



## FROM FOOTBALL TO FAVRE: AND MORE FUNKY FARCES

By Kerry Schmidt

January 18, 2009

First off, if you have not already read it, you need to pick up the January 12 copy of Sports Illustrated.

For two reasons.

First, in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> pages, Mark Holtzman took one of the all-time great photos. He was in a single engine Cessna, flying at 4,500 feet above the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day. (Yes, he received special permission from the U.S. Government, military and all other required sources). He caught his picture of the cram-packed Rose Bowl, the USC marching band on the field in a perfect Rose formation. But what made it so fantastic was that he waited for the exact moment – he must have been damn quick with his shutter finger, when the B-2 stealth bomber flew over, just beneath him. What a shot!

Speaking of shots, only thing that would have been better was if he did not get all the required Ok's, and as the stealth flew by, it blew him out of the sky!

Now that would have been a great sight!

Incredible picture, though.

I am definitely not going to bring up the BCS BS again. But beginning on page 42 of the same SI, they have, by far, the best, most logical and honest arguments for why, and how there should be a playoff.

Anyone who reads this will be convinced of the fact.

Even the old farts that run the thing. They would agree, but no way WOULD they actually do something about it, so they probably tried to have this issue taken off the shelves. See, the socialist commies run the BCS.

Well, last week was one of the top NFL football weekends. And, some very good, and not so good, but surprising games.

First off, all of the underdogs on the road, won. Pitt, was on the road at San Diego, but they were favored and showed the Chargers what real defense is And they completed the exacta by being the fourth road team to win.

It's quite possible that Vegas' gaming books took a hell of a hit.

Especially unreal was Arizona's total dismembering of No. 2 NFC Carolina.

Louisiana's Jake Delhomme played like a horse's ass. He let a 9-7 team crush the 10-point favored Panthers. I say horse's ass, because now that he is back home in Looooossiaaannna, he can take time for all the horses he owns and trains. Perhaps he should have brought some of them (he needed some "horses") with him to the game.

Delhomme turned the ball over a playoff record six times (5 INT's and a fumble), and Pitt scored 23 points off of same, resulting in a 33-13 whipping.

I've met Jake and interviewed him twice. A nicer, down home country boy you will never find.

He entered the game with the third best passer rating (95.0) in NFL playoff history.

"I'm at a loss for words," a stunned Delhomme said. And as the humble person he is, he said, "I take all the blame. This loss was all my fault. All I can do is apologize to my teammates and move on. I let them down."

Also, twas a bad two weekends for the glamour brothers, Eli and Peyton Manning. Both were ousted, Peyton last week and then reigning Super Bowl winner and MVP Eli dumped a turd on the turf and went packing, 23-11 to the rejuvenated Donovan McNabb (he was benched at halftime six weeks ago, then brought back) and the Eagles.



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

---

Poor papa Archie. He had to sit in two consecutive luxury, enclosed boxes and watch both sons bomb out.

But I reckon the Manning boys can recoup their dignity when they match up with the Tennis sisters, Venus and Serena.

I have no frickin idea what they are going to do, as the only thing the full page ads show is the four of them and big spots announcing that Oreo Cookies is putting this crapola thing on. It's scheduled for tonight. You can go to [DSRL.Com](http://DSRL.Com) to get info, but why? Only thing that may make it interesting is that Peyton and his great photogenic, fantastic personality could make a divorce look wonderful. Hey, wait, many of them are!

I, unfortunately, took a few minutes to go to the advertised web site of this idiotic thing they are doing.

Some quick words that led off some meaningless stuff: "Lick races VS Mannings." How about "Eli lick up the cream."

Holy poop. Man could I have some fun with those lines. And the spot that says, "The Manning's have a 'lick off' against the Williams sisters." Again, my mind could get very X-rated in a big hurry on that one.

As great an ad man as Peyton is, apparently their joint ad for Oreo cookies "bombed," said the report.

Sort of like Peyton and Eli did in the playoffs. Wonderful family. Hope their "lick offs" go better than their playoffs.

Onward and downward.

Philly will play at Arizona in the early game today. How bad is the NFL set up when a team that finished 9-7, had clinched their division 5 weeks ago? And Philly had a 9-6-1 record. (The first OT tie in 15 years. McNabb said he did not know about the tie rule. Brilliant).

And, you have-had, San Diego. They won their division with a pitiful 8-8 record. At least the trashy record is now in the trash can.

Just maybe, the team of destiny is Philadelphia.

They had to win on the final regular season week, and four teams, three of them favored heavily, had to all lose. They lost and the Eagles came out well done.

Destiny?

The game tonight may just be one for the ages! You have the No. 1 and No. 2 defenses in Pittsburgh and Baltimore. Note: Speaking of turn-arounds, Baltimore was 5-11 last season! If you saw either of those two teams play last weekend, they did not PLAY. They went to war. The many colossal collisions that occurred in that game registered about 5.9 on the Richter scale. But wait 'til tonight.

You have some of the baddest of the bad playing.

All you have to do is say, "Ray Lewis" and opponents shudder.

Pittsburg has Ed Reed and James Harrison, a near Lewis match.

In the same division, they played each other twice this season, Pitt winning both, one on a very controversial call.

But the real juicy stuff in this game is that both teams, REALLY, REALLY hate each other.

During Pitt's OT, 23-20 win, Lewis nailed Raven's rookie RB, Rashad Mendenhall and shattered his shoulder.

During an October radio interview, Steelers "other LB," Terrell Suggs, was asked if there was a "bounty" on Mendenhall, to knock him out of the game.

