

You bet, it's all about the benjamins

First off, I am not writing about Puff Daddy or P. Diddy or Huffy Puffy or whatever he calls himself. If you want more on talent-less artists go to MTV.com. No, what I'm talking about is good old-fashioned mullah, the big green, the almighty dollar, the, well, you get the point.

You see, it's that time of year, between Christmas and Thanksgiving, when people are beginning their holiday shopping and snow is accumulating (usually). This is also the time of year when baseball owners hand out enormous multi-million dollar contracts to free agents in hopes that these players can bring home a championship to their club. Although we will not see the any contract as huge as A-Rod's \$252 million package last year, this year looks like yet again one more step towards the continued separation of the haves and have-nots.

Word on ESPN.com is that the Yankees, the worst of the haves, offered Oakland first-baseman Jason Giambi a deal worth \$119 million over seven years. I want to know where Steinbrenner comes up with this money. He already has players like Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams, Mike Mussina, Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, and Mariano Rivera, who, along with Giambi if he signs, would eat up \$100 million of

the team's salary. How much money can one owner throw at a club?

No wonder baseball is considering contraction; there's no way the have-nots can compete with this sort of money. That's why there are roughly 12 teams that are annually fighting for playoff spots. The rest can't afford to pay the high salaries for the players that carry teams. The have-nots have to rely on homegrown talent, like this year's Minnesota Twins. That almost never works though. Just look at the Pirates.

Even by eliminating two teams, baseball's financial future still is in jeopardy. As long as the bigger market clubs continue to increase their payroll at a faster rate than the smaller market clubs, the sport is headed for a breakdown. The Yankees, unincidentally, are worth nearly seven times as much as the Expos. You can't expect salaries to continually increase without eventually running into major problems. I'm just sitting on the edge of my seat, waiting for an owner to declare bankruptcy because he was too stupid to realize you can't spend a lot more than you make.

Speaking of debt, commissioner Bud Selig told reporters at a news conference to announce his



Personal foul
Mike Bello
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contract extension that baseball owners lost a combined \$500 million this year. Only five of the 30 teams actually made a profit. According to my computer calculator, that equals \$20 million for the other 25 clubs. Hmm, I bet we'll hear owners crying very soon about how they are unable to support their teams.

If these numbers are true, and if Selig isn't blowing them out of proportion just for the Senate hearing next week on baseball's antitrust exemption, then owners can only look in the mirror for a source of blame. They didn't curb the wild spending by general managers, and now they are

paying the price (literally).

The revenue sharing plan that baseball executives said would pull the game off its teetering financial pedestal a few years ago has done almost nothing. The money the large market clubs give to the small market ones isn't enough to help them land even an average position player, much less bring the teams out of debt. Revenue sharing doesn't seem to bother the Yankees; their payroll grows by at least \$5 million per season.

Contraction won't help baseball either, because the players on the two teams (most likely Minnesota and Montreal) will be drafted into other teams. The small market clubs won't be able to afford the decent players (Vladimir Guerrero) and instead will be stuck with the Derek Bells from the two teams. Contraction just gives clubs like the Braves, Mets, and Dodgers a chance to snag the players worth multi-million dollar contracts.

Speaking of those, I wonder how many zeros the likes of Bonds, Gonzalez, Alou, and Boone are gonna see soon. Bonds, despite being 36 years old, is most likely going to see a four and five year contract worth \$20 million per. It's a given he won't equal this year's stats, and when he's 40 he'll be struggling to

hit 25 home runs and a .275 average. Is that worth \$20 million? By these standards, Sammy Sosa, the most complete player in the game, should be worth \$100 million.

Baseball's future is looking pretty grim right now. The growing disparity between the haves and have-nots might eventually force the top 15 teams to buy out the other 15. Then you'd see ratings and attendance fall faster than Pamela Lee's chest size. Let's not mention the fact the players' contract expired in early November. We've been fortunate not to have a repeat of '94, but that doesn't mean labor troubles won't come back to bite baseball next year. Especially if the players' union and Bud Selig lock horns over the salary cap issue.

Who loses in this constant seesaw battle between owners and players? You, the fan. The only way to pay for these salaries is to raise prices on tickets, merchandise, refreshments, hot dogs, programs, BEER, etc. As long as salaries increase, then it will cost the average fan more and more to attend a single game. After all, you hear about clubs raising ticket prices all the time, but when was the last time you heard of a club lowering ticket prices? Yeah, that happens as often as Britney Spears wears bras.

The thoughts and general ramblings of professional snowboarder Brodie McNeil

by Andy McNeil
staff writer

Life as a pro snowboarder is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you'll pull next. For one such rider, Brodie McNeil, coming from Vail, Colo. to Mammoth Lakes, Calif. proved to be his turning point. From his start on the mogul monster to M3, here are his thoughts (many of them irrelevant) as asked by the Beacon's Andy McNeil, Brodie's cousin.

