



# Barstool Sports™

Volume 1 Issue II

"By the common man, for the common man"

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November 5, 2003 — November 12, 2003

## Down with Wellesley!

I was waiting for a friend of mine downtown the other day, so I picked up an Improper Bostonian. When I pick up an Improper I do it for the Rack ad, the one with a few Red Sox/Bruins/Celtics/Patriots looking a little loaded and posing with the waitresses. I just get a kick out of those ads. Somewhere between that and the ads for other foofy bars with weirdly abstract names was an interview with a guy named Jay Harrington, a Wellesley native and one of the actors in the new NBC show "Coupling." Local kid makes good is always a big story, especially in Boston, but I just don't see why average people would find this appealing. This is like rooting for a guy who just won the lottery to win another lottery.

Now, I have nothing against this guy. He's probably very nice, he described himself as "very lucky" for having grown up in Wellesley and it's not so much him I have the problem with. It's Wellesley. How surprising is it that someone from Wellesley is becoming successful? He's obviously rich to begin with, so why am I supposed to be interested in the fact that he is now a highly-paid actor? I wasn't really genuinely happy for Halliburton when they got the post-

war Iraq contract for the same reason. If this guy ended up in a dumpster smoking crack, that's a story. Otherwise, it's just the rich getting richer, bidness as usual.

There are a few lines in the interview about how he can afford to get a nice place now, as though he had some real-world concept of money problems. His mansion to normal house to mansion again drama now resolved, we can all exhale.

The interviewer's last question is, "Now that you're a big huge star, what one thing would you like to say to the folks back home in Boston?" Like us "folks" is all squeezed into the FleetCenter watching Friends, Except Not Really, rooting on this member of that oppressive Top 5 Percent of Society sociology professors are always talking about.

There was a write-up about Harrington in the InsideTrack the other day and they played up the local angle too, calling him a "Wellesley homey." Hold up, wait a minute, whose homey is this guy? I'm not sure being from Wellesley even qualifies you as being from Massachusetts. I think you'd share more in common with people in some random chain of ritzy neighborhoods

throughout the US than someone a few towns over. Who's ever even met anyone from Wellesley? People from Weston, maybe? Or Dover? I'm from Somerville, and I never even saw the place until my girlfriend moved out to Metro West and I had to take the commuter rail through it, and realized it wasn't some floating city in the clouds made out of hundred dollar bills.

Interestingly enough, Donnie Wahlberg is on the cover of this particular issue of the Improper Bostonian. Donnie Wahlberg was one of the New Kids, for Christ's sake; that's way more embarrassing and pathetic than even once having been Marky Mark. But you know what? Good for Donnie and Marky. They came from not much and made themselves something Ben Affleck and Matt Damon are from Cambridge, which means they could be filthy rich, dirt poor or somewhere in-between. I couldn't tell you which. But at least they're not from a place that's inherently obnoxious and elitist right off the bat. Saying you're from Wellesley is like saying you're from Guaranteed Success Town. This guy making it in Hollywood just doesn't seem a worthwhile topic of discussion; it's more or less a moot point. Maybe the editors thought there'd be people on the T reading the Improper thinking, "Way to go, Ubermensch."

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# SALES 101

I graduated from the University of Michigan with a liberal arts degree and my only marketable skill being that I was a "people person". Essentially being a people person means that you like sports, woman, drinking and aren't good at math or science. It was a real killer combination of skills that I knew would have potential employers lining up at my front door to throw wads of cash at me once I hit the job market.

However, much to my surprise, once I graduated from college my phone wasn't ringing off the hook. It seemed as though my "people skills" weren't nearly as in demand as I'd been led to believe. It quickly became apparent that the only field, which paid more than minimum wage and seemed to value the skills of the "people person", was sales. And so without too much thought, I took a job along with a million other guys like me as an inside salesman in the world of high tech sales. Since I didn't necessarily know what I was getting myself into five years ago, I thought it may be helpful to put together a cheat sheet of 10 things or types of people that all sales guys should prepare themselves to encounter in our world.

## 1. The Cold Call

Get used to the cold call because that's all you and your 4-year liberal arts degree is going to be doing for the first two years. Basically, you get the joy of spending 8 hours a day on the horn convincing people who have no desire to talk to you to accept a meeting with an outside salesman. The beauty of being responsible for building somebody else's pipeline is that you are set up perfectly to be the scapegoat. If your outside salesman doesn't close your leads, then you are blamed for not finding enough qualified opportunities. If the outside salesman does close your leads then he gets all the credit and all the money even though you did the grunt work. It's a great system. The best advice that I could give a rookie cold caller would be to make sure that you have a couple sure fire ways to make it seem like you're making more calls than you really are. For example, my buddy O'hara used to call me 25 times per day and we would engage in 25 fake business conversations. Not only did this get his call numbers up, which they monitored, but my boss was guaranteed to walk by my cube a couple times a day and

overhear what he thought to be some very aggressive conversations.

## 2. The Sales Meeting

Most sales guys get to sit in on at least 1 or 2 sales meeting per week, more if you're real unlucky. The most important thing to remember with these meetings is to bring lots of coffee to these suckers. I wish I was kidding, but you don't want to be the guy that falls asleep during these things. Basically, the sales meeting is a cover your ass meeting for upper management. It is upper management's way to prove to their bosses that they are actually discussing ways to improve performance. Of course, nothing new is discussed at the sales meeting. It is just a review of how your sales pursuits are going, which is totally useless since your boss asks you every ten seconds how things are going. Easily the worst things about these sales meetings is that there are always a couple cowboys who want to impress the boss by asking totally useless questions that extend the agony for hours at a time.

## 3. The Eager Beaver

Every sales office probably has a few Eager Beavers. These are the guys who seem to legitimately enjoy their job. When you go out for a few pops after work, these guys are still talking about work. They love trying to set up brainstorming meetings to share strategies and tactics to improve their sales skills. They may even recommend a few sales books and are guaranteed to be taking heavy notes during sales training.

## 4. The Pipeline

The pipeline is one of those great secrets in the sales world that everybody knows about but nobody discusses publicly. The key to sales is having a big pipeline. The more prospects, the better chance for closing sales. It's pretty logical. However, there is no way to realistically create a big enough pipeline to satisfy upper management's quota, especially in this economy. The result is that everybody lies about their pipeline during their weekly or monthly meetings. Everywhere across the world of sales, mythical pipelines are filled with fake companies. Now the beauty of the fake pipeline is that your boss knows it is filled with crap, but he would rather hear

about the crap than the truth because he has to tell his boss what his pipeline looks like. And so the dance continues right up the food chain, until the entire company's pipeline is one big joke.

## 5. The Guy You Know is Full of Crap

I'd say that 1 in every 5 guys in a sales office is full of crap. These are the guys that still talk about the crazy college parties and what a great athlete they were back in the day, both of which you know are lies, but you can't prove it. I almost feel like these are guys who never were in the popular crowd in high school or college and as a result are still fighting to make it into the "in crowd" and their next battlefield is the office.

## 6. Upper Management

If you've been reading this article closely then you are now probably qualified to be in upper management. Basically, what upper management does is sit around and decide that in order to increase sales, they need more cold calls, more meetings and bigger pipelines. Pure genius. This creates a very peculiar dynamic in which the "leaders" of the company put the future success of the company in the hands of rookie sales guys who are expected to create leads and meetings through cold calling. Hence, this is why the help wanted pages are filled with ads for inside salesman, no experience needed. I always thought that maybe it should be upper management who should create the opportunities in tough times, but apparently not. Keep in mind that upper management really has no clue just how tough cold calling is because they would rather die than try it themselves and most of upper management hasn't cold called since the 70's. Therefore, the fact that the economy sucks and nobody wants the product to begin with is generally ignored.

## 7. The Hot Chick

Sales is a guy's world. However, most offices will have that one hot chick who stands out like a sore thumb and turns the office on its head. You'd think that this chick is the Queen of England based on how much attention she gets around the office. There are constant rumors floating around about her and whenever you go by her desk you're guaranteed to find at least two guys making up a reason to talk with her. I've always said that if Barstool Sports ever had the money to hire full time sales people, I'd only have hot woman working for me because it's like

stealing for cute sales woman. How is an average slob supposed to compete against a hot female salesperson?

## 8. CRM

CRM stands for customer relationship management systems. Most sales offices have some sort of CRM system in which sales guys are suppose to input all their sales calls and pipeline information, so upper management can track what is going on. It is my experience that the only thing CRM does is waste time and money. As long as sales guys have to input the information, the information is bound to have lots of mistakes for various reasons. The first and most obvious reason for the mistakes is that we're going to put whatever the hell you tell us needs to be in there, regardless of whether it's true or not. You say you need 20 prospects; I'll give you 20 prospects. You say you need 40 prospects; I'll give you 40. How do I explain why all these great prospects disappear on the 30th of every month? That's easy, either my contact got fired, his budget got pulled or they delayed the decision for 2 months. You name it and a top-notch sales guy can come up with an excuse as to why his CRM notes are not accurate.

