



SOME SPORTS HAVE TROUBLES NOW. OTHERS WILL SOON

By Kerry Schmidt     June 28, 2009

Let's get one very disturbing piece of crap out of the way right now.

Michael Jackson. So he croaked! Every TV station was using every minute

About that "IT.". So I turned to ESPN. But they were covering the "IT" also!!!

When Al Sharpton came on, I really was ready to Puke! What the hell does Sharpshit have to do with that black/white/he/she Jackson? I guess since Obama is Pres, he and Jesse can only get press time when an "IT" croaks.

And still today! I'm playing only CD's, since every radio station has Jackasses songs on.

THE major point: ***HE'S STILL DEAD, ISN'T HE?!***

Saw huge crowds of mostly women near his house, and many other places, crying, et al.

But what the TV did not show were the many, many young boys who were sighing sighs of relief!

OK, sports.

Each week it seems there is less to talk about.

MLB: They have big problems. Actually, just one very big one. Steroids.

I came across a tidbit of news on the web that said Bud Selig was actually considering having a separate wing in the Hall-of-Fame. The steroid wing!

I was sure this was a joke, and maybe it is, but one source quoted him as saying it would put the "asterisk" problems aside. Say what?!

So I went to the web.

The steroid wing. Hell, you'd have to go there. All the best players and record holders will be there.

What I assume is tongue in cheek had a bit on the web from CNHI news service. Never heard of it, but it had some good stuff.

It was written as if someone was leading a tour.

"As you can see," he said, "the steroid ring is by far the largest in the HOF."

One argument on building the S-wing was, "If you removed every inductee who beat his wife, abused drugs or alcohol or committed various crimes, you could hold the next HOF gathering in a phone booth" I like that.

Now I will make up a few of the "mementos."

In the Rafael Palmeiro casing, you see the index finger he thrust toward a Congressional panel in 2005 while denying using steroids.

Next to that, are the ORIGINAL papers he was served with when he failed his drug test five months after the hearing.

Many others, but I especially liked the plaque recognizing the contribution of the baseball owners and Commissioner Butt Sheeet, who quietly looked the other way while all this was going on.

Hey, attendance was up, big HR's abounded and the money rolled in. Why mess with success?

Oh, I'll make Jose Canseco the President of the steroid boys.

And, just as this steroid thing may be coming to a head, MLBPA chief, Donald Fehr, is resigning his 26 year tenure as executive director of same.

He had more effect on MLB than any one person. His biggest accomplishment(?) was his winning of the law suit on behalf of Andy Messersmith, which eventually led to the "reserve" clause, thus allowing free agency.

With FA, the money rolled in. To the players. When the reserve clause was overturned, the average MLB salary was \$289,000. Today, it is \$3.3 million.



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

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He also won \$280,000 against management for conspiring against free agency in 1985, '86 and '87.

Fehr had been widely criticized by congress and owners - the same who looked the other way because the money was flowing in – for initially opposing a drug testing policy. He said it was a violation of privacy.

He later acquiesced, but defended his initial position, saying, “I didn’t represent anybody but the players.” True.

Michael Weiner will take his place.

So, we will see. Steroids are THE largest problem(s) in MLB, and they must either fix them or join them.

NOTE: Saw where Manny Ramirez, readying himself to return to the Dodgers, drew overflowing crowds at L.A.’s triple A club, the Albuquerque Isotopes. What the hell kind of a name is that for a baseball team? Isotopes?

Just imagine, a 10-year old fan: “Mr., what team do you play for?” “Isotopes, he replies. Kid just walks away with a blank face, wondering if that player is on something.

Isn’t that some type of microscopic particle that nuclear physicists study.

I wonder if those Einsteins even know what a steroid is.

Anyway, Manny was treated like a god. Normal attendance was 7,715 per game, but that jumped to over 15,000.

Lesson: Take steroids, hit monster HR’s, the people will love you and the owners will double attendance.

