



## WS LOSERS; WIMPS; F THE FRENCH AND AVERAGE JOES

By Kerry Schmidt      10-26-2008

Well, we are in the middle of the autumn classic, the WS, and there are some similarities and differences between the two teams.

First off, both teams, Philly and Tampa, for most of their entire existence, have sucked.

But the majority of players on both teams are under 30, so there is lots of time for them to suck some more.

Now Tampa has only been in baseball for 11 years. In the first 10, their best finish was next to last in their division and 21 games under .500

So, the proverbial worst to first. They won 67 games last season, and lost 95. This year, they won 97 – most in the majors, and lost only 65.

And, Tampa had the second lowest team payroll.

Thus, the era of the rich Red Sox and Yankees, at least for now, is gone.

Good thing.

Las Vegas had Tampa at 200-1 to win the WS.

The Phillies have one WS win in their 115 year existence, winning it in 1980.

They have been in a couple of others, but, of course, lost.

Getting creative with numbers, according to Sports Illustrated, Philadelphia has gone a combined 100 years without a championship in any major sport.

They get this number by stating that all four major teams, Phillies, 76'ers, Flyers and Eagles have not won a title in the last 25 years.

The last title for a Philadelphia team was the '83 76'ers. Since '83, three teams have played for a championship – they lost, while the Flyers tried three times – they lost them all. Thus, 0 for 6.

So, Philly basically has sucked for over 100 years, while Tampa Bay only for 10, so Philly wins the losers trophy.

What do they have in common?

The core players all are under 30, making them two of the youngest teams in baseball.

Tampa's top two pitchers, Matt Garza and David Price, are only 24 years old. And Philadelphia's ace is 24-year old Cole Hamels.

But not all of the guys are babies.

Garza was scheduled to start last night against a guy old enough to be his father. Phillies' starter was scheduled to be Jamie Moyer, 45 years old.

The Tampa youngsters got hot at the right time.

One example. B.J. Upton, drafted No 3 overall in 2006, had nine HR's all season. He has had seven so far in the playoffs.

But given the "excitement" (?) of the upstart Devil Rays and the forever losers, the Phillies, the first two games had TV ratings below sea level.

I have said for years, that the decline in WS ratings over the past 10 years can, in no small part, be due to the late evening starting times.

All games are said to start at 8:30 PM, EDT, but by the time Joe Buck and company fill us with BS, it's almost 9 PM

Young kids and old adults (see this writer) are fast asleep well before the games end.

TB's manager, Joe Maddon, is from Philly, so their Philly fans will surely boo the hell out of him.

At TB's domed stadium the cow bells make much of the noise.

In Philly, it is the 4-letter bleep words that are the loudest.



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Philly fans give no slack to their losers. At the very first error or HR by a TB player, the boos, will start. And the verbiage directed to the TB players, well, from 4-letters to 10 or 12, they all will be X-rated.

FOX, who is carrying the WS, says they have special noise “filters,” hopefully to black out just about all of the Philly’ fans “discussions.”

Note: the PETA bunch has sent a letter to Philly outfielder Shane Victorino, asking him to stop eating Spam. Not kidding.

Thus, you have two teams whose entire life spans can be titled “Loser!”

But the Philly fanatics finally have one more shot against futility, while TB, the fan favorite as the underdog, gets their first chance to either win or start their own record of losing.

Stay tuned. If you can stay awake.

Penn State coach, Joe Paterno (Jo Pa) to his fans, at 81, has his team, at press time, 7-0 and ranked No. 3 in the polls. They played at No. 10 Ohio State yesterday.

Paterno started as an assistant coach at Penn State in 1960. So, since I’m a math whiz, I can tell you he has been there for 48 years and counting.

There were a few other Joes in the news, so I had to look up a few famous/infamous of every day Joes.

TB’s Joe the manager. Joe the plumber was mentioned by John McCain in his last debate with Obama bin Biden, as in Joe Biden, the Muslim’s running mate.

TB coach Joe beat LA coach Joe (Torre).

And all the old and average Joes. Joe the millionaire, shoeless Joe Jackson, Joe Sixpack, Broadway Joe, Gi Joes, Joe Louis, and the famous Joe Rockhead.

Geeze, who the hell cares about this crap?

Since the NFL is in season, we can look forward to the Roman numeral SB coming up next February

And, respecting the economic disaster we are in right now, the NFL rounded off the price of the SB tickets to an even \$1,000.

Back in January 15, 1967, the SB ticket price was six whole dollars. And they ended up giving a bunch of them away just so the giant L.A. Coliseum did not look so empty.

Last years Giants upset over The Pats, the cost came to about eight dollars – per play.