## 9. The Take Credit Guy

Only a fool and the take credit guy would say that sales isn't in large part, luck. Your success depends on your territory, your clients, timing and a whole host of other factors that are beyond your control. However, every office has a guy who loves to take credit for everything. This would be the type of guy who would hit the lottery and explain his methodology for picking the numbers. The best way to deal with these guys is just zone out when they are talking to you. These are the same type of guys who act like sales was their chosen career path as opposed to something they just fell into like everybody else.

## 10. The Money Guy

The money guys are very closely related to the Take Credit Guys. Predictably all the money guy cares about is money. Not that I don't care about my paycheck, but these guys are obsessed with it. They love dropping numbers about their commission check, their new car, or whatever else they just bought. The money guy can be part of upper management or just the guy sitting in the cube next to you. Whatever the case may be, the money guy is the guy who honestly believes that he who dies with the most toys win. •

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## Down with Wellesley Continued from page 1

A while ago, Howie Carr eulogized Gerry Williams in his column, saying, "When I started reading my columns on the air, I lived in Somerville, and now I live in Wellesley. What can I say now to Jerry except, thanks pal." I always enjoy Carr's column, and he's basically my mother's political guru. I don't always agree with his politics, but he never goes for the trite, melodramatic "Joe Schmoe gets screwed by Evil Johnny Corporate" column. He never gets lazy and writes a column about the Red Sox. (Anyone else notice the number of Red Sox columns in the Globe's metro page lately? When was the last time Bob Ryan wrote a sports page column about affordable housing shortages? Or the clergy sex scandal? What the hell is up with this?) He's consistent in his work of exposing politicians as the lazy, corrupt nitwits that 99.9% of them are. Still, that stung, both because he took a swipe at my town, and because he set places like Wellesley up as the end to the means, the whole point of work.

The Somerville Howie Carr lived in was much

more of a hole than it is now; the yuppies and transplants were still living in rent-controlled apartments in Cambridge. Wellesley is an obvious upgrade, but so what? I'll take living in a real place instead of some isolated utopia. I'll take the normal kind of necessity-borne crime instead of the whacky, Richard Sharpe-esque, "I'm rich and I snapped for no reason" crime. While we're at it, I guess I'll have to take the low MCAS scores over the high ones, too, but somebody must be working on that. At the end of the day, it ain't perfect, but it ain't the smug perpetuity of Wellesley, either.

I'm not even going to bother trying to deny I have some weird chip on my shoulder about all of this, and I'm not even sure I can explain why. I'm bitter, and I have something against rich people. That said, someone wants to hand me a big bag of money, I'm taking it, so I might not even have a point. •

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# C.T.: A Masshole in Paris

Perhaps being a casting director for major motion pictures and television shows is a thankless task. Besieged by agents and lorded over by studio moguls, the casting director must make the Solomonic decision about what ex-soft core porn actress is most abundantly qualified for the role of "Topless Swimmer in Pool" in the next episode of ESPN's Playmakers. Sometimes a wise and benevolent casting director can strike gold and produce a seamless marriage of the auteur and the work. A classic example of this rare film phenomenon is, of course, the decision to cast Darius "710" Miles as a student haunted by the thought of passing the SAT's in the upcoming film, "The Perfect Score."

When I think of the SAT's the first image that pops into my head is obviously Darius Miles. "Hey, we need to cast for a movie about the SAT's. We need an actor that can really relate to the stress of the test and the college process and portray that emotion on screen. Hey, let's cast an overrated NBA player who skipped college altogether in large part because he couldn't spell SAT if you spotted him the S and the A." And it's not just me that can't wait to see Darius call forth all his formidable thespian skills about a test that he gleefully avoided to enter the NBA Draft, just read the unabashed joy from Canada813, a poster on the film's website: "I saw the trailer for 'The Perfect Score' today, and I thought to myself 'Is that basketball player Darius Miles?' and sure enough, it was. I think this is fantastic, as D-Miles has always struck me as being entertaining and demonstrative on the court, and I assume he'll bring that same energy to The Perfect Score." Frightening.

Most generations can only hope for one Darius Miles-caliber casting decision in their lifetime. That is why it is so momentous that we are able to live in a time when there is another heaven sent casting decision in our midst. And he calls himself, C.T.

I refer to none other than C.T. of the Real World Paris, another segment of MTV's never-ending look at what happens when seven attention starved headcases live together in a house and have their lives taped for our voyeuristic enjoyment. Combining the most outrageous white person hair this side of Dan Shaughnessy and an anger management issue that makes me fear for my personal safety by even typing his name, C.T. has mesmerized me throughout this current season. As I watched him connect on a series of crazed punches aimed at the head of some random Brit in the middle of a Parisian street while screaming about America's involvement in Iraq, my heart sang and my spirit soared. Here was my Emerson, my Nietzsche, here was a man to follow, a man to revere! From my couch, I bathed in the splendor and magnificence that is a Masshole unleashed on Paris.

I thought that the title of Best Masshole to Appear on Reality Show on MTV had been claimed and retired by David from the Real World Seattle. This is guy that managed to make even the yuppies in Charlestown cringe with embarrassment during his infamous, touching and hysterical meltdown with his secret MTV staffer girlfriend. The highest of high comedy. He was in the required drunken fight as the cameras rolled and ended the season on top by flying in a friend with a Boston



accent so thick that MTV was forced to use subtitles. By the time the Seattle season wrapped up, David seemed secure in his position at the very top of the Masshole/Real World Rankings.

But then C.T. appeared out of Umass-Dartmouth, bandana locked and loaded, and unleashed a brand of mayhem that Paris hadn't seen in 50 years. Whether he was getting wasted and mumbling something about sausages or taking credit for Valentine's Day flowers sent to the women in the house, C.T. elevated himself to the very top of Boston reality television. You never know what he is going to pull out of his bag of tricks but you can rest assured that it is going to involve the holy trinity of reality television: alcohol, alcohol fueled violence and a bandana.

Watching C.T. is akin to witnessing a car accident. You see the car's brake lights come on. But then you notice that the oncoming car doesn't have enough space to slow down and you realize a crash is inevitable. It only takes a matter of seconds but it feels like much longer. That is what an episode with C.T. is like. You watch him knowing that there isn't a chance in hell that he will be able to slam on the brakes when he has to. And so he ends up in the middle of a street screaming about how he will "work" someone if they will only

have the courtesy to fight him. In Boston after a night of drinking, the law seemingly requires scenes like that. But in Paris, no one knows what to do with him. These people didn't manage to stop the Nazis from vacationing there for several summers; do you really think they have any idea what to do with a belligerent Masshole being followed by a film crew?

In a house filled with peacemakers in a country filled with French people, C.T. manages to put the show on his back and carry it. I've spent many a Real World marathon basking in his glory and grasping the Tivo remote poised to rewind any C.T. sanctioned carnage. At a time when Americans around the world were being told to keep a low profile and avoid confrontation, you shook your fist at America's detractors. Literally. In our country's time of peril, he was a patriot who took the motto "Don't Tread on Me" to heart. And in the process, he achieved something that I never thought possible: proof positive for my girlfriend that no matter how bad my friends and I may get after a few cocktails, there is always someone worse. Merci, C.T., merci. •

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## Puck Talk



— "I got the tickets for free and I still feel like I was ripped off." That was the secondhand email I got from a friend describing what it was like to attend last Thursday's 1-0 overtime loss to the Canadiens. And that just about sums it up. What a debacle. No emotion. No energy. Certainly no offense to speak of. Outshot 38-21. The only reason they got out of there with a point was the play of Felix Potvin. That easily could have been 4 or 5 to nothing without The Cat. Add it all up and it was yet another disappointment at home; a place where the Bruins haven't scored since opening night.

— That said, the OT goal by Juneau was a joke. Thornton got mugged by the Montreal blue line for starters. No call. O'Donnell just flat-out got beat. I can live with that though. He got caught flat-footed by a good skater. It happens. But then the goal, with Juneau losing the puck and having it trickle through Potvin's legs? Ugh. Thank God it wasn't a playoff game. That's all I can say. Horrible way to lose.

— I'll be perfectly honest. I didn't see one second of the Pittsburgh game on Saturday. Sounds like I didn't miss much.

— Can you believe that The Igloo (I refuse to call it Mellon Arena or whatever it is they renamed it) is the oldest active arena in the NHL? It just doesn't seem right to me. But

it is. It's been around since 1961 and with all the old Original 6 buildings gone it's the oldest barn in the game.

— Anyone miss Josef Stumpel?