Beacon: So what's it like to be an old man (23)?

McNeil: I wouldn't go quite that far there greenhorn, but yeah, as far as the sport is concerned, I'm pretty much in my bedwetting years.

Beacon: Isn't your real name James?

McNeil: Yes, my first name is James, but I've always been Brodie. I'm pretty psyched because girls react to hearing my name, "Oh, like in 'Mallrats', and then get their numbers.

Beacon: Really?

McNeil: OK, I never get any didgies.

Beacon: How long have you been a rider and how did you become one?

McNeil: I've been riding for about 12 years now. I started at this sledding hill about three blocks from my house. I saw some kids from the neighborhood building a jump and hitting it. For the next few days, I wouldn't stop nagging my parents to get me a board. They finally broke down and got me a Black Snow Mogul Monster from Target. It was basically a P.O.S. Just a plank of plastic with two ghetto straps.

Beacon: That sounds like my first board too. The real question is what's your favorite brew (alcoholic/non)?

McNeil: I really don't have a favorite; I like "lawn mower" beers, Pabst Blue Ribbon, mmmmm.

Beacon: How much is Red Bull and Vodka

in Mammoth?

McNeil: Too much.

Beacon: Favorite trick?

McNeil: Rodeo 7s, Underflippers, Switch B/S 7s, B/S 180 double grabs, and the "Taliban Tripod".

Beacon: Describe your style?

McNeil: Kamikaze Huckster vs. Smooth Transistor-Lanky, but I hope its smooth.

Beacon: Who's writing the checks/ handing out freebies? Sponsors?

McNeil: Val Surf in California, 686 Clothing, M3 snowboards, emagenetwork.com.

Beacon: So how many cars have you totaled?

McNeil: I haven't "totaled" any cars, but I just recently got in a little wreck, my fault of course. I also "Tommy Boy'ed my door earlier in the summer, "Whudchudewwww?".

Beacon: Are you a millionaire?

McNeil: Nope.

Beacon: What was the last book you read?

McNeil: The Perfect Storm, I'm now reading Tale of Two Cities and The Tao of Pooh.

Beacon: Have you won/ been in any contests?

McNeil: I won a game of horse with one of my friends in Mammoth. As far as legitimate contests, no wins, but I've gotten third in a slopestyle and ninth in a Big Air. I didn't compete much last year, just focused on riding and having fun.

Beacon: Views on contests? Selling out?

McNeil: Contests suck, I get so freaking nervous, and almost never ride well. I guess they're kind of fun if you're there with all your buddies, and it's a jam format. They need more of those.

Beacon: What do you think about America's War on terrorism?

MCNEIL'S RAMBLINGS

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brodie McNeil doing, well, some sort of trick

SCOREBOARD

BEHREND SPORTS

Women's Basketball		
School	C.R.	Overall
La Roche	0-0	2-0
Penn State Altoona	0-0	1-1
Pitt-Bradford	0-0	1-2
Penn State Behrend	0-0	1-4
Lake Erie	0-0	0-3
Pitt-Greensburg	0-0	0-3
Frostburg	0-0	0-4

Men's Basketball		
School	C.R.	Overall
Penn State Behrend	0-0	2-2
Frostburg	0-0	1-1
Lake Erie	0-0	1-3
La Roche	0-0	0-1
Penn State Altoona	0-0	0-3
Pitt-Bradford	0-0	0-3
Pitt-Greensburg	0-0	0-3

Men's Basketball Stats			
Player	PPG	RPG	
James Curren	11.0	8.7	
Steve Merrill	10.0	1.3	
Randy Conley	9.7	6.0	
Casey Ponsoll	8.3	1.7	
Matt Keith	7.0	1.3	
Dave Hairston	6.3	2.7	
Marty Timm	5.7	0.7	

Women's Basketball Stats			
Player	PPG	RPG	
Kate Costanzo	13.0	3.0	
Erin Phillips	9.5	7.5	
Erica Mozdy	8.8	7.0	
Christine Charnock	7.5	1.8	
Danielle Bemis	7.5	1.8	
Crystal McGarvey	5.5	4.3	
Carly Cochran	5.3	2.5	



NATIONAL SPORTS

NASCAR 2001 Winston Cup Final Standings: Race 36 of 36		
Pos.	Driver	Points
1	Jeff Gordon	5112
2	Tony Stewart	4763
3	Sterling Marlin	4741
4	Ricky Rudd	4706
5	Dale Jarrett	4612
6	Bobby Labonte	4561
7	Rusty Wallace	4481
8	Dale Earnhardt, Jr.	4460
9	Kevin Harvick	4406
10	Jeff Burton	4394
11	Johnny Benson	4152
12	Mark Martin	4095
13	Matt Kenseth	3982
14	Ward Burton	3846
15	Bill Elliott	3824
16	Jimmy Spencer	3782
17	Jerry Nadeau	3675
18	Bobby Hamilton	3575
19	Ken Schrader	3480
20	Elliott Sadler	3471