So, as I have said many times, let them take whatever they want. You’ll never be able to really stop it anyway.

It’s akin to the marijuana/cocaine type drugs that are such a HUGE problem.

Just legalize all of them, control it like alcohol, and you will, A, Make billions for the government, thus solving our money problems, and B. you will pretty much wipe out the drug gangs and all their violence.

But, both of those are too logical and problem-solving for it to ever happen.

Who the F cares.

College basketball: It is so screwed up right now that it is on the verge of imploding.

I mentioned the problems with O.J. Mayo at USC (the coach resigned) – lots of money allegedly changed hands, and Derrick Rose, he of the Memphis SAT fiasco (Coach John Calipari went to Kentucky, where he is now the highest paid college BB coach). NOTE: Calipari was also at the forefront of the Mass. scandal, wherein his “actions” helped lead to Mass. having to forfeit their only final four appearance in 1996. Calipari? He had already moved on to the NBA. Note 2: If Memphis is found to have violated the above situation, they will be forced to forfeit their playing in the championship game and, in fact, their entire season. But as I said, Calipari is rich and loved in Kentucky.

Basically, virtually all of these problems – and they are many, involve the coaches.

The pressure to win is so high that they almost have to bend and/or break the rules.

The NBA “one and done” rule, according to Congressman Steve Cohen, D-Tenn. With only one year, those kids don’t give a tinker’s damn about the rules.” Neither do the coaches if they win! Then you add in the “youth game,” wherein agents and runners, waving the green, to nail down potential future NBA clients, that a virtual cesspool of corruptions are rampant.

The evermore aggressive recruiters have prompted the NCAA to allow them to recognize, and approach kids as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades! They were forced to do this so they can offer protection under NCAA rules. Protection from whom? The thousands of Franklins?



As if this is not enough, Jim Delany, Big Ten commissioner who played under Dean Smith at UNC, says, "...all the problems, but with them comes the biggest seed of its own destruction: Gambling. More than any other sport, this is killing us."

Delany went on to speculate that "of the top 100 programs, (sic) as many as 25 or more coaches are strongly suspected of not being in substantial compliance."

This column is not nearly long enough to further delineate the myriad of problems that are shining the ugly black light on college BB.

When I went to the web to research this, there were well over 150 stories re same!

Down here in the deep south, college football – any sport in the SEC - is not a sport. It is a religion.

Therefore, the oddity is that the "Bible Belt" of the nation, at times, has competition.

This past week here in Loooooooozzzeannna, with LSU winning the College World Series, believe me, that was the religion of the week.

NOTE: I always wonder. After the final winning out, the pitcher stays on the mound, the catcher gets to him first and knocks him down. Then, about 50 players/coaches et al, pile on top of him. I mean, it's a pile about 6 feet high and 8-10 feet diameter. And he is under there forever.

Everyone else is screaming "We won the CWS," et al, But the pitcher is saying. "Get the f... off me. I can't breath and you've already broken two ribs."

Oh well, the rest loved it.

But overall, the No. 1 sport in America is the NFL.

And at the moment, they, compared to MLB and collegiate BB, are quite "clean."

Other than having to keep their athletes out of jail – hard to do lately, they are in great shape, financially and popularity wise. If they were a single "Corporation," they would be in the top 75 world wide.

However, there is a potential black cloud on the horizon.

NFL owners have announced there will be no salary cap after the 2010 season. I.E., they have pulled out of the agreement that has been in place since 1987.

The 2011 season is anybody's guess. The rich clubs could shell out tons of money and "buy" themselves a SB or two. Or, strikes, lockouts, et al, could, similar to what happened in '85 and '87, cancel parts, or possibly all of the season.

Doing the latter seems highly unlikely, only because it would set the NFL back at least 5 years (remember '95, MLB, wherein over half the season and the WS were cancelled? It took MLB nearly 10 years to catch up).

Plus, the money involved is so huge, that neither side wants to kill the golden goose.