— One leftover item from last Tuesday's win at Montreal...my friend John, a budding coach and keen hockey observer, sent the following great point regarding Coach Sullivan: "I don't know if you noticed, but when Knuble got his second goal...the shift before they were out for 20 seconds and changed up. Even Dave Shea said they were out for a quick shift. Then they came right back out against a set of Montreal D that couldn't handle Joe T, Murray and Knuble and they end up scoring. Good call by Sullivan. Won't show up on the scoresheet."

— Don Cherry quote of the week: "It was easy for the Commies to hide. They just put their boats in the corner of the harbor, because everyone knows Swedes don't go into corners.

— Grapes from a number of years ago talking about Russians moving submarines into Stockholm

— If you want to know how out of whack

goalending stats are these days just look at the numbers of the guys they say are struggling. Like Hasek, for example. Everyone's talking about how poorly he's playing but the goals-against is still only 2.43. David Aebischer, in Colorado, is another guy getting bad press and his goals-against is even lower with a save percentage of .920. Remember the days when anyone with a GAA under 3.00 was having a great year? Now it's at the point where, if your GAA is over 3.00, you're an abomination.

— I've got to admit, however, that I thoroughly enjoyed watching Dommie getting shelled by the Blues last week. Not so much because I don't like him personally. Which I don't. But more because I enjoy anything bad that happens to Detroit. It's the whole "Hockeytown" thing. That's always bugged me. Hockeytown. Pub-lease.

— The Lightning are 7-0-1 as I write this but still have a ways to go to set the all-time record for longest unbeaten streak to start a season. That record belongs to the 1984-85 Oilers who started that season with a little 12-0-3 run.

— If you told someone 10 years ago that one day Ray Bourque and Patrick Roy would have their retired numbers hanging side by side for the Quebec Nordiques they would have looked you up and thrown away the key. But that's essentially what happened. I mean, yes, they moved the Nordiques to Colorado. But still. It wasn't that long ago that Raymond was pumping his fist in the

Garden after whistling one past St. Patrick and turning out the lights on le bleu, blanc et rouge in the '94 playoffs.

— Some quick college hockey thoughts...saw a great game between Minnesota and Minnesota-Duluth on Direct TV last week. The Gophers lost 4-3 in OT but the highlight was watching last year's NCAA Tourney MVP Thomas Vanek, who scored a fantastic goal where he basically went through the entire UMD defense. I've seen the guy play about 4-5 times now and he's impressed every time. Definitely someone to watch if you get a chance.

— I wish it wasn't such a hike to get to Orono. Reading the recap of the Black Bears' 2-1 win over BU on Saturday night really made me wish I was there. You had two of the top ten teams in the country. Two teams that don't care for one another. You had a sold-out, raucous Alfond Arena with nearly all of the fans wearing blue shirts that were passed out before the game. And by all accounts it was a great game. Maine grabbed an early 2-0 lead and then had to hang on for dear life in the 3rd. Both teams had their chances on the power play. The shots were pretty even. That's what it's all about. Two solid clubs playing a tight game in a rowdy rink. It gets no better. Until next time... •

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# These Are a Few of My Least Favorite Things

Anyone else remember Eddie Andelman's "Sports Huddle" show back in the early 80's? Back then, Eddie still had some velocity on his fastball and he used to do a song skit called "These are a few of my least favorite things." Because I used to get such a kick out of it, I figured I'd provide an update (okay, a ripoff) on that idea and pass on a few of my least favorite things about the recent Boston sports scene:

The "Headlines" segment of the Dennis & Callahan Show - For those of you living in a cave during the last month or so, it was during this segment of the show that Dennis and Callahan made their infamous "Metcu gorilla" comments, but that's not the only reason why I hate it. No, I've always despised hearing those two smug hypocrites spin their sanctimonious diatribes against people in the news that have offended their far right wing sensibilities in some way. It's enough of a stretch for WEEI to think that I'll care about what somebody like John Dennis

has to say about Nomar Garciaparra but to then force his political views on me is just far too much to ask. On a typical weekday morning, I'll listen to the D&C show right up until the "Headlines" segment, then immediately switch to Providence's 790 The Score, where they follow this novel concept of talking about sports throughout their entire show.

Red Sox beat writers insulting the fans - In the days that followed the nightmare that was Game 7 of the ALCS, the top Sox beat writer trio of Sean McAdam, Tony Massarotti, and Gordon Edes took up the illogical burden of defending Grady Little and while doing so took their fair share of shots at the Boston fans. They went to print and took to the airwaves spinning the story that Grady was being unjustly vilified by the harshest and most emotional (to a fault) fans in the national sports landscape. Edes essentially called Red Sox fans know-it-alls while McAdam and Massarotti portrayed

The Nation as a group that just didn't get it. Get this, guys: Bad managing is like pornography. Although you can't always define it, you know it when you see it and we saw it all season long and throughout the playoffs. In addition, I advise that you gentlemen take caution in how far you go in portraying the Boston fans in such a negative light. These supposedly ignorant fans are the same people that faithfully tune into the numerous radio and television shows that happen to provide you with all of those easy extra paychecks.

Any time a reporter quotes an unnamed source to reinforce his argument - Peter Gammons is probably responsible for bringing this practice into the mainstream with his constant ghostly references to "highly esteemed National League scouts" and the like. Regardless, unnamed sources became all the rage around here during the great Grady controversy, freely used by the sports writers as a method of bolstering their point. Very few things bug me more than this. Note to the media: If your source doesn't have the balls to attach his name to his opinion, then I'm pretty sure I don't want to hear it.

Dan Shaughnessy's obsession with the past - It seems like the guy simply cannot write an article about the Red Sox without making some smarmy reference to past failures by the team. He's even gone so far as to carry it over to other sports, comparing a Celtics playoff game loss to the Pacers last spring to Game 6 of the 1986 World Series. Huh? So

why does Shaughnessy continue to needlessly plague us with reminders of Bill Buckner, Bucky Dent, Harry Frazee, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle shoelaces (beyond the obvious motivation of generating even more sales of his gloomy Curse book, of course)? I think it comes down to the fact that it is much harder to provide the reader with a legitimate set of insightful thoughts that might not occur to the ordinary fan than it is to make redundant comparisons to conveniently framed past events. It's lazy journalism and I resent it, considering that he is a highly-featured columnist in what is supposedly one of the best sports pages in the country. Dan, I'm begging you. Join the rest of us who live in the now and leave the ugly past where it belongs. We all know it by heart anyway.

Look, I don't think I'm asking for too much here. All I expect from the guys covering my teams is that they work hard, stick to sports, try to provide me with some genuine insight, and avoid insulting the fans whose degree of passion is the very reason why they collect so many paychecks in this town. I should also add that a highly respected American League GM and an unnamed Red Sox official were quoted as saying that they agreed with me wholeheartedly on all points. •

Kevin Henkin

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## Bastool Update and Some Reader Email



### A Letter from the Editor

There are a couple ads in this week's paper that may shock and astound our readers. First we are proud to announce that Barstool Sports is now available for download at [www.barstoolsports.com](http://www.barstoolsports.com). I'm told that the website will look a lot better next week, although it will never be confused for ESPN.com as we were on a very tight budget. Our original plan regarding a website was to wait until we had enough money to invest in a nice robust interactive one, but the more we got going, the more obvious it became that we wouldn't have a website until the year 3,000 using that criteria. Instead we opted to go with a very basic set up that at the very least would allow people to download a PDF of each week's paper. Hopefully our website will help spread the word a lot faster. I'll leave it up to you whether to spam everybody you know a link to our website.

The second ad that we ran in this week's paper was to announce that Barstool Sports is having a launch party on December 1st at the Boston Billiard Club. The ad is not a joke, we're really serious. The best part is that everybody is invited. Having a launch party is something that we wanted to do from the beginning, but couldn't afford it. We still can't afford to go balls out like we wish with strippers hanging from the rafters and hiring Larry Bird as a guest speaker, but at least we're having something. We really have no idea what to expect in terms of turnout. Will we get a ton of people or it will just be myself and a few buddies drinking beers? The best case scenario would be that we cause a scene in the amount of people that show up, which serves notice to the advertising community that Barstool Sports is an up and coming force that has to be dealt with sooner or later. But like I said I really don't know what to expect. All my buddies keep asking me if there are going to be women at the party and I can only say that I hope so. So all you women reading this, you are more than invited to join in on the festivities. It should be a great place to meet the average dudes that you dream about. No pretty boys at this thing. Finally we will be

giving away some Pat's tickets and hopefully some other stuff that we haven't thought of yet. Can you say Ugly Shirts?

