, bat throwing and sucker-punching, or as Gomes calls it, "hitting like a woman."

Red Sox designated hitter, David Ortiz says, "This is not the WWF. It's not like you're going out into the parking lot.

But almost. In 2006, Rays left fielder Carl Crawford did challenge Sox relief pitcher Julian



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Tavarez to “go one-on-one in the parking lot. Why? Because, Tavarez stepped on the right arm of Rays’ centerfielder Joey Garthright, leaving cleat marks in his skin and then punched him in the face. Good stuff. And this was just in spring training!

During this series, there have been a couple of hit batters and several brush backs, but no brawls – yet.

The Rays, up 3 games to one and with a 7th inning of game five, blew it. The Sox scored eight runs to make the series 3-2, going back to Tampa.

Could this spike up the Sox? Remember in ’04, down 3 games to zip, they then swept the Yankees to get to, and win, the WS.

And last year, they were down 3 games to 1 to Cleveland, but swept the next three and go on to win their second WS in four years.

Could be a very interesting series finale.

Note: If it’s Tampa vs. Philly, the TV goons will cry in their martinis. No actual big market teams.

The NFL is nearing mid-season. Some surprises. Tom Brady is out for the Pats, and they are struggling. Too bad. Peyton Manning started off poorly with 1-2, but has righted the ship, now 3-2.

Brother Eli made Payton look like the “other” Manning in the first four weeks, until they got blindsided by Cleveland.

And the “never did s..t” Saints. They are still blowing games, but their QB, Drew Brees, is leading the league in all passing categories. Should he continue at his current pace, he would top Dan Marino’s single season record of 5,040 yards.

Saints doing something good?! What the voodoo is going on?

But, what would the NFL be without crime and turmoil.

My man, Pacman Jones. After Cincinnati finally bounced him – hey, he only had 6 arrests, Jerry Jones (no relation) brought him to Dallas.

Commish. Roger Goodell had warned Pacman in strict terms. Absolutely no alcohol, no bars, parties, etc. Took my man only 4 weeks to get into a fight with his team-hired body guard at a party in an upscale hotel in Dallas.

Goodell suspended him four 4 games, sans pay, and it may well be much longer, like, forever.

Packy’s antics have cost him over \$3.6 million – he was suspended for all of last season.

Well, at least he’ll have plenty of free time to add to his alcohol consumption. Goodell will decide whether further sanctions are warranted after the Nov. 16 game vs. the Redskins.

Vegas odds are 2-5 that Pacman will imbibe during his free time.

Goodell also got into a little verbal match with the Steelers’ Troy Palamalu, who is acknowledged to be the toughest, meanest, hard hitting safety in the NFL.

Palamalu said the NFL is becoming “like a pansy game,” saying he questioned whether the league was really concerned about player safety and fines, hinting that it was only about taking money for “good hard play.”

Goodell fired back, saying he respected Palamalu, but “to say it’s about money is (disappointing and inaccurate).”

Palamalu was referring to \$15,000 in fines for Steelers’ WR, Hines ward for unnecessary roughness.

“They’re ruining the sport,” Palamalu said. He went on to say that legendary players like Dick Butkis and Ronnie Lott wouldn’t survive today because they would be excessively fined and suspended. “It’s becoming more like flag football, two-hand touch. We’ve really lost the essence of what real American football is about. In the good ole days, your job was simple. Knock the snot out of the other guy!”



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

I agree. Today's QB's rack up all these great yardage because if a defender lays a hand on him, it's a penalty.

Furthermore, I hate the "5-yard rule on WR's. You cannot touch him after he gets five yards past the line of scrimmage. In the good ole days, you could damn near kill the SOB all the way down the field. Today's WR's are pussies.

How well would "look at how great I am" TO do if the CB's could lay the wood to him all the time. He'd be done. He's a wimp!

I long for those days, where, when the game was over, you really needed help to run off the field. That was football!

Remember Lott? In the last regular season game in 85, Lott broke his pinky finger. He was told he could not play in the playoffs, that it would take 4-6 weeks to heal. His instantaneous actions? "Cut the damn thing off," he said. So they took about 1/3rd of his finger off and he finished the season with a SB win. Now those were the good ole days

Dallas QB Tony Romo has the same injury. Will be out four weeks, they said. After some of the old timers scoffed at him, not in a flattering way, he now says he may try to play. We'll see.

Today, it's all about the money. All the premadona players are too worried about getting hurt, thus losing some money.

Geeze!

Those pansies should take a look at the X-Games players.

Or kids, I should call them.

This weekend the AST Dew tour championships in skateboarding are taking place. The current "king" of the sport is Ryan Sheckler. He is an old man. At 18, he is already a millionaire with a mansion.

But the new kid on the block is Chaz Ortiz, who is second in points, but only eight behind Sheckler.

Thousands of fans will attend the event. Most of them are in high school. Or junior high. In fact, Ortiz is a ninth grader, all of 14 years old.

Ortiz has a fan base that rival top pro athletes.

He says of the finals this weekend, "there's no pressure on me. I just focus on myself. I have a long career ahead of me."

Ortiz just turned pro this season, and says, "I have no big plans right now, other than my homework.

In a DEW tournament in Slat Lake City this summer, he defeated Sheckler.

His strengths are, ready?: After the regular required routines are finished, he does his famous 6-man "jam session," along with a "nollie big spin" to a bakside lipslide, then a kickflip to frontside bluntslide, kickflip, backside lipslide, backside tailslide, a big spin out topped by a kickflip to frontside boardslide to kickflip out. Did you get all that?

I sure as hell have no idea what that stuff is, but I can assure you the thousands in attendance know exactly what they are.

He has broken a collar bone and two broken arms and a wrist, but "I don't worry about that stuff. My parents know it comes with skating."

Ortiz, they say, if he wins this weekend, will become a millionaire. He almost is already.

And his fan base? Thousands of 14-16 year old screaming girls, who think he is "the greatest, coolest jammer in the world. We love him."

Yep, a 14-year old millionaire idol. And, unlike some of those "tough guy" NFL payers, he doesn't worry about an injury. He competed in one tournament with two casts on.

As I said, I no idea what any of the above "moves" mean, but they're worth millions!

We are in tough economic times.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

The NBA says it is laying off 9% of their administrative staff and cutting back elsewhere.
NFL teams that thought they could make a fortune on naming rights to their stadiums are blank.
Two major PGA events no longer have a sponsor.
Weak NHL teams may even have to fold, but no one would notice.
And how about some of those baseball free agents, who are expecting 100 million dollar contracts. Maybe Steinbrenner, but they may have to settle for a mere 75 mil.
Last but not least.
We all know the real estate market is in the toilet. But at least one house will get top dollar.
It's a 4-bedroom, 3-bath house, with listed price of \$475,000. (Price starts with a 4. Hmmm.)
Why will that sell so fast, you ask? It just happens to be Brett Favre's house in Green Bay. I'm sure someone or some group will buy it and market it as a museum or something. Tours would cost \$44. And hey, it's appropriate that a big "4" sale sign is in the front yard. I wonder how many consecutive Sundays it will stand there.
I wonder if Aaron Rodgers is looking for a house.
Single malt time!