

# SPORTS

## Around the horn with Matt Sarver

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Welcome back my fellow classmates!

As some of you now know, I was given the privilege to continue the best sports column in the Cap Times.

Allow me to explain the rules, for the new readers of the Cap Times: I will ask three questions to the four participants. Based on how they respond to the questions, I will either reward them points for good answers or dock them points for terrible answers.

In the case that their answer is so pathetic I will mute them and not allow them to continue.

After each question I will eliminate one contestant, until there are only two left. The winner of the final showdown will get eight to ten sentences to rant and rave about whatever he likes.

Let's meet the 2008 spring contestants!

First we have the legend of Penn State Harrisburg, the man who defeated me in the King of Kings tournament, Dr. Charles Kupfer.

The second man is known for his homerun hitting baseball skills, Kris "Colgate Smile" Aumiller.

Our third man and newest member of the Around the Horn Panel is Austin "I'm-so-fast-I-run-out-of-my-own-shoes" Kulp.

Finally the last contestant, who has been at school so long they should name the Olmsted building after him, is Matthew "Pops" Carroll.

Let's get this started. Here are the questions.

1. With Shaq moving to the Suns, does this make them the leading candidate for an NBA championship this year?
2. The Mets added the best pitcher in the league to an already dominant pitching staff. How far do you believe Santana will lead them this year?

3. The Giants victory over the Patriots in the Super Bowl is claimed to be the biggest upset in NFL History. What is yours and why?

First Topic:

1. With Shaq moving to the Suns, does this make them the leading candidate for an NBA championship this year?

Aumiller- God, no! If anything, it makes them worse.

They gave up one of their best players in Shawn Marion (-) to get Shaq, who is having by far the worst season in his career.

Did they forget that they already have an All-Star center in Amare Stoudemire?

The real trade to be noticed out west is the LA Lakers picking up Pau Gasol to actually give them a legitimate center since a much younger Shaq was there. (-1 point)

Carroll- Shaq makes the Suns a real contender. (+)

Rarely do you see a team win a championship with a team and coaching staff devoid of championship experience. Shaq brings 4 rings with him to the Suns

Popovitch quietly tuning up his Spurs ready for another playoff run? Lakers, Spurs...and you wanna talk about PHOENIX???

Hmm... I realize it's an even year, and that usually means the Spurs are "off." But from where I sit, it's the playoff road that counts the most, and that road runs through the City of Angels and San Antonio.

However, the Suns are a candidate for something: most panicky franchise, as they are repeatedly spooked by their rivals, the Lakers and Spurs.

beating them in the playoffs. (0 points)

My Thoughts- You guys know that Phoenix is already in first place in the West.

I'm not saying they are going to win, but the addition of the Diesel to the mix is only going to make them stronger.

Marion was only averaging 4th best in points in the starting lineup... They don't need Shaq to score, they need him for rebounding and kicking it out to Nash and Barbosa for 3's after he draws the double team.

able to make the playoffs this year but fail to translate Santana's AL dominance into NL dominance.

Take the examples of his teammate, Pedro, who has fallen drastically short of his AL dominance with his tenure at the Mets.

Sorry Aumiller, your Mets will not win the World Series this year. (+) (3 Points)

Kupfer (1 point) - Santana gives them what they didn't have during their freefall last year: a stopper who can come in to end a losing streak.

Hampton and James as their starting rotation (+).

The Mets have two solid starters with Santana and John Maine, but after that it's a young Oliver Perez and an aging Pedro, who only started 5 games in 2007 with a 9-8 record and 4.48 ERA.

Their 5th starter is a 40-year-old Orlando Hernandez who was 9-5 in 2007 and 11-11 in 2006 (+). (2 Points)

My Thoughts- Kupfer, you see what happens when you mention the Phils. You lose.

Plus, it feels good to eliminate you after you defeated me in the King of Kings tournament. Good luck next issue.

### FINAL SHOWDOWN

3. The Giants victory over the Patriots in the Super Bowl is claimed to be the biggest upset in NFL History. Which is yours, and why?