Switching gears, we're still getting emails from people who would like to write for us. I thought it may make sense to clarify exactly how Barstool Sports works and what we're looking for in our writers. First of all, none of our writers get paid. I thought this was fairly obvious with the ad and our constant bitching about being broke, but maybe not because I still get the occasional email with people saying they will write an article for \$50.00 per week or something to that effect. If you're expecting to get paid than you have come to the wrong place. Secondly, we don't need our writers to commit to writing on a regular basis. If you have a great idea or want to discuss something, but only want to write 1 story than that is perfectly fine with us. We encourage people just to send us their stories and if they are good than we will use them. It's really that simple. Finally and most importantly, we are looking for articles that aren't typical sports stories. If your story could just as easily appear in the Globe or Herald, than it probably isn't a great fit for Barstool Sports. There are so many places that guys can go to get typical sports stories, that we need to be different.

Finally a couple thoughts from handing out papers at various T-stations.

1. I'm almost at my breaking point with the Metro. This week I handed out papers in Quincy and Porter Square. It seems like everybody takes it, even guys. Statistically speaking, roughly 60% of Metro readers are women, but lots of dudes read it as well. I can't help but thinking that people are dumber after reading the Metro. What is the appeal? Why is everybody interested in day old 25 word stories? I have a new respect for people who go out of their way now to buy the Globe or Herald. Also, curiously enough an individual who buys the Globe or Herald is much more likely to try Barstool Sports as opposed to the people who read the Metro. In a weird way, I take that as a

compliment.

2. People are like sheep when accepting papers. If a Barstool Sports virgin is walking by me, he or she (yes she) will be much more likely to take a paper if they see somebody else taking one. It's amazing. Therefore, if you are a Barstool Sports reader, please always take a paper from the guy handing it out even if you've already read it because it may cause a virgin to grab one. Our biggest problem is still getting people to take a paper the first time.

3. I thought the beginning of Celtics and Bruins season would be a great advantage in handing out papers at North Station. However, I drastically underestimated the impact of the scalpers. There has to be 1,000 of them if there is one, just waiting to pounce on people coming off the subway. Never mind, that these guys are selling tickets to games that are half empty to begin with, but these guys are in your face type of dudes. Not only do they spit every ten seconds for no apparent reason, but they basically scare away potential Barstool Sports customers. It's not all bad though mixing it up with the scalpers. I got to overhear one scalper explain his pitch to another scalper. If you think these guys are just saying random stuff, you are sadly mistaken. "Tickets, Tickets, Tickets, Tickets, Buying, Selling, Tickets, Tickets, Tickets, Tickets, Tickets." Apparently the key is to say tickets five times followed by buying, selling followed by five more tickets. I hear this in my sleep now. Between getting confused for a scalper and a spare change guy, we're lucky to move any papers on game nights.

Since we always beg for help from our readers I figured we'd let one of our readers beg for us:

To all the guys (and girls) out there who read Barstool Sports, my hat comes off to you. Bravo! You took the time to take one of these newspapers from the hardworking hawkers out there. Or you saw the newspaper box in front of the Porter Square Shopping Center as I did, and it

peaked your interest. So you took one and read it. And you liked it. Then you went back and got another one the following week.

If you want to get right down to the nitty gritty, we the readers are the ones who decide if this paper makes it or not. I say, if you like it, take a few extra copies next time and give them to people who you know will appreciate it.

I like the open letters I've seen gracing the front pages recently. I really like the humor throughout the paper as well. It's a nice change from the standard newspaper drivel. The trials and tribulations of the ex-hawker girls, the weekly insights from the hawkers guys, and the random thoughts throughout the articles keep me chuckling. The only things I personally would like to see added to the weekly lineup would be, the picks for every football game, more in depth fantasy information, and the previous weeks scores. I know, you're saying to yourself, "Printing the previous weeks scores would be ridiculous. The games have already been played. We already know the scores." But, if you're anything like me, you like to look back at the previous week and put it all together in your head, which in turn helps you make sound decisions in the various office pools and fantasy leagues.

In closing, I would like to give a shout out to the guys at Barstool Sports. Keep on keepin' on. It takes a lot of guts and determination to do what you guys are doing. I'll try and do my part and spread the word. And everytime I see a hawker, I'll take a paper from him. Even if I already have that weeks edition. Maybe it will start an avalanche effect around me and everyone will start taking one. If we all do this, maybe we can get the hawkers girls back...

Sincerely, J Aaron Otis

This is the nicest thing anybody has ever said about us:

Have you ever seen a girl in a bar who is so ridiculously ugly that you can't stop staring at her? Kind of like a highway wreck, you just gotta keep looking? And then, you realize that she is so utterly awfully ugly, that her ugliness becomes attractive in some weird sort of way. And then you actually want to bang her, because she is so ugly/beautiful all at the same time? Well that's how I feel about your paper. I can't put it down.

-MKM •

"They have the Internet on computers, now?"

-Homer Simpson

[www.barstoolsports.com](http://www.barstoolsports.com)



# Time Out

by Elle Murphy



**Editors Note:** Barstool Sports has asked Elle Murphy to contribute a weekly advice column for guys, with the goal being to help us win over the ladies. Elle is our only female writer and was chosen because she is a cute, normal, approachable girl, who any guy would be lucky to date. We encourage our readers to submit story ideas for future columns, as we want her to write about things that our buddies simply have no clue about.

Two weeks ago I was at the Pats-Browns game, innocently mustarding my hot dog when I heard a voice from behind, "You probably hear this all the time, but you have got a great ass!" I quickly turned around to see that the comment came from a short, hairy, middle-aged man decked out in Pats gear from head to toe. I didn't know whether to be flattered or mortified, and instinctually turned and dashed off back to my seats. I let the comment slip my mind until the next week.

The following Wednesday I met up with some girlfriends for wine at the Saint. We began chatting about the past week's annoyances work, boyfriend, etc. when I

brought up the ass comment from the Pats game. Why in the world do men make such comments? And what in the world do they think will come of it? The question was discussed for a bit, but ultimately we concluded those types of comments don't get men very far. A comment like that doesn't work unless you're George Clooney.

If a man really wants to make a good impression, he should try a compliment that works. Instead of mumbling an insult about her ass, try something new for a change and compliment her eyes. "You have the most gorgeous brown eyes I've ever seen" if I heard those words at the Pats game, I might not have been so quick to turn the other way.

It seems to me that men have many preconceived notions these days of what girls like, what they're all about, and what they're made of. Just the other day I was conversing with some co-workers and a male co-worker began talking about his girlfriend. Somehow he got on the topic of buying her clothes and went on to say, she's average, a

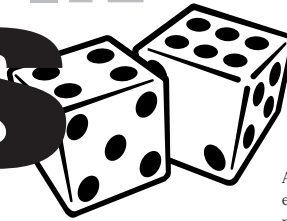
size 4. Ha, I almost died laughing. "She's average, a size 4."

Newsflash honey the average girl is not a size four. Not even close! I read in a magazine last month that the average girl in her mid 20s is a size 10. Regardless of your girlfriend's size, whether she is a 6 or a 12, you should embrace her and love her voluptuous curves. And you certainly shouldn't be talking about her size at work! It's one thing if it's locker room talk, but to bring it up with a female co-worker is just bad taste!

Don't get me wrong, girls love to get compliments. Just remember to make sure they are appropriate in a flattering manner. Compliments shouldn't always be about her physical attributes, get over her nice ass and perky boobs—and be a real man. Say something thoughtful and from the heart. I promise you the extra attention will pay off. •

Looking for a lady's perspective? I can't guarantee I have the right answer, but I'll give you my two cents! E-mail me at [murphy@barstoolsports.com](mailto:murphy@barstoolsports.com)

# MY BUDDIES IN VEGAS



I just knew it was going to be a BAD weekend...

(Before I venture into this week's column, I would like to briefly extend my sincerest apologies for the piece of trash article I wrote and published 2 weeks ago in the "My Buddies in Vegas" column which rightfully earned the title of biggest disappointment to date in Barstool Sports. By no means is this

a reflection of the staff at Barstool Sports or the quality of work to come, for I will put forth my best effort to produce read-worthy

material from this day forth.)

As much as I would like to blame a bad weekend for my previous work, I have come to realize that I had no idea what a bad weekend really was until this weekend rolled around. For the sake of entertainment and producing an interesting article, I will gladly open up to the public of Boston and share with you the numerous events which, in my opinion, shaped up to be an extremely miserable weekend. I'll take one for the team in this one. Everyone loves to hear about other people's misery, right? It's all relative...just makes you feel better know-

ing these things didn't or couldn't happen to you. How many times have you seen or come across a miserable human being, whether this person was a bum on the street begging for quarters, or the guy that works in the office next to you whose wife is openly banging his best friend while maxing out all her credit cards (in your name) on expensive gifts for this asshole...you get the idea. We love to hear this shit. Don't we? It makes you feel better. Because we all know OUR girlfriends/wives are faithful and we'd never beg for anything in a million years. Makes you feel good. It just does. It's wrong and we know it, but we LOVE to feel good about ourselves at the expense of others. It's human nature.

