



WORLD SERIES. THEN, SOME WORTHLESS PIECES OF JUNK

By Kerry Schmidt 11-02-2008

Another WS is in the toilet, I mean, bag. The fact is, that this WS was THE lowest rated ever at 8.4%. The previous rating was 10.1 for the 2006 WS.

In fact, the last four have been the lowest rated ever. This one tops (bottoms?) them.

Last spring, the L.A. Lakers/Boston Celtics NBA finals had higher ratings than the WS.

The only bright spot was that the conclusion of the final 3 innings of the series had an 11.9 rating.

American Idol (PUKE) had much higher ratings than the WS.

Another first. This was the first time a team that had the worst record in their division the previous year made it to the WS.

Yet another first. This was the first – and only – time that a WS game was postponed due to weather.

Some Phillies' fans were very upset with the umpires that the game was not counted as a win, once it had gone six innings and the home team was leading by a run.

Answer. During the regular season and the first round of the playoffs, the umpires, particularly the crew chief, makes the decision.

But in the WS, it is up to the Commissioner. Thus, no blame on the umps.

So, why was this the lowest ratings ever?

Most of the media, correctly, I think, blamed it on the late starts.

The game came on at 8:30 PM. EDT. But by the time the mouths got through their unnecessary blabbering, it was nearly 9PM.

As one Philly fan, Dan McDonald, said, "My kids go to bed at 10PM, so they cannot stay up that late."

Other adults said that they also went to bed before the game(s) ended, which was often after midnight.

One solution offered that makes sense – oops, that does away with the people that run the show, would be to start the game at 7:30 PM. Start the game right then, not the blathering idiots.

That way, the west coast can watch most of the game, and with the game thus ending around 10:30, kids and others would likely watch.

But that makes sense, so...

MLB makes its money from the TV contracts, so they don't have any reason to really give a damn how the ratings come out.

Another problem. With the WS going late into October – next year, if it goes seven games, it will finish on November 5 - is cold weather.

So, if any northern team is in it, there is a very good chance there will be very cold, wet, and even snow at game times.

Either start the season two weeks earlier or shorten it to 152 games.

Or better yet, get rid of the first, or "wild card" match-ups. Wait, that's money, so no way. Thus, see above; start early. Heaven forbid, an afternoon game? Turn back time.

Anyway, the Phils finally got their second WS title, first since 1980.

So, with the championship, the Philadelphia fans did what they can do best.

They rioted! Police said more than two dozen people were arrested, there was wide-spread looting and many a trash can thrown through windows.

And don't forget the mandatory fires in the trash cans.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

An upscale area of Philadelphia has a main street wherein some 20 large trees are planted in very large, finely crafted planters. So, of course, all the trees were knocked over and the planters broken, the trees decimated.

Oh well, that's just Philadelphia.

One final, very important aspect. In Las Vegas, the game was "Already in the books," as the saying goes.

The rules of betting state that if a game is postponed due to weather, it is considered a complete game. So, when the game was halted mid-way through the 6th inning, under the rules of Vegas, the game reverts back to the last full inning, and since Philly was ahead, 2-1 after five innings, Philly backers won.

As it turned out, since they won anyway, it made no difference, but it could have cussed some very upset gamblers. But who the hell cares.

Also, with the postponement, Tampa had a hotel problem. They had already checked out of their Philadelphia hotel. The player's contract states they must stay in 1st class hotels.

Turns out, after 21 calls, the only one with 87 – yes, 87 available rooms was in Delaware.

When TB traveling secretary Jeff Ziegler called the Italian Renaissance Hotel, when the woman answered, after hearing the 87-room request, told the manager, "I definitely have a crank call here." Good stuff.

But it worked out. Again, who cares.

So, another WS in the tank. Literally, with the lowest ratings and the large fish tank in Tampa's stadium which holds many rays.

In no special order, onward to the "worthless junk."

The Portland Trailblazers had the No. 1 NBA pick last year, and they chose 7 foot, 279 lb Greg Oden from Ohio State. He signed for many millions.

He promptly missed the entire season last year with surgery for a micro fracture on his knee.

Micro means small. Don't know about you, but when you have an operation that takes eight months to heal, that ain't small.

Blazers guard, Brandon Roy says, "everywhere I go everyone asks about the big fella. The expectations for him are at a level I can't even imagine."

So, in his, finally, NBA debut against the L.A. Lakers, early in the game, Oden came down on the foot of Lakers' guard Derek Fisher.

Badly sprained ankle. Out indefinitely. 13 minutes, another million or so worth.

Yes, the NBA season officially started Wednesday night. Please wake me up around June, when we get near the finals.

Golfer John Daley, my man. Seems he got very drunk at a Hooters restaurant in Winston Salem, NC. When he went outside, he promptly passed out.

When the police arrived, he was already being given medical attention by emergency workers, and the police said, "He appeared extremely intoxicated and uncooperative." DUH!

When he refused to go to the hospital, the police "took him into custody."

It would be very funny if it were not so sad. What a wasted talent.

With this a Presidential election year, for some reason unknown to me, both Obama and McCain will give taped interviews with Chris Berman and they will be played at half-time on the Monday night game.

