

FANTASY PREVIEW

BUILD THE PERFECT PITCHING STAFF*

WHY LESS IS MORE FOR SOME
NFL FREE AGENTS

EXCLUSIVE
MICHELLE WIE
SETS EVERYONE STRAIGHT



* CY YOUNG WINNER TIM LINCECUM IS A PRETTY GOOD START

espnthemag.com

12.05

March

09 2009

\$4.99 US/\$5.99 CAN/FOR



Eric Zweig, co-editor, *Total Hockey*: In the late 1800s, tripping, kicking and charging weren't allowed in hockey. No punishment was prescribed, though. So crime did pay.

By 1886, players were warned twice for fouls, then ejected for any additional offenses. Oftentimes, they'd be fined around \$15. That'll learn 'em. As of 1899, the rules were changed, and a ref could send an offending player off the ice for as long as he saw fit.

Talk about a power play. When the NHL started, in 1917, penalties were timed, but teams didn't have to go shorthanded. Power plays were added the following season.



ANSWER GUY

SENDING PERPETRATORS OF PUERILITY UP THE RIVER OF PERSPICACITY

WHY IS THERE A PENALTY BOX IN HOCKEY?



Has anyone told the Blue Jackets? There was typically only one box for both teams.

How'd that work out? Not well. Some arenas stationed police nearby to help keep the peace. After a 1963 brawl in the box at Maple Leaf Gardens caused a lengthy delay, both the Leafs and the Canadiens partitioned their boxes. The league mandated the separation in 1965.

Shrewd. But why a box? Why not just send them to the bench? David Keon, crew chief, Maple Leafs: If you send them to the bench for two minutes, who's to say they won't come back on the ice 110 seconds later? They wouldn't!

Oh, yes, they would. Stan Fischler, broadcaster, MSG

Network: The game came of age in the wilds of Canada, so I think the penalty box is a form of frontier justice. It's the jail of hockey. So guys can be rehabilitated? John Stoble, youth hockey director, Chelsea Piers, New York City: We do use penalties to teach kids the correct way to play the game. So why do pros misbehave? Shane O'Brien, defenseman, Canucks: Sometimes things just get out of control. So the system is to blame? Not entirely. But the box is a lonely place. And how does it make you feel? Not good. And therefore? I'm trying to take fewer penalties. Good talk, Shane. But I certainly don't get any breaks on calls. Sorry, time's up.

MOVIES / MUSIC / BOOKS / TV / STAGE

Media Blitz

As a filmgoer, Steve Nash prefers quirky *The Big Lebowski*. But as a filmmaker, the Tinseltown craves straight-up sports. His first offerings from his production company Meathawk, fit the bill. *Showdown in Chin* chronicles a star-studded NYC charity soccer game. The other, still untitled, effort is a runner/cancer crusader Terry Fox. "He's a Canadian hero," says Nash, "and he'll be a hero to anyone who hears his story."



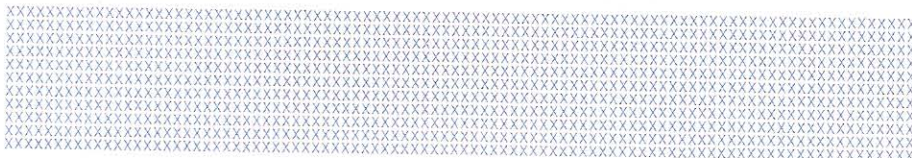
SCREEN GEMS Owen Wilson is to play a major league hurler in a suit for Reese Witherspoon rom-com from James L. Brooks. Ashton Kutcher is set to star in Paramount's *Traded* as an NFL player who swaps bodies with a geek. Think *Big-meets-Judd*.



TUBE NEWS First Kareem, the now ... Paul! The LA forward is in a college game rigged by math geeks in *Numb3rs* (CBS, March 13). Tom Spaniard hopes to don a cap in *"but not Kazaam 2"* (Gasol is ...)



REALITY BYTES On *Dhani Jones* (Travel Channel), lined up with Irish and English rugger, who is more than Keith Rivers on his best, although that's not saying an ...



W2W4 WHAT TO WATCH FOR

PRIDE



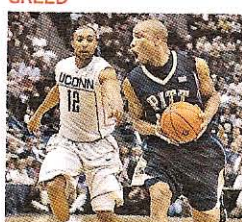
WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC Hard to believe it's been three years since the U.S. and Canada last faced off. Pull for your peeps, whoever they may be, March 5-23 on ESPN channels and MLB Network.

ENVY



IFBB ARNOLD SPORTS WEEKEND What's a guy with an unnaturally large physique but zero bat and ball skills got to do to get noticed these days? Oil up and flex. Give these hunks some love March 5-8 on figureerx.com.

GREED



BIG EAST CONFERENCE TOURNEY There are 16 teams in the Big East, and 15 are vying to be the one left standing. DePaul? It's just looking forward to visiting the Big Apple. ESPN has most of the action March 10-14.

LUST



U.S. POLE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP Whoever says pole dancing isn't a sport has clearly never done it. (For that, we thank you.) Gain a new appreciation of the athletic form starting March 15 on uspoledance.com.

THE LIST

MOST MILES LOGGED IN SINGLE NASCAR SEASON

SOME GUYS JUST SHOULDNT LEASE

1. TONY STEWART	2005**	14,436.78
2. JIMMIE JOHNSON	2008**	14,392.20
3. DALE JARRETT	2005	14,365.45
4. DAVID RAGAN	2008	14,364.15
5. BOBBY LABONTE	2008	14,363.93
6. CLINT BOWYER	2008*	14,346.30
7. RUSTY WALLACE	2005*	14,325.30
8. KEVIN HARVICK	2005	14,319.24
9. MATT KENSETH	2006*	14,312.71
10. JEREMY MAYFIELD	2005*	14,305.70

* Qualified for Chase for the Cup
** Won Cup