Halloween. Everyone loves Halloween, right? Sure, I had put everything behind me by now. The past is the past, and I hate to dwell on it. The \$8,000 gambling loss of two weeks ago is no longer an issue. It's gone. It's only money. Money is replaceable. My dignity is not. And that is what I lost this weekend. One weekend it's my money, the next my dignity. Which would you choose? It really becomes an interesting dilemma. I love money. We all do. You wouldn't be reading this article right now if you didn't love money. You're on the way to work...to make money. Not to make friends or to pass some time...but to make money. Why? Because you love money. I love money. And I lost a shitload of it the last few weeks. But something even worse happened this weekend. Not only did I max out ALL my credit cards on gambling losses (no...my girl is not banging someone else and using my credit cards to buy him/her expensive gifts!), but as mentioned before, I

lost my dignity. Sure, I knew that Washington St. getting double digit points against USC was too good to be true, and sure, I knew that Notre Dame had no chance against even an over-rated Florida State team, but that still didn't deter me from laying my rent, car payment, savings account balance, and the remainder of my credit line on these two miserable teams. Money is replaceable. It's only paper.

At this point, I would trade my lifetime earnings for a chance to win back my dignity. Time heals and money is something you can earn and get back little by little. I'm not sure your dignity works the same way. Next week I will probably be embarrassed looking back at this article. I will have gone through a healing process and I will feel better. No doubt about it. But right now...and yes, we are concentrating on right now, I feel like shit. To many of you, what I'm about to share with you might not seem like a big deal. Unfortunately, to me...it is.

So, it's Halloween. First of all, I'm working on Halloween. A lot of us work on Halloween. It's no big deal. I won't get out until 12:30am at the earliest. I will miss out on my girl's party. But that's OK. I'm OK with that. I will close shop around 12:30 and head over there anyways. At least to get a little play before I hit the sack and have to go to work again. I work both Saturday and Sunday this weekend. But, once again, that's OK. I have already placed my two mortal locks for Saturday (Notre Dame and Washington St.) and I'm feeling good about Sunday's games as well. I'm loving the Oakland Raiders -3 at Detroit and St. Louis -4.5 against the 49ers. The Lions, albeit my team, are as pathetic as they come. The Rams are hitting their stride once again and should find their rhythm against a very mediocre 49er team with QB struggles. I'm feeling good about these picks. Then again, I felt good 2 weeks ago as well when I managed to lose \$8,000 in little over 30 hours. Once again, money is replaceable...

My dignity, however, is not.

To be continued... •

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## OUR PICKS College Football

Last Week	Mortal Lock Record	Season Record
3-2	4-5	21-25

A 3-2 week was overshadowed by a humiliating Mortal Lock loss, as Kansas State never had a chance of covering the number vs. Baylor. In fact, for a minute, it looked like our 40 pt favorite would get beaten outright, which would have forced us to quit the business forever. On a positive note, we got real lucky in the South Carolina game, as the Gamecocks had no business covering against Ole Miss. In case you missed it, Ole Miss was up 43-14 until South Carolina mounted a furious comeback filled with ridiculous plays that probably led people who had Ole Miss to 3 or 4 heart attacks. Poor Old Miss fans watched as their team gave up the old 29 yard TD run when the ball carrier is tackled for a loss, but lands on the guy tackling him and gets back up and runs without any pursuit because your team is celebrating the non tackle. Throw in a 98-yard TD pass with 6 minutes to go when your team is ahead by 16 and like I said, I'm sure there were lots of heart attacks in Ole Miss country.

### Vtech at Pitt +3.5

It's time for another Big East team to give a lovely parting gift to a Big East team fleeing to the ACC. In recent weeks we've seen Syracuse demolish BC, Pittsburgh beat BC, West Virginia crush Vtech and almost upset Miami. Do you think these games have extra meaning for the teams that got spurned by their Big East brethren? Vtech has to be coming off an emotional high after throttling the Hurricanes. Will they be able to rebound against a Pitt team that has BCS aspirations? We don't think so. Pitt is a solid football team that should be totally prepared for this game. Add the fact that it is a night game, which only increases Pitt's home field advantage because of crowd drunkenness, and we have all the makings of an upset.

**The Pick — Pitt**

### Kansas State at Iowa State +18

Kansas State laid an egg last week as our Mortal Lock pick. It's never good when you're laying 40 and losing with minutes to go in the half as Kstate was last week to Baylor. The Wildcats put on a mild rally to win by 28, but still not within shouting distance of covering. So, logically, it would seem as though we are taking Iowa State in

a revenge game this week, but we're not. Instead, we are going with Kansas State again. I just don't want to be the guy sitting at the bar watching the ticker going by saying, "Now, why the f-ck didn't Kansas State do that last week?" Therefore, we are going to ride with them again this week against an Iowa State team that has lost by at least 18 all but 3 times this year. I'd love to watch this game with Michael Bishop and then go on a shopping spree to Hip Zeppi with my winnings.

**The Pick — Kansas State**

### Cal at Oregon -1

We've bet on Cal quite a bit this year with mixed results and we're going to go with them again this week. They are flat out a better football team than Oregon. Ever since Oregon's fluke victory over Michigan, the Ducks have been horrible. How bad you ask? Oregon has lost 4 out of their last 5 games and 3 by more than 30 pts. Cal, on the other hand, has pretty much played everybody tough. They beat Arizona State last week 51-23, the same ASU team that beat Oregon 59-14 only a few weeks before. How can you not like Cal to continue Oregon's losing streak?

**Mortal Lock — Cal**

### Tennessee at Miami -13

This game reeks of something, but I'm not sure of what yet. Most smart men would stay away from this game. Miami is like a wounded animal in a corner. You just can't tell what it's thinking. Are they going to curl up and die or are they going to attack with every ounce of their soul? Well, we don't think it matters what they do because they are a shell of their former selves. No Miami team worth their salt gets blown out like they did last weekend in Blacksburg. They have major questions at Quarterback and Running Back. While Miami will probably win this game, we don't expect a blowout. Tennessee isn't exactly the Tennessee of old either, but 13 pts is a lot to give to the Ice Man.

**The Pick — Tennessee**

## OUR PICKS NFL

Last Week	Mortal Lock Record	Season Record
3-1	2-7	16-16

The magic number for our Bookie to clinch against our mortal lock picks is down to two. That is downright humiliating. It's too bad that we've been so awful with our mortal lock picks because we've been pretty good recently besides these freakin' picks. Over the past two weeks, we are 6-2 with our only losses being our Mortals. We have pulled to .500 on the season after a hideous start, but as long as we continue to get hammered with our Mortal Locks it will be hard to take us seriously. We need a Mortal Lock streak and hopefully it begins now.

### Atlanta at Giants -10.5

You just hate laying 10.5 points in the NFL, but this one has blowout written all over it. The Vickless Falcons are truly horrible to the point that Dan Reeves is trying to force The Franchise to come back before he is ready. I don't know much, but that seems kind of silly considering the season is already over. You think Dan is worried more about his job than anything else? I think the Giants are the best team in the NFC. They have managed to lose games that they had no business losing. And they almost did it again this week, but pulled through with a major victory against the Jets. We expect the Giants to continue to build momentum, as they will steamroll the hapless Falcons at the Meadowlands.

**The Pick — Giants**

### Jets at Oakland +2.5

This is a revenge game for us. How dare the Raiders play so horrible as our mortal lock pick last week? I think they've officially quit on the season and their head coach. The Jets will never quit on Herm, that I know for sure. In my mind, we have one team that will try vs. one team that won't. I'll go with the team that will try, please.

**The Pick — Jets**

### Cleveland at KC -10.5

This is our "this game makes no sense" game of the week. The Browns don't get blown out. They just don't. They always play tough no matter who you are. Therefore, 10.5 points is a ton to lay for the Chiefs. I know that KC is coming off a bye week and I'm sure Dick Vermeil was

crying all over the place but we're going to take the Browns here. There is no logic on how a team that doesn't score TD's will stay close to the Chiefs. We don't know why or how the Browns always play close games, they just do and in the NFL that's good enough for us.

**The Pick — Browns**

### Buffalo at Dallas -4

How come I'm not getting the pro Bledsoe emails anymore? Oh, I forgot those only come during the month of September. I guess I'll have to wait until next year for those again. That is certainly something to look forward to. You can't figure that Bledsoe and the Bills are going to turn things around here against the Tuna. You just get the feeling that Parcels will find a way to get pressure on Drew and as we've all heard a million times, Drew doesn't like pressure. I love that statement. It's almost comical how often you hear that Drew's ONLY weakness is when you get pressure on him. Like any QB couldn't be good without having to deal with a pass rush. Anyway, Bledsoe with the exception of Milloygate earlier this year, has a long history of being horrible against good coaches and defenses, so look for the trend to continue this week.