Fox’s Terry Bradshaw said it all. “Do you think this league caress whether fans have to pay for something so overpriced in this economy? They would charge \$5,000 if they could.”

Mike Singletary took over as head coach of my 49’ers, after Mike Nolan was canned. Back in my day, his father, Dick Nolan was the coach.

I only bring this up because of Singletary’s eyes. Anyone who watched the Chicago Bears’ Hall-of-Fame MLB, the look in his eyes just before the snap was enough to scare a politician off a hooker.

The TV cameras would zero in on his eyes and announcers would comment on same.

My man, Doggie boy Vick pleaded guilty to the state charges of illegal dog fighting. Supposedly, this will get him out of the jail house and into the dog (half way) house soon. Woof, woof.

This is turning out to be a fantastic sports year. The Yankees, sans Joe Torre, did not make the playoffs, and the Dallas Cowboys, sans “Super Wimp” QB, Tony Romo, are 4-3. They lost last week to the pitiful Rams, by 20 points.

And, Pacman Jones, well, here today, gone again tomorrow. Couldn’t happen to a nicer guy and team.

Yes, Romo is a freakin wimp. So he has tiny break in his pinkie finger. He said last week that it may be well into November before he gets back. All for a pinkie? Wrote last week how Ronnie



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Lott just had part of his cut off so he could play. Do you think that Brett Favre would miss his first consecutive game start with a sore pinky? What a wuss.

Joe Montana had a broken metacarpal bone in his throwing hand in 1988 and kept on throwing, right through the 1989 SB win.

Hey Romo, while you're chumping it, might as well go back to Baja and keep humping your model girlfriend.

Now bicycle racing is rarely even mentioned except during the Tour de France.

Well, Lance Armstrong announced a couple weeks ago that he may come back and try to win an 8th time. He said it is not just to win, but it is to raise money for his cancer foundation, which to date has raised over \$200 million.

Well, this set off an explosion from the worthless French.

The French have never done a damn thing, except surrender. They excel at that. If it was not for us, those jerk offs would be speaking German.

Anyway, Tour President Jean-Etienne Amuary, on October 4, said, "We can't say that he has not embarrassed the Tour, as he has had quite a history with it." Yea, he won seven straight.

An assistant director, Marc Madiot (like Idiot), said, "I don't see how he could win it again," then added, "But before PRETENDING to win another Tour, he must explain what took place in 1999."

He is referring to a urine sample taken from Armstrong after winning his first race. It was tested by three independent labs and found completely clear.

But then in 2005, one of France's own labs retested it and said it may have contained a small amount of a blood booster, EPO. Note: EPO was unknown in 1999.

That claim was quickly thrown out, because the sample had not been stored in a dark, cool space as needed to preserve samples.

But after six years, they still are trying to make something of this, ONLY because a hated American (we should NOT have saved your sorry asses from Germany) had won their only event that anyone had ever hear of.

The sample has since been retested three times, this time by independent labs, and found to be completely clean.

Lance has been tested over 300 times in his seven winning years and never failed a single test. Armstrong pointed to the fact that the doping problems have worsened since he retired.

The French are about as worthless as tits on a bull.

Armstrong added that he may not enter, because of angry and vocal minorities who have been violent towards non French cyclists.

Armstrong said, "There's no reason for them to not let me race. I've done nothing wrong and it has been proven for seven years." But he added that, "I'm an American who took that record away from the French and Europeans, and there has been instances of physical harm.

"2004 and 2005 were pretty scary, with daily death threats," said Armstrong.

"It's not like a stadium where the fans are far from you. They are right on the side of the road, and at anytime they could reach out and hit you or even use a weapon.

There is a history of violence. In 1975, Belgian Eddy Merckx, who won the tour five times, was punched by an angry Frenchman. The kidney injury thusly incurred did not allow him to finish the race, thus missing out on winning his 6th consecutive race.

Merckx, who is a good friend of Armstrong, said the French are just "very upset that someone, especially an American, can win the tour instead of a Frenchman."

Another team leader said it was "sad" that he wanted to return. "What does he want to prove? They should ban him."

Of course, because he likely would beat your team.



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The Tour de France has always been a huge event in Europe, but not until Armstrong came along did it become 2-3 times as big. "He brought interest to the event to America and all the rest on non Europe," said Merckx.

Since Armstrong's retirement, it is estimated that world wide interest and TV ratings are down over 70%!

Armstrong has pointed out that, "The tour needs me as much as I needed the tour." See ratings above.

There is the Giro d'Italia race in May. That tour is second only the Tour de France.

I think he should race there, and screw the French. I can guarantee that the audience for that tour, with Lance, the exposure and viewing would be far more than the French thing.

Anyway, piss on the French. I'll take a single malt over their "whine" any day.

Go Devil Rays!