Carroll (3 Points) - The Jets win in Super Bowl III was, and still is, one of the greatest upsets in NFL History.

The newly incorporated AFL beat the dominant and well-established NFL for the first time in title history.

After that, the Patriots defeat of the greatest show on turf (The St. Louis Rams) was a far greater surprise than the Giants upset of the Patriots (-).

I hate the Giants almost as much as it is likely that Aumiller will strikeout more than 15 times this season for PSH baseball, and will never give Giants fans the satisfaction of giving them the honor of having pulled off the greatest upset of all time (-). (1 point)

Kulp (2 points)- The New York Jets toppling the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl 3 was the biggest upset in NFL history. Coming into the game, the Colts were an 18-point favorite. Led by Joe Namath, the Jets defeated the Colts 16-7. (+) (3points)

My Thoughts - Kulp, even though your answer really had no thought behind it, I'm still giving you the victory, because Carroll mentioned the Patriots victory over the Rams as one of the greatest upsets of all time.

Plus, until Spy Gate gets off the Patriots back, they are always going to be cheaters in my book.

Congratulations Kulp; your first time and you win. You got 30 seconds!

Kulp- Almost everyone has heard about the steroid allegations between Roger Clemens and Brian McNamee.

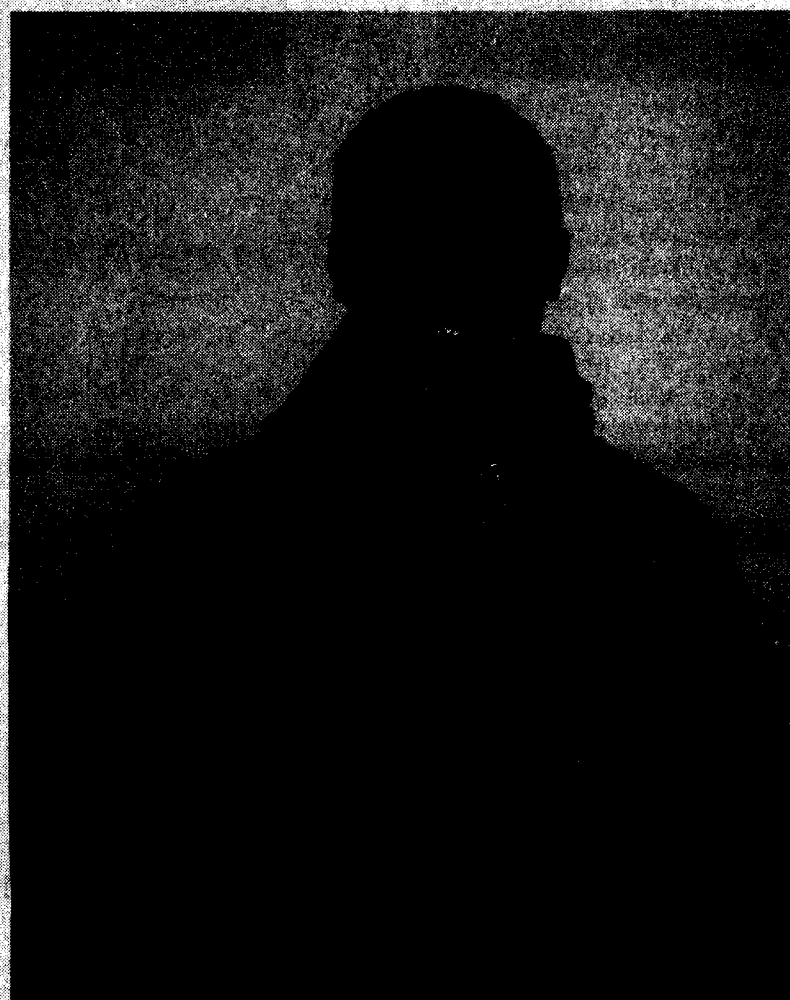
At the Congressional hearing on the Mitchell Report McNamee looked to be arrogant and stumbling around his answers. If it turns out that Clemens did not do anything it is a shame that his reputation and legendary career has been drug through the dirt by McNamee.