**The Pick — Dallas**

### Baltimore at St. Louis -7

Baltimore is a tricky team. They play great against good teams and not so great against not so great teams. Ray Lewis and the Baltimore defense will be fired up for this game, which means huge trouble for St. Louis. There is nobody more intimidating in sports than Ray Lewis. Throw in the fact that he played some role in a murder and I get nervous just watching him on TV. Has the vaunted Rams offense ever performed well in a big game against a good defense? Look for that trend to continue in a game that features two of the most annoying and hated coaches in the NFL. Instead of the total on this game, they should have the Over/Under on when Mike Martz burns all of his Time Outs and how many interviews we get to see with in which Billick credits himself for something.

**Mortal Lock — Baltimore**

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# The Waiver Wire Meat Market

In fantasy football, one of the fastest ways for you to improve your roster in-season is to select players from the waiver wire. These guys come out of nowhere and post acceptable or fantastic statistics over a large portion of the season. Most often, no one even drafted these guys because they weren't expected to contribute to fantasy teams. It is important to quickly grab these players when they do well, as they can provide depth on your team or possibly start if they come on strong.

This week, I'll identify some players whose recent good game may indicate an upswing in their fantasy value, players that might be a good pickup now for use soon. I will also point out a couple of players whose performance I think is only an anomaly, and should be ignored in fantasy circles. Pick the right player from the fellows below and your decision may make the difference between winning and losing a key game this season.

## Making It

### QB's

Tim Rattay, 49ers – Tim made thrashing the Rams look easy Sunday. His three touchdowns got the whole offense going. If he gets a chance to play another

game or two, Garcia might be on the "mend" for some time. He's a great pickup for Garcia owners, at the least.

### RB's

Olandis Gary, Lions – Bryson still got more yards, but in this committee approach to running, Gary is a viable fantasy option for owners who need a back in a hurry. He scored this week against Oakland to go with 46 yards.

Chester Taylor, Ravens – Taylor is getting involved in the rushing and receiving game. Those opportunities mean he could be a decent play in yardage leagues.

Dorsey Levens, Giants – Levens just got 11 carries in the win over the Jets. He added a touchdown and can get some points for you if you are desperate.

### WR's

Javon Walker, Packers – Walker won't score two touchdowns on three receptions very often, but he might be becoming a larger part of the offense, and it's clear Favre looks for his big frame in the red zone.

Michael Lewis, Saints – With Stallworth ailing, Lewis is taking advantage. He scored a touchdown and grabbed 69 yards the other day. As the Saints' offense improves, Lewis may get more opportu-

nities.

Nate Burleson, Vikings – Every week, Nate is getting some fantasy points. In larger leagues, he is an option because the Vikings can score in bunches.

Bryan Gilmore, Cardinals – Bryan is gaining yards each week, and is a possible third starter until/unless Bryant Johnson gets back in the mix.

David Terrell, Bears – He could become the second part of a Michigan resurgence. David has a lot of talent, but maybe he has been humbled enough by now to use it appropriately – only on the field. He caught seven passes against

Freddie Mitchell, Eagles – Another underachiever may finally be getting it. Mitchell scored a touchdown for Philadelphia and gained 43 yards on two receptions.

### TE's

Anthony Becht, Jets – Becht scored again, and will probably be a bigger part of the offense with Chad Pennington back.

L.J. Smith, Eagles – Chad Lewis is nowhere to be found, and the rookie is providing a stable target for Donovan McNabb right when McNabb needs it most. Smith almost had 100 yards (97) Sunday.



## Faking It

Tony Banks, Texans – Carr is by far the better quarterback, and though Banks throws a pretty long ball, he has never been consistent enough to help any fantasy owner.

Taylor Jacobs, Redskins – He got lucky to have his one reception go for a score this week. Wait until he is a bigger part of the offense to think about adding him.

Brandon Lloyd, 49ers – Lloyd stretched out for a nice San Francisco score against St. Louis, but he needs more passes thrown his way before he is worth adding. •

Joe Levit, based in Boston, writes for [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), [www.thehuddle.com](http://www.thehuddle.com) and [www.4for4.com](http://www.4for4.com). He is a member of the Pro Football Writers of America and a devoted Detroit Lions fan. He can be contacted at [lavishjetpoet@aol.com](mailto:lavishjetpoet@aol.com)

# WE'LL TELL YOU ABOUT EVENTS IN BOSTON THAT DON'T SUCK!

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In our never ending quest to figure out ways to make money with this paper, the brain trust at Barstool Sports thinks that we have come up with a pretty good idea. We are putting together an entertainment email list geared for guys like ourselves. Basically, for those of you who sign up, (it's free of course) we will send you a quick email any time there is an event in Boston that we think average guys like ourselves would want to know about. No, we won't email you when Aria is having Euro night or Caprice is having lame night, but we will email you when the Playboy Playmates are in town, Mohegan Sun is having a discount on their hotel rooms or a golf course is running a great special. Our goal is to be the place that bars, clubs and restaurants turn to when they want to advertise events for the Average Joe.

**Sign Up and Help us make this thing work! [feedback@barstoolsports.com](mailto:feedback@barstoolsports.com)**





# Fantasy Preview

The past two weeks have seen the quality of the players available on the waiver wire depleted. Owners who were aggressive have given themselves much needed depth and possibly trade bait. This week's hidden gems may not have the luster of a diamond, but they're good options for those who still have bullets left.

## Quarterback Pickups-

Drew Bledsoe (BUF) was actually dropped in a handful of leagues by frustrated Owners. The Bills have been a big disappointment, and because of their bye, some teams that needed to make roster changes made him expendable. While Bledsoe is not a strong Fantasy QB, he is a good option as a backup #2 QB. Owners who can afford to pick him up as a #2-3 QB should consider him.

Kerry Collins (NYG) has had his share of problems with inconsistent play and turnovers. However he is averaging 273.1 passing yds and 1.4 TDs per game. He is surrounded by an offense that has many talented weapons at his disposal. The best example of this is that he's had 4 multiple-TD games. Owners looking to pull off a mid-level trade may want to consider Collins if they would like another QB for the stretch run.

## Quarterback Bench Play-

QB Mike Vick (ATL) will most likely return to action for week 13. Vick should be on the waiver wire and here's why- his schedule. Week 13 is @HOU, but after that it gets very tough against playoff bound teams- CAR, @IND, @TB. Week 13 is the last week before the playoffs for many fantasy leagues. No one who is in a do-or-die matchup should start a QB who is taking their first snap of the season. His use in fantasy playoffs also is not recommended with the schedule the Falcons have. It's a tough pill to swallow for Owners who drafted Vick high and have held onto him to this point, but the fact is that he has little fantasy value and his roster spot should be used for a player that can be of better service.

## Running Back Pickups-

Chester Taylor (BAL) is Jamal Lewis' backup.

Owners with Lewis are highly recommended to pick Taylor up as insurance. In the limited time that he has gotten the ball, he's made the most of it. He has averaged almost 5 yds per carry and has scored in 2 of the last 3 games. The Ravens are trying not to wear Lewis out or get him injured, but at the pace he is going at, that is going to be tough. If he does miss any time, which is possible, Taylor will step in and produce numbers.

Shaun Alexander (SEA) would be a great addition through a trade. His 8 TDs rank him 4th among running backs and has allowed him to put up double-digit Fantasy points in all but 1 game. He also has some favorable matchups in last half of the season against @WAS, DET, CLE, & ARZ. Owners who like to hit on blockbuster deals should target Alexander as a low-risk, high-reward back.

Michael Bennett (MIN) has been picked up at a rapid rate and there's no reason to believe he won't fulfill those high expectations. Overall, the Vikings have been a very successful running team since his arrival. Although there appears to be a running-back-by-committee for the near future, Bennett should still be able to post decent numbers. Moe Williams gave his Owners very good points while splitting some time with Onterio Smith, so there is no reason to believe that Bennett cannot do the same if he becomes the starter.

## Running Back Bench Play-

William Green/Jamal White (CLE) The league has yet to announce Green's status with his drug related arrest. If he somehow is cleared to play, he's banged up and will be facing a rested, aggressive, and improved Kansas City defense. White's fate will be

similar, and neither he nor Green looks like a good start in this one.

## Wide Receiver Pickups-

Tyrone Calico (TEN) is a very solid pickup for Owners looking to upgrade their wide-outs. With Drew Bennett out for a few weeks, expect Steve McNair to look for the rookie even more. Calico has been a deep threat (averaging 19.2 yds per catch) and has also been effective around the goal line (3 TDs). His schedule is also very favorable over the next 3 weeks- MIA, JAX, @ATL.