"Oh yea, the bounty was out on him, and also on (Steelers WR, Hines Ward!)" Note: Later, he issued a statement denying there were any "bounties."

"Later" means coach's reamed him out, thus the change of hate-speak.



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

---

Other note: In the Titans/Ravens game, after Titans rookie RB, Chris Johnson had put up 100 yards from scrimmage, including the only TD Tenn. scored, in the first half, Ray Lewis led a “gang tackle” on Johnson shortly thereafter. Result? He was out for the rest of the game.

Players on both sides openly state their disdain (true hate) for each other.

The NFL says that officials will visit each locker room well before the game to “talk” to them about head hunting, bounties on players, et al.

And, normally, the refs come on the field only about ½ hour before game time. This time, they will be out there as soon as the teams come out to warm up. “This situation is ripe for some bad stuff to happen when both teams are on the field early,” said one NFL official.

This type of game is old school. Dick Butkis would have orgasms and Ronnie Lott would cut off this other pinky finger just to be able to break someone in half.

This one is not a “game.” It’s a war. The hate is backed up from numerous encounters and many an injury inflicted on opposing players.

(Players that are injured will definitely play) “If they can breath, they will suit up,” said Lewis.

Not like wimpy Tony Romo. Bad pinky, “ouch, I can’t play.” He has truly gotten the rep as a wimpy guy. “Yea, if you can give him a couple of good licks early, he melts” said Lewis. Like an Oreo cookie? He he.

A sports company that subscribes to my column called me Thursday and asked if I would go to the Pitt/Baltimore game and cover it for them.

I said thanks, but no thanks. I did that for nearly 8 years, and had said that once it became where it was no fun anymore, that was it.

So no zero weather, et al. Home with my 52 inch flat screen plasma, surround and a fire going.

If Arizona should upset Philly, well, whichever team (Ravens/Titans) wins, you may well have a rare 2-diget spread. But, see above, all underdogs... And, remember the Giants were 10-point dogs to N.E. last year.

To many of the “old-timers,” this game, it will turn back the clock to the “good ole days,” when defense ruled.

As Lewis said, “If they don’t score, they don’t win.” Physics professor.

My prediction? An all Pennsylvania SB, with the Genga Kahn led Steelers getting the ring. Final score? 2-0.

Coaching changes abounded this past week.

Detroit: Obvious.

One surprise was Denver’s Mike Shannahan. But the real shocker was TB’s Jon Gruden.

Considered one of the best coaches in the NFL, the Glazers, who own the team, ousted him, quite rudely.

In his first year with TB, he led them to a SB win over his old team, Oakland,

Note: In order to get Gruden, the Glazer blazers first fired Tony Dungey (remember him? Won a SB, had only one losing season in his 11 years with the Colts, and made playoffs 9 of 11 years).

Note: More on Tony next week. And, the bros. gave Oakland 2 No. 1 and 2 No. 2 draft choices PLUS 8 Mill in cash to get Gruden!!

Gruden had the team’s best record, 60-57. But in the games since the SB win, he was 45-53.

Proof that it’s “What have you done for me lately” in this BUSINESS.

I doubt that either Shannahan or Gruden will have trouble getting another coaching job, if they want one. The Grazers still owe Gruden the money (about 7 million) for the remaining 3 years on his contract.

Both coaches likely could get TV offers, so stay tuned.

Again, this just shows what a Business this sport of football is.!

I’ll finish with Brett Favre.



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

---

Yes, Favre should be finished! He should have gone out on top last season.

Remember, the Jets ousted QB Chan Pennington – who led Miami’s turn-around from 1-5 last year to a 10-6 record this season.

The sole reason the Jets paid Favre 10 mil to come here, were the team owners, along with Coach Eric Mangini. They, wrongfully, felt that the great Favre name would compete with the Giants, Eli and SB Champs.

For the first 10 games, Favre showed his old magic, leading them to a 8-3 start, and Favre threw 6 TD passes against AZ in October. His passing rating after the first 4 games was a league best 110.8

But then, the shoulder. Every player, coach and writer knew Favre’s throwing shoulder was hurting (ended up being a torn biceps). Favre himself admitted, “there is something quite wrong with my shoulder.”

Thus in the final five games, he threw 8 INT’s and lost 4 of the 5, and out of the playoffs.

Ah, the love and God-like respect of the owners and coach - Mangini even named his newborn son Zack BRETT Mangini.

But his teammates were pissed.

“A diva,” whispered one teammate. “If someone’s not playing well, they need to come out of the game,” said RB Thomas Jones.

“I think Brett Favre basically is a selfish guy,” said Jets motivational guru Teddy Atlas.

Another player said, “He just wants to keep that bleeping consecutive streak going, even when he can’t play and is costing us a playoff spot.”

Players counted the ice bags on Favre; the missed practices, in-game mishaps and having his own office and separate locker space. They openly snickered at the “warped worship” both the coach and owners bestowed on him.

So, will we see another “I’m retired, no wait, yes, no, maybe.

One thing is for sure. His Jets teammates do NOT want him back.

It’s just another sad case of where an all-time great does not know when to hang them up.

God, he could, and SHOULD have, like he promised, stayed retired after last season’s run almost to the SB in GB, where he is GOD. But no, he had to keep a streak, or something going. It hurt his teammates, cost Mangini his job, and put a late stench on one of the all-time greats.

Next week, I’ll cover how USC’s Mark Sanchez, with only one season as a starter, says he’s ready for the NFL, while OK’s Sam Bradford (Heisman), Texas’ Colt McCoy and FL, the BCS Champ’s???? Tim Tebow, are coming back.

Enjoy today. The Pitt/Balt. game may be an all-timer.

Single malt for ALL!