MNF football is, unlike the WS, usually the top rated show. See how fast I can change the channel when bald, old fart and terrorist Muslim are on.

Speaking of Obama, Oregon State basketball coach's sister is Michelle Obama. I have no freakin idea why I even mention this, but...



More junk. Isiah Thomas, former Knicks star, coach and President, was taken to a hospital for an overdose of prescription sleeping pills.

Thomas first told the New York Post that his 17-year old daughter had a medical condition that required her to be taken to a hospital in White Plains, NY.

Harrison (NY) Police Chief, David Hall told the Associated Press, that (Thomas) was trying to “cover up” what happened.

Hall added, “My cops...know the difference between a 47-year old black male and a young black female.” Man, those cops are SMART! Isiah, NOT!

Yet another final shot at the summer Olympics. Seems that the “ever-so-fair” Chinese had prepared a “Watch List” of American athletes.

The Chinamen came up with a “black List,” which included the names of 9 athletes and one asst. coach who, they said, “might cause trouble” at the Games, by protesting about the killings in Darfur.

In a July 8 email to the USOC, of which USA TODAY obtained a copy, said the Commies had received information “regarding the intention of certain members of the U.S. Olympic team to stage some kind of demonstration at the Games, perhaps displaying banners or wearing (other things) bearing slogans.”

Four softball women were named: Jessica Mendoza, Jennie Finch, Natasha Watley, Amanda Freed (as in set me free – ha ha), along with an asst. coach. There were five others, including two Paralympic athletes. Abby Wambach, the U.S. soccer goalie was also on the list. Note: She broke her leg well before the Olympics and was not even there. When she heard about being on the list, she said, “Wow, this is one of the proudest moments in my life.” Go girl. Gotta watch those Chinamen!

More basketball crap.

The NCAA will soon come up with some plan to not allow college coaches or scouts to attend basketball camps for kids from 9th through 11th grades. A number of colleges have, last year, already offered scholarships to these underclassmen, including four 9th graders!

Well the NCAA forgot something. 8th graders! True! The above rules failed to mention Jr. High kids. Thus, “You can do anything you want until they reach the 9th grade,” says San Diego State athletics director Jeff Schemmel, who, ironically heads the NCAA cabinet.

“Now, the craziness of getting (a very young kid) to a verbal commitment in the 8th grade is upon us. And that’s really uncomfortable,” added Schemmel.

No kidding. Geeze, recruiting a 13 to 14 year old kid to a college commitment. Insane. Stay tuned.

Football’s turn.

The colleges are nearing the final month of their regular season, and at press time, there were still four major undefeated colleges.

By the time you read this, either No. 1 Texas or No. 5 Texas Tech will have lost, as they play each other.

Some of the coaches have been discussing whom they would vote for if, say, Texas, Alabama and Penn State are undefeated after the regular season.

The coach’s poll is 1/3rd of the BCS formula.

Steve Spurrier, of South Carolina, admitted that if Penn State remained undefeated, he may well vote for “Joe Pa,” as the 81-year old Joe Paterno is known.

Paterno has had five teams go undefeated and in four of those, he was left out of the championship game. (He won the other time).

While they will never admit it, coaches certainly have favorites, such as conferences, friendships, rivalries and so forth.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Thus, if there is a sentimental favorite, it would have to be beloved Jo Pa.

Two major “stories” in the NFL this year.

The Dallas Cowboys, the odds on favorites for the SB, with 13 Pro-Bowlers returning. But things haven’t quite worked out.

At 5-3, with their next four games, they travel to N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington, all with winning records.

Tony Romo is a wuss, not playing due to a broken pinky; TO, despite a nice new contract, has stewed the last few weeks and Pacman Jones, who was brought in to bolster the secondary, was arrested for about the zillionth time and is suspended.

Hard to believe, but the Cowboys have not won a post season game in more than a decade, and their path to the SB is strewn with many roadblocks.

Couldn’t happen to a nicer team. Egomaniac Jerry Jones must have steam coming out of his ears. Good!

Another big surprise is All World QB Peyton Manning. He has 9 TD passes with 9 TNT’s.

Against GB two weeks ago, he had two INT’s returned for TD’s.

After a Monday night loss to the surprisingly undefeated Titans, the Colts are 3-4, and four games behind Tennessee.

This for a team that in the last three seasons started 7-0, 9-0 and 13-0!

Manning insists his being out the entire pre-season is not a factor, but, well, timing with receivers is paramount.

Plus, three of his linemen are out, replaced with three rookies, and his Pro-Bowl center is out. RB Joseph Adai is out for two weeks and last year’s Defensive Player of the Year, Bob Sanders is in the midst of a 6-week outage.

So, now, the “other Manning,” Eli, is the man, having his Giants atop the NFC East, at 6-1, while Peyton is now the “other Manning. Switcharoo!

So, favoritism, turmoil, China lists, surprises, drunks, father saying his “daughter did it,” a multimillion dollar NBA rookie who hasn’t played in over a year,” WS firsts and other assorted stuff.

Yep, things are all screwed up this year. Maybe it’s because I’m writing this on Halloween. NAH. Like any election year, everything is all F’d up.

But, single malt cures everything.