Dante Hall (KC) could follow in the footsteps of Santana Moss and Steve Smith (both previously mentioned in this article) as a hidden gem. He has proven that he is the best return-man in the game today, and the Chiefs showed that they would like to get the ball to him in the offense. Look for Hall to put up OK numbers, but the potential for him to contribute big numbers exist every week as long as he gets his hands on the ball.

Darrell Jackson (SEA) is the Seahawks' best receiver. Although he did drop 6 passes on Sunday, Hasselbeck kept going back to him. Fellow teammate, Koren Robinson, was supposed to be the star of this group, but he has suffered through injuries, double teams, and disciplinary troubles. The result has seen Jackson lead the team while averaging 70.4 yds and .5 TDs per game. He has good trade value that could either be used to buy or sell.

## Wide Receiver Bench Play-

David Boston (SD) took himself out of one bad offensive situation (ARZ) and put himself into another. Drew Brees has struggled badly and has not been able to get him the ball, even when he's been open. The Chargers face an active Minnesota defense that will be looking to get back on track

against San Diego's patchwork offensive line. It will be another long day for the Chargers and their offense no matter where this game is played.

## Tight End Pickup-

Anthony Becht (NYJ) will never be a highly regarded offensive threat, but he could provide Owners with a solid TE option if he can be carried as a #2 TE on a roster. He got off to a slow start, but over the last 4 games he has scored 3 TDs and averaged over 36 receiving yds per game. With Pennington back and a schedule that includes weak passing defenses (@OAK, JAX, TEN, PIT), he should continue along that pace.

## Kicker Pickup-

Gary Anderson (TEN) walked into the ideal situation. Since joining the team to replace the injured Joe Nedney, he has kicked his way into the top 10 of Fantasy kickers. The Titans' explosive offense has aided him tremendously with TDs and short-range FGs. He averages 1.8 FG attempts and 2.1 extra points per game, making him a strong pickup for this time of the year.

## D/ST Pickup-

The San Francisco 49ers continue to baffle everybody. One thing for sure is that their defense is the new leader of the team. The unit has made up for the offense's injuries and deficiencies to pull off two blowouts at home vs. top-notch opponents (TB, STL). Owners who need a D/ST for the playoff run will need to jump on the Niners this week, NOT after their bye. Just check out their average of 3 sacks and 2 turnovers per game as evidence that they are worth the early pickup.

## D/ST Bench Play-

Baltimore has risen to the top of their division with a punishing running attack and a stout defensive unit. However Sunday Night Football in the Rams' dome is no place to play them unless you feel really lucky and you've been on a roll. Owners with the Ravens should look for a better matchup. •

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## NFL

### Cardinals @ Steelers -7

Arizona has looked like a completely revitalized team over the past two weeks, knocking off the Bengals and 49ers at home for their first back-2-back wins in over a year. 'Zona's success has been the direct result of two things. First, RB Marcel Shipp has found ample room to run behind their massive offensive line, a unit that is finally healthy and showing the benefit of time spent working together during the bye week. Shipp has over 300 yards on the ground in the last two weeks, a huge upgrade over former starter Emmitt Smith. Secondly, the Cardinals have won the turnover battle, creating some takeaways defensively while limiting them on offense. Arizona was -14 in turnovers heading into the bye week, but they've been on the plus side in both victories since. But now Arizona has to go on the road to try and keep their winning streak alive. In their three road games this year, the Cardinals have lost by at least 17 points each time. They didn't rush for 100 yards in any of those games, and they lost the turnover battle in each one of those games. Pittsburgh

is a hungry, desperate team still fighting, despite their 2-6 record. And the Steelers do one thing very well defensively — they shut down the run, against every level of opponent, every week. Arizona does well when QB Jeff Blake isn't required to do anything except hand the ball off. This week, Blake is going to have to make some plays with his arm, and that's bad news for Arizona. Pittsburgh's big play passing game lets them cover this spread with ease.

**The Pick - Pittsburgh**

### Browns @ Chiefs -10.5

The betting public is convinced that the Chiefs are a magical team, with the best offense, defense and special teams in all of football. Dick Vermeil is a genius, Arrowhead Stadium has the strongest homefield in the world, and Kansas City will match the '72 Dolphins with a perfect season and a Super Bowl win. Right? Wrong!!! Kansas City is a good football team. They are not a great football team, and are 8-0 instead of 5-3 or 4-4 due to a number of lucky breaks, big plays at oppor-

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Ted Sevransky of Whocovers.com is truly having an extraordinary year in 2003. Ted has shown consistent success since moving to Las Vegas to pursue a full time sports betting career back in 1998, with a Top 10 finish in the prestigious Hilton Supercontest, #1 handicapping titles in both the NBA and college hoops, and a Top 5 finish in college football handicapping as well. But 2003 has truly been a special year. Ted began the final week of October ranked #1 in the nation in pro and college football net units of profit by the Sports Monitor, the most respected independent monitoring service in the world. He finished the 2003 basketball season hitting an incredible 75% (25W-8L) of his top rated 3\* and 5\* feature play selections. Even baseball was extraordinarily profitable for "Teddy Covers", as he closed out the season with an 11-3 mark in the MLB playoffs. Visit Ted's website at [www.Whocovers.com](http://www.Whocovers.com) or call 1-800-575-3069 to start winning with your sports wagers today!

tune times etc. This team will not make money for their backers in the 2nd half of the season — the linesmakers have overvalued them, and they won't catch every team at the right time, nor every break possible, over their final eight games. Let's not forget that Kansas City won four of their last five games by a touchdown or less — they aren't steamrolling every opponent by double digit margins. And the bye week came at the absolute worst time for this team, snapping their momentum — it'll be hard to pick up right where they left off. The Browns are a desperate, hungry team with

playoff aspirations of their own, and an extra week to prepare for this game themselves. Cleveland has been a pointspread machine on the road over the last two seasons, with a 10-3 ATS record away from home since the start of the 2002 season. And this line is vastly inflated — the linesmakers know that every square from Peoria to Plattsburgh to Pensacola will be lining up at the window to back their beloved Chiefs. I'll wait until an hour before kickoff and bet it the other way.

**The Pick - Cleveland •**

## It's your move...

by I.M. Bettor

high? Or maybe blame can be traced to dreary South Bend, Indiana, a hardscrabble place that's hardly the college town of say Ann Arbor or Madison. But whatever the reason (s), the football scene at Notre Dame is mighty bleak.

After the disastrous Bob Davie years, Tyrone Willingham was brought in to resurrect the football program. And last year, it looked

like the Irish were getting back on track. Winning their first eight, the Irish faded a bit down the stretch but nevertheless were invited to the Gator Bowl where they lost to North Carolina State. But it was a 10-3 year and hope had returned.

This year, after opening with an OT win over Washington State, the Irish have been abysmal. Last Saturday, they were 12-point

underdogs at home to Florida State. I cannot recall Notre Dame ever taking double digits under the shadow of Touchdown Jesus. Oh yeah, they were crunched 37-0.

This week, they entertain Navy and the linesmaker opened ND at -11. But faster than you can say, "Doesn't Tyrone Willingham look like a stocky version of Snoop Dog?," the number plummeted to 8.

This Saturday's tilt marks the 77th straight year that these two have played and in my gambling lifetime, Navy has never been

favored. And while the Middies are not favored on Saturday, Notre Dame laying less than double digits to an average Navy team (one that lost to Delaware) strikes me as a game that Willingham can use to bring some confidence back to this program. Anything less than a 10-point win will indicate just how far the mighty have fallen. •

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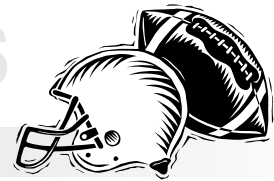
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- Homer Simpson



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## College

### Alabama @ Mississippi St +9.5

Alabama, at 3-6 and Mississippi St, at 2-6, rank at the top of the list of the biggest disappointments in the SEC this season. Both teams have been competitive in most of their losses. Four of Alabama's losses have come by a single score, including a pair of losses in overtime. Three of Mississippi State's losses have also come by a touchdown or less. But the Bulldogs have gotten worse, not better, since head coach Jackie Sherrill announced his retirement effective at the end of the season. They lost their two games before the bye week 45-13 and 42-17, demonstrating some of the worst tackling I've ever seen in both of those losses — this is not a good defense, by any stretch of the imagination. A bad defense and a quarterback who turns the ball over consistently (13 interceptions from Kevin Fant this year, and almost as many fumbles), are not a good combination, especially from a team with a pervasive losing mentality and a bad attitude. 'Bama does not share that bad attitude, or pervasive losing mentality, and quarterback Brodie Croyle is healthy coming out of the bye week. And star running back Shaud Williams will be the best player on the field for either team — he should have a big day on the ground against the poor tackling Bulldogs. Alabama has shown the ability to beat up on teams when they win, with all three victories this year com-

ing by double digit margins. Look for a 4th such win from the Crimson Tide this Saturday.