DeMaurice Smith, the new NFLPA executive director, says contract talks could begin as early as a month or so.

The three main points are, 1. Revenue percentage. The players now receive 60% of gross revenue. The owners obviously want that lowered.

2., The owners want 17 or 18 regular season games (and 1 – 2 pre-season games will be canceled).

3. This is one is rare, in that I'm quite sure the owners and players will agree on.

They want to put a (much lower) rookie salary cap for incoming players.

The veterans, many with multi All-Pro status, do not care to see some young snot nosed rookie come in with \$25-40 million upfront, guaranteed!

Thus, this "never yet played a down," gets 40 mil and the proven, all-pro gets maybe 10.

The NBA has such a rule. For the first 3 years, a (quite low, comparatively) salary is set, then after the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, depending on your performance, you get your zillions.



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

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To me, this makes sense for the owners, because if the hot shot rookie gets badly injured, they do not have to shell out the huge money.

And, the vets, they can see that money going to “the proven ones.” But the owners may try to keep most of that for themselves, so there they part ways.

On the other side, again, the top draft choices, but ESPECIALLY, their agents! 10% of 40 mil is a lot nicer than 10% of 5 mil.

I believe that this new agreement will be like the hot shot 1<sup>st</sup> round draft choice. He holds out ‘til the very end, sometimes beyond, then works out the deal.

But neither side wants a repeat of ’85 and ’87, thus not following down the MLB and College BB road.

Or the NHL – hey, Riddy, I mentioned your sport again. They were so frickin stupid, they cancelled an entire season. But no one noticed, so no big deal.

The uncapped 2011 season, though, may be very interesting.

Commish. Roger Goodell says he will finally talk with Vickie boy just after he is released from house arrest on July 20.

But then he back tracks, and says he may not talk with him before the season starts.

Hey, Goodnot, he’s paid his dues. Let him play. I’m sick and tired of your yo-yoing around. Do something and move on!

Now, just some totally worthless stuff.

There was a feature article in Friday’s USA TODAY on the “crippling” anxiety that has hit some MLB players.

Kansas City Royals right-hander, Zack Greinke, started out as an all-star. But he has been sent down once and he “just had to get away from the game” another, and was put on the DL twice. Whether it’s the pressure to succeed, the fear of failure in front of millions, these mental problems build, and can become a real problem, needing treatment.

Now I’ll be the soft-hearted, understandable guy here. “Get the F out there and play, you friggin jerk-off.”

Hell, they’re paying you millions of dollars. “Listen pal, you have no time for angst in the mega-checks you get!

Dontrelle Willis, once the rookie pitcher of the year with Miami, where he had 3 great seasons, suddenly found boogers in his brain. He was traded to Detroit, where he is still “angsting” his butt off.

Hey Willie, what about the thousands of “normal” people who are out of a job and maybe their homes. Get a life!

Enough of being understanding.

NASCAR driver Jeremy Mayfield, indefinitely suspend for failing a drug test, says, “I have never taken methamphetamines,” and he doesn’t know how he failed a drug test. Or what meth even is.

I need to check. This guy sounds like Roger Clemens, or any other MLB player.

Note to stupid: Meth is the easiest drug to test for. Use something more complex.

Oh well, any guy who loves to drive 190mph left turns is not the brightest bulb in the chandelier.

Last couple of columns, I briefly mentioned Bryce Harper, the “unreal” 16-year old baseball player. Since Sports Illustrated had him on the cover, his name is brought up many times over.

Either get the June 8 SI, or google him. Great reading!

Speaking of great, I need to go buy a bottle of McCallen 18-year old single malt. Played poker last night and won over 300 bucks, but finished off my last McCallen while doing so. But my hang out, “Friends” restaurant, great place right on the water, has some, so I believe I will stop by there first and have a wee dram.

As soon as you have read this, delete it.



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

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I need for something wild to happen. As soon as NFL camps start up, there will be some arrests and stuff, so, can't wait.