On a lighter note: now that Randy Moss is on the free agent market, the Eagles need to throw all the money that they have to acquire him for next year.

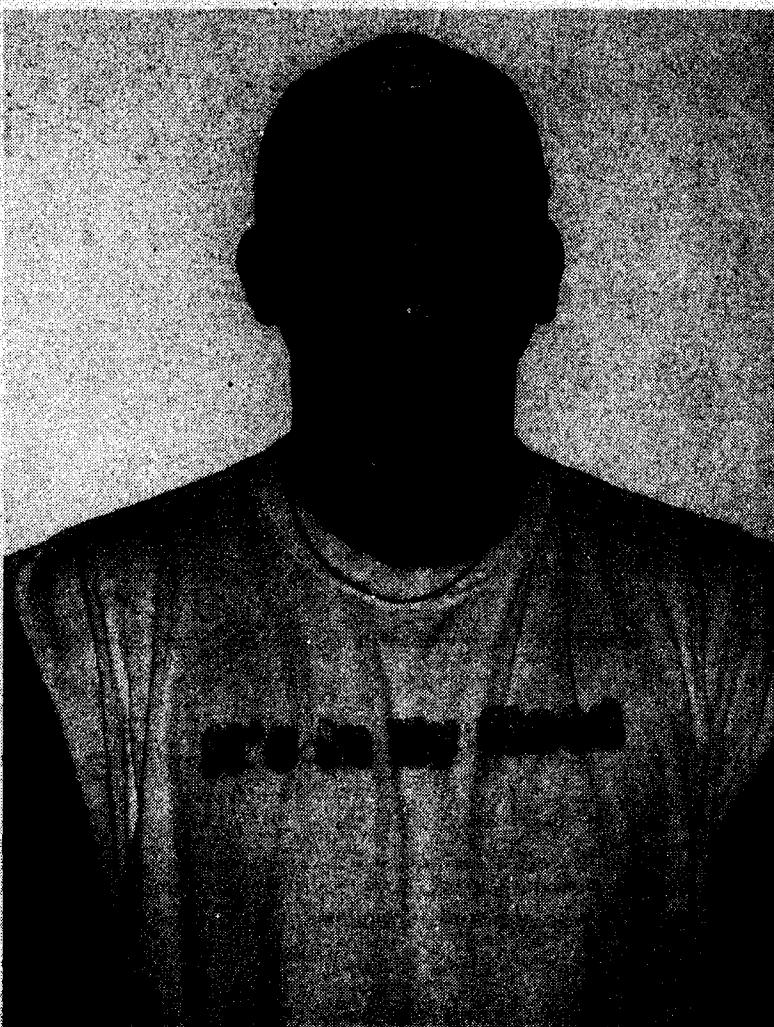
If they can pick up Moss, I'm predicting a super bowl appearance for next season.



