

# SPORTS

## Around the horn with Matt Sarver

Hello classmates! How is everyone's semester going? I don't know about you, but I am extremely excited for spring break.

In case you forgot the rules, let me explain them to you: I will ask three different sports-related questions to each of the contestants. Based on how they respond, I will either reward them points for good answers or dock them points for horrible answers.

In the case that their answer is so pathetic that it doesn't deserve to be printed in the paper I will mute them and they will be out for the rest of the article.

After each question I will eliminate the contestant with the lowest point total, until there are two left.

The winner of the showdown will get their time to shine in the "Moment of Fame" section. Here are the questions:

1. Number one Memphis went down to Number two Tennessee on George Washington's birthday. Tennessee is the new Number 1 in College Basketball, but do you think they will make the Final Four? Give me your Final Four and whom you think is going to win it all.

2. Since I'm probably the only hockey fan in the Capital Times staff I'm going to get some enjoyment out of this question. Give me your Eastern and Western Conference Champions with some strong reasons to back it up. Also, give me your Stanley Cup Champion and the MVP of the League. Remember: I love stats.

3. ESPN is currently running the Greatest Highlight Countdown on "Sportscenter". What would you select as the greatest sports highlight of all-time and WHY?

### Question 1

Austin - No, I do not see Tennessee going to the final 4 this year. They play in a weak SEC conference where six of the teams have double digit overall losses and six teams are also below .500 in the conference (+). They just lost a close game to Vanderbilt the other night after becoming the number one team in the nation.

They are also very young, which is going to hurt them against the more experienced teams in the tournament. Five of their eight players are sophomores. My final 4 are Notre Dame, Kansas, North Carolina and Memphis. (+) (2 Points)

Carroll - I like Memphis in the Final Four along with UNC, Duke and Indiana. I like at least one mid-major like Memphis to get into the Final Four along with a perennial powerhouse or two from the ACC (+).

I think the Big Ten is strong this year; unless the administration gets real dumb and suspends their coach, Indiana should sneak into the Final Four (-). (0 Points)

Aumiller - Well, this looks like a nose dive week for me, seeing as I don't even pay attention to college basketball until the first day of the tournament (+).

However, for this question, I'll make it short and sweet and say Tennessee (-), Memphis, North Carolina, and Texas for the Final Four and UNC will win it all. (+) (1 Point)

King Kupfer - Memphis should be glad they lost: going undefeated

is a distraction from the real goal, winning the championship. Just ask the Patriots! (++)

Now, remember, the REAL fun is on days one and two, when everybody plays wall-to-wall and the upsets happen (+). That craziness is why it's March Madness, the best show in sports.

Kulp (2 Points) - Well, since no one follows hockey unless you live in Canada or your name is Matt Sarver (+) my picks will be the New York Rangers (-) and the Detroit Red Wings (-). With the Rangers late additions of Redrik Sjostrom and Christain Backman they have addressed both their

scares his opponents in the playoffs? You bet he does.

The Senators are finding themselves again; the Pizza Line delivers goals aplenty. But I've seen this movie before: the road to the finals runs through Newark, with boring traps and suffocating defense.

playing anymore. There is no more magic in the Garden. Plus, with you having two extra days to get these answers in and you mentioned nothing about the best team the PENGUINS getting Marian Hossa.

Unfortunately for Malkin and Crosby they do have to go through the beast in the East and that is #30

player and they never would've been in the World Series without him. The guy has over 2700 career hits (not a lot of people can say that) and he had over 100 RBI's in 1986 (++)

However, especially the young Sox fans today, just remember him as the bum who couldn't field the ground ball (2 points- final total 6 Points).

Kupfer (5 Points) - Gotta go sport-by-sport here. . . Hockey's greatest is Bobby Orr's acrobatic diving goal to give the Bruins their last Stanley Cup in '70.

Overtime against the Blues, at the Boston Garden, and an airborne Orr swats the biscuit past Glenn Hall. This one play had it all: amazing feat, championship stakes, and an all-time great (+++).

Basketball? It's the best highlight sport; those "can-you-believe-what-you-just-saw?" moments.

Love a Dr. J flight down the lane any day, but if you want the very best, go to the very best ever: Michael Jordan wins the championship with the game-ender against the Jazz in '98: fakes right, moves left, pushes off (but no ref makes THAT call) and drains it: Bulls 90-88, second three-peat secure (+++).

In football? Well, here I'm breaking away from my championship game trend.

They call it "The Play" for a reason. Cal vs. Stanford, mutual hatred, Elway's last game, Stanford kicks a field goal to go up 20-19; Cal lines up only 10 players for the kickoff return, the laterals, the band, the trombone player laid flat and Kevin Moen leaping in the air with the ball. Bears, 25-20. Never been anything like it (+++).

Baseball? It was the best highlight ever, the Miracle of Coogan's Bluff, the Shot Heard 'Round the World. Hey, you kids! Believe it or not, they played games before ESPN was invented.