National Basketball Association League Leaders				
Points Per Game (PPG)				
Player	Team	POS	PPG	
1	K Bryant	LAL	G	27.4
2	A Iverson	PHI	G	27.3
3	P Pierce	BOS	F-G	26.9
4	N Van Exel	DEN	G	26.7
5	V Carter	TOR	G-F	26.5

Rebounds Per Game (RPG)				
Player	Team	POS	RPG	
1	D Forston	GS	F	13.4
2	T Duncan	SA	F-C	13.3
3	K Garnett	MIN	F	12.4
4	L Wright	MEM	C	12.2
4	D Mutombo	PHI	C	11.9

Assists Per Game (APG)				
Player	Team	POS	APG	
1	A Miller	CLE	G	10.7
2	J Kidd	NJ	G	9.6
3	G Payton	SEA	G	9.3
4	J Tinsley	IND	G	9.2
5	J Stockton	UT	G	9.0

Field Goal Percentage (FGP)				
Player	Team	POS	FGP	
1	D Marshall	UT	F	.603
2	J Smith	MIN	F	.538
3	W Szczerbiak	MIN	G-F	.533
3	S O'Neill	LAL	C	.533
5	R Nesterovic	MIN	C	.530

National Hockey League League Leaders				
Points (Pts)				
Player	Team	POS	Pts	
1	J Iginla	CGY	RW	37
2	B Shanahan	DET	LW	32
3	S Samsonov	BOS	LW	28
3	M Parrish	NYI	RW	28
3	D Alfredsson	OTT	RW	28

Goals				
Player	Team	POS	Goals	
1	J Iginla	CGY	RW	20
2	B Shanahan	DET	LW	17
3	M Parrish	NYI	RW	16
4	P Demitra	STL	RW	15
4	P Bondra	WSH	RW	15

Goals Against Average (GAA)				
Player	Team	POS	Yds	
1	B Boucher	PHI	G	1.50
2	T Conklin	EDM	G	1.62
3	P Skudra	VAN	G	1.75
4	J Hackett	MTL	G	1.80
5	P Roy	COL	G	1.84

Penalty Minutes (PM)				
Player	Team	POS	PM	
1	K Sawyer	ANA	LW	109
2	P Worrell	FLA	LW	85
3	J Weimer	FLA	C	82
4	B Shanahan	DET	LW	80
4	D Brashear	VAN	LW	80

National Football League NFC Statistics				
Passing Yards (Yds)				
Player	Team	POS	Yds	
1	K Warner	STL	QB	3000
2	B Favre	GB	QB	2530
3	J Plummer	ARI	QB	2473
4	D Culpepper	MIN	QB	2472
5	K Collins	NYG	QB	2468

Rushing Yards (Yds)				
Player	Team	POS	Yds	
1	A Green	GB	RB	938
2	R Williams	NO	RB	912
3	S Davis	WAS	RB	842
4	G Hearst	SF	RB	776
5	M Faulk	STL	RB	682

Receiving Yards (Yds)				
Player	Team	POS	Yds	
1	D Boston	ARI	WR	1065
2	T Owens	SF	WR	970
3	K Johnson	TB	WR	891
4	I Bruce	STL	WR	842
5	J Horn	NO	WR	834

Sacks				
Player	Team	POS	Sacks	
1	M Strahan	NYG	DE	16
2	K Biamila	GB	DE	11
3	C Clemons	NO	LB	9.5
3	L Little	STL	DE	9
3	P Kerney	ATL	DE	9

AFC Statistics				
Passing Yards (Yds)				
Player	Team	POS	Yds	
1	P Manning	IND	QB	2709
2	T Green	KC	QB	2344
3	R Gannon	OAK	QB	2324
4	B Griese	DEN	QB	2318
5	D Flutie	SD	QB	2195

Rushing Yards (Yds)				
Player	Team	POS	Yds	
1	J Bettis	PIT	RB	991
2	C Martin	NYJ	RB	983
3	P Holmes	KC	RB	902
4	S Alexander	SEA	RB	894
5	L Tomlinson	SD	RB	869

Receiving Yards (Yds)				
Player	Team	POS	Yds	
1	R Smith	DEN	WR	1029
2	M Harrison	IND	WR	934
3	Troy Brown	NE	WR	885
4	Tim Brown	OAK	WR	862
5	J Smith	JAC	WR	850

Sacks				
Player	Team	POS	Sacks	
1	J Abraham	NYJ	DE	10
2	M Wiley	SD	DE	9.5
3	J Kearse	TEN	DE	9
4	R Johnson	SD	DE	9
5	2 tied with			8