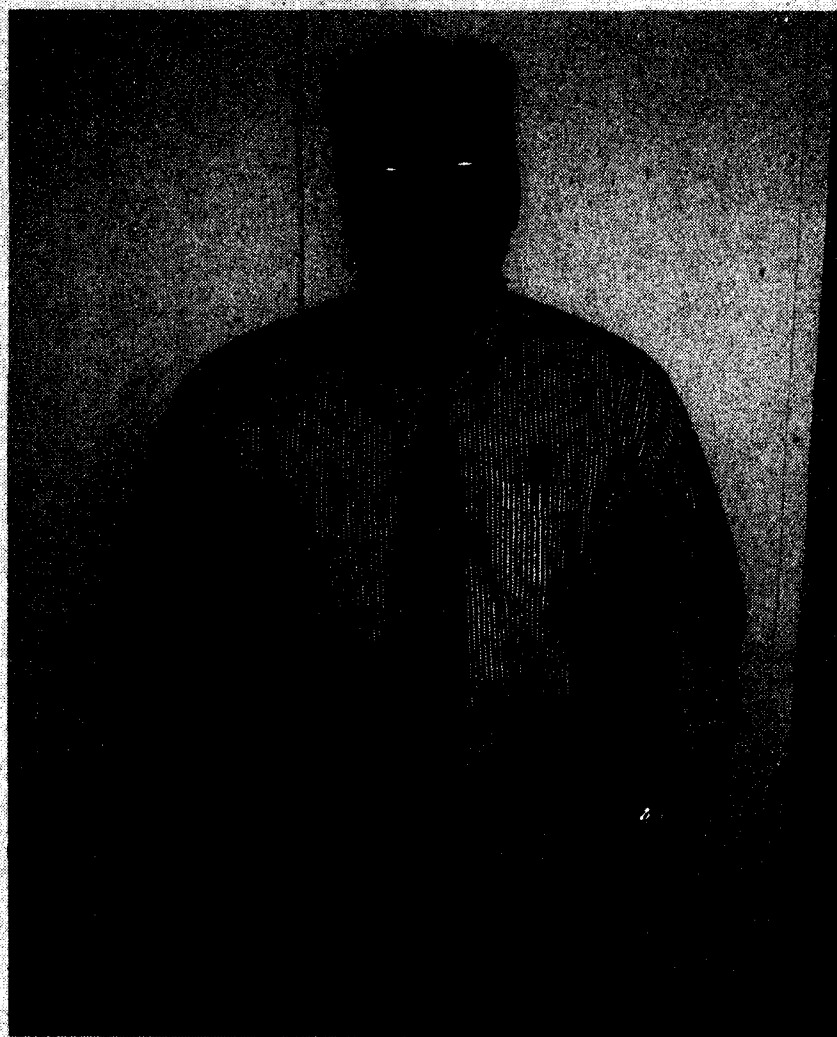
Matthew Carroll



Austin Kulp



Kris Aumiller



Dr. Kupfer

and, like his journey to Miami, his experience in the playoffs is far more valuable than his ability. He will teach the lovable losers in Phoenix how to win a title.

My front-runners are still Boston and Detroit (+) with Tim Duncan and the Spurs my favorite in the West. (2 points)

Kupfer- Excuse me? I think I misunderstood - The Phoenix Suns???

Let's see, is the NBA championship suddenly vacant?

Did the Lakers just steal Pau Gasol, the only worthwhile player on the Memphis shelf, for a bucket of warm spit? (++) Or is Greg

Don't get me wrong, I'm not hating on Shaq-Daddy. I love the guy. But that aching back ain't gonna carry Phoenix past the big bad boys out West. (-) (1 point)

Kulp- NO! The Suns are replacing Shawn Marion with a less athletic Shaq who is averaging less minutes, points and rebounds a game than Marion this season. (+)

The LA Lakers are my leading candidate for the NBA championship. (-) With Bynum returning in March, and the addition of Pau Gasol (who is averaging 22 Points and 9 Rebounds a game in 3 games with the Lakers), I don't see anyone

Sorry Aumiller, maybe next time...

Next Topic:

2. The Mets added the best pitcher in the league to an already dominant pitching staff. How far do you believe Santana will lead them this year?

Carroll (2 points) - The Mets don't know how to close out a season.

Their pitching staff is old and their team isn't any better than last year when they collapsed in historic fashion.

I predict that the Mets will be

He leads them to the playoffs (which probably saves Willie Randolph's job) and keeps the Mets even with the Yanks on the back pages of the NY tabs (+).

But Charlie "Corn Pone" Manuel and his Phils are far from dead (- -). Bring on the NL East playoff race! (0 Points)

Kulp (0 points) - The Mets are a wild card contender at best... unless they can figure out a way to pitch Santana every game this season.

The Mets are the 2nd best team in the National League East, behind the Braves, who will be showcasing Smoltz, Hudson, Glavin,