**The Pick - Alabama**

### Tennessee @ Miami-FL -13

Miami's 39 game regular season winning streak came to a crashing halt in Blacksburg this past Saturday, as the Hurricanes fell out of the national championship race with a whimper, losing 31-7 thanks to a pair of early defensive touchdowns from the Hokies. Their 27 game Big East winning streak was snapped as well. Now, Larry Coker has the unenviable task of trying to get his team prepared and motivated following that devastating loss. The 'Canes have shown us more than once this year that they are not as good a team with Brock Berlin at quarterback as they were with Ken Dorsey behind center for the previous three seasons.

Let's not forget that Miami lost more talent to the NFL over the last two years than any other college in the country has on their entire roster. And the 'Canes were on the lucky side in more than one previous win this season. They needed a four touchdown comeback in the 2nd half to beat Florida; barely survived against West Virginia needing a last minute field goal to win by two; and benefited mightily from the sloppy

conditions in their win over Florida State. Then again, the Vols haven't exactly been impressive either, and Tennessee doesn't have the same kind of playmakers on either side of the football as Miami does. Tennessee came out with another sluggish performance against Duke this past Saturday. Rumors about Phil Fulmer's imminent departure have been swirling around the program. The offense has been pedestrian at best all year, with a modest running game and no big play threats for Casey Clausen to throw to. Miami shut down Tennessee in Knoxville by a 26-3 margin last year, and the 'Canes still have the better defense. Look for Miami to bounce back with a convincing home win against an inferior foe.

**The Pick - Miami**

### Vanderbilt @ Florida -25

Ron Zook as a road underdog is now 6-1 against the spread, winning five of those games outright. But ask Zook's team to lay points, and it's a very different story. Florida is just 3-10 against the spread as a favorite over the last two seasons, and they'll be a prohibitive favorite in this game. This is exactly the type of game that Florida has looked past under Zook. They've just beaten LSU, Arkansas and Georgia in their last three games, and there's no chance that even if

they completely dismiss the Commodores, that Vanderbilt can win this game and end their 23 game SEC losing streak. The only question here is whether Florida will come prepared, and blow out Vanderbilt like they did two years ago, a 71-13 annihilation, or whether the Gators will be flat and distracted, and struggle to put away the Commodores, like they did in a 21-17 win over Vandy last year. In last year's game, Vanderbilt ran for 173 yards against the Gators defense, 4.2 yards per carry. Had the Commodores not lost the turnover battle by two in that game, they might have pulled off the upset of the year. Vanderbilt has had a bye week to prepare for this game, and head coach Bobby Johnson is a capable gameplanner, considering the dearth of talent that he has on hand. But the Commodores have scored exactly 33 points in their last five trips to the Swamp, unable to move the ball against Florida's athletic defense. And the Commodores own D has been nothing short of horrid, allowing 33 points per game in their last six contests in 2003, all losses. Hard to lay points with a Florida team in this spot. Even if they sleepwalk through this game and still win by three touchdowns, Vanderbilt will be the spread winner.

**The Pick - Vanderbilt •**

## On the road to Uglyville

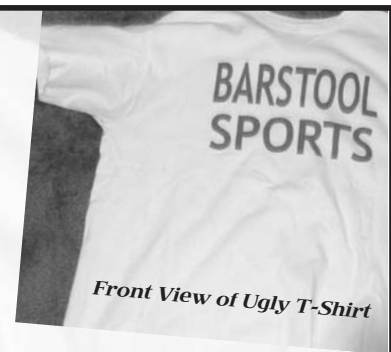
Guess what? Barstool Sports is moving into the merchandising business. That's right we are now selling our fabulously ugly Barstool Sports T-shirts for 10 bucks a pop. No, we're not looking to get rich by this, but maybe it will help with our marketing efforts. The 10-dollar fee covers the cost of the shirt and us shipping it to you. How did this come about you ask? We originally bought 40 T-shirts for our crew of bearded guys, which handed out copies of the newspaper during week 1. Basically we ordered the cheapest T-shirts that we could find for these guys to wear. The result was a \$4.00 shirt with Barstool Sports etched across the front in big ugly red letters and our slogan on

the back, which is "By the common man for the common man."

As most of you know who have been following the maturation of Barstool Sports, the bearded guys only worked for us once, before we switched to using models. The result was that the majority of the T-shirts faded into Bolivia. However, a few shirts did survive the genocide and the staff of Barstool Sports regularly wears them when we're handing out newspapers or trying to track down stolen newsracks. Much to our surprise, something very strange happens whenever we wear the ugly shirts. People seem to really like them. I'm not exaggerating when I say that my \$4.00 Barstool Sports T-shirt has garnered more comments from both guys and girls than any other T-shirt I own. Therefore, we figured maybe this would be a sneaky way to get our readers to help market the newspaper by having them wear our ugly shirts around town.



Rear View of Ugly T-Shirt



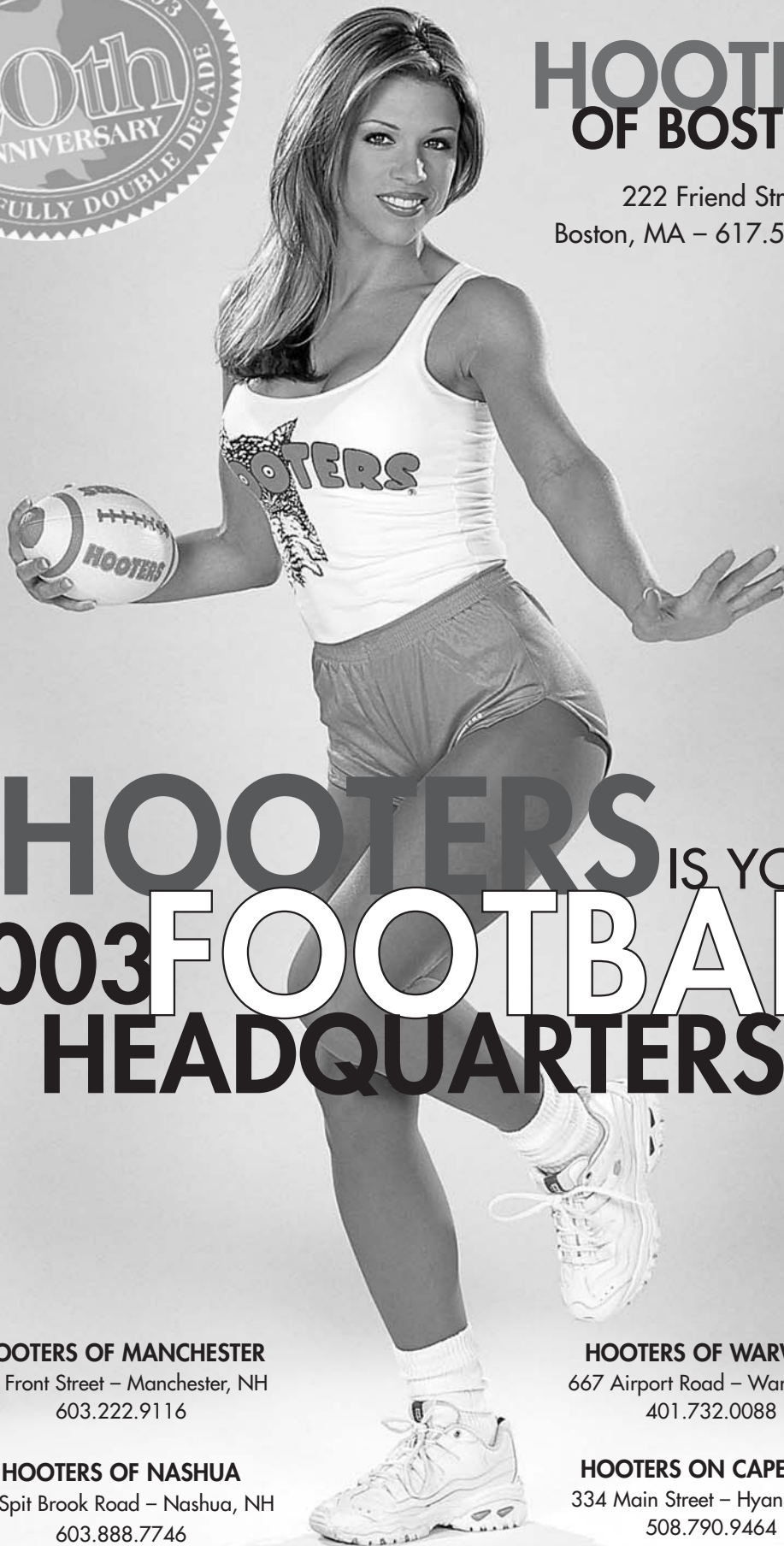
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