It's 1951. New York Giants erased the 13 1/2 game Brooklyn Dodgers lead. October 3, 1951; pennant on the line in a best two-of-three tiebreaker; Bums up in 4-1, bottom of 9th, Reliever Ralph Branca peers at Bobby Thomson, a kid named Willie Mays on deck. . . and if you don't know what happened, then why in the heck are you reading this???(++) (12 Points - Final total 17 Points A NEW RECORD).

My Thoughts - I'm sorry Aumiller, nobody can compete with that type of answer.

Yes, I may have only asked for the single greatest highlight, but the King gave me one from each major sport.

Kupfer, you have proven once again that you dominate the Penn State Harrisburg sports scene.

Now it is your time to shine, KING!

### MOMENT OF FAME

Kupfer - Here ya go, The King's Rap:

I don't talk trash, cuz I'm old school!

Act like you've won before's my rule!

So what I want to say today/ Is that American Studies has a conference on PLAY!

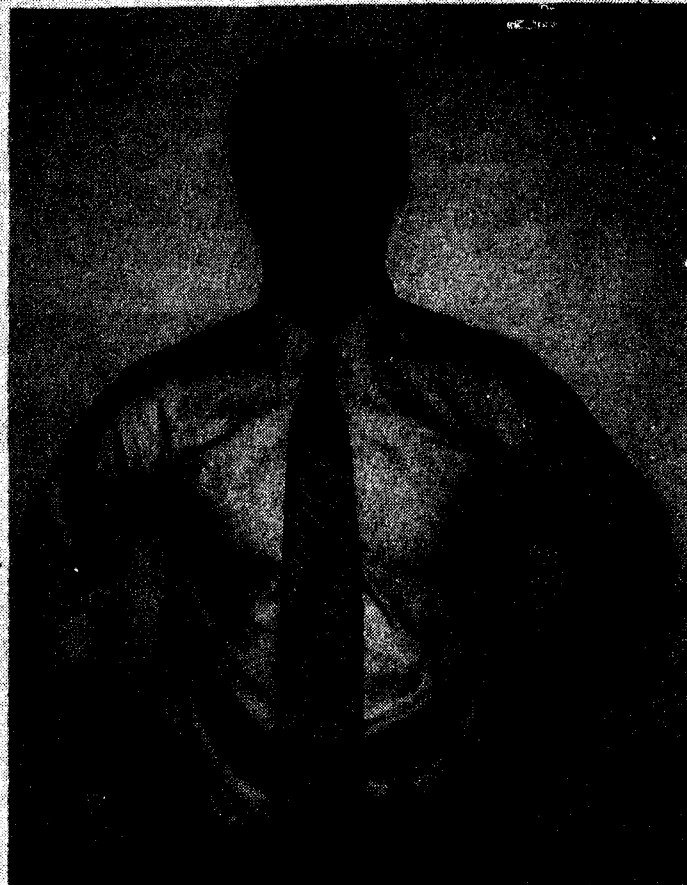
We'll study and talk about sports and games!

Fans, 'roids, and halls of fame/ I'll go to the thing and come back here!

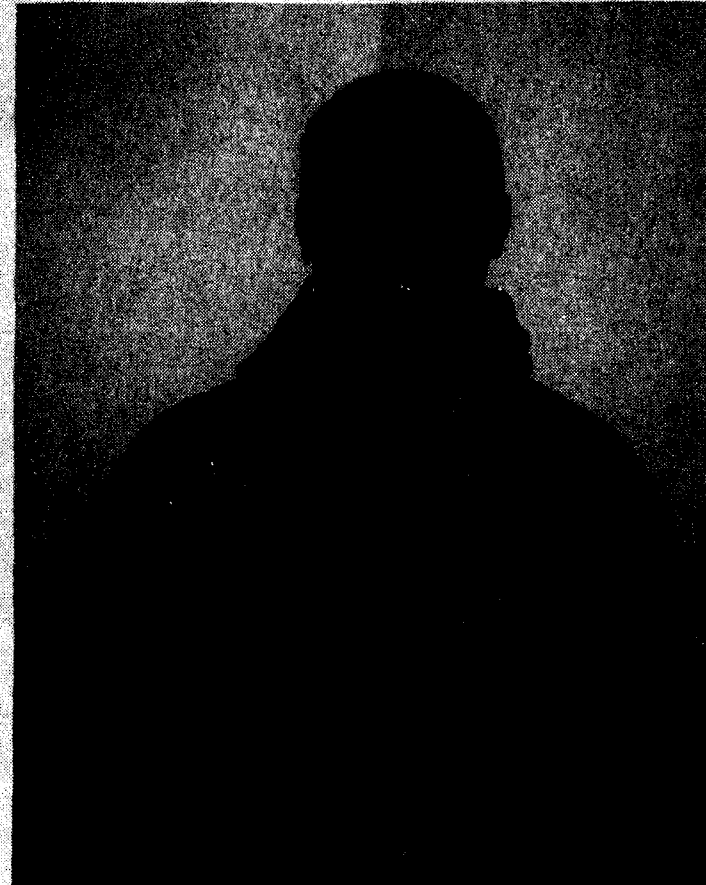
With more good stuff for class next year!

Readers who love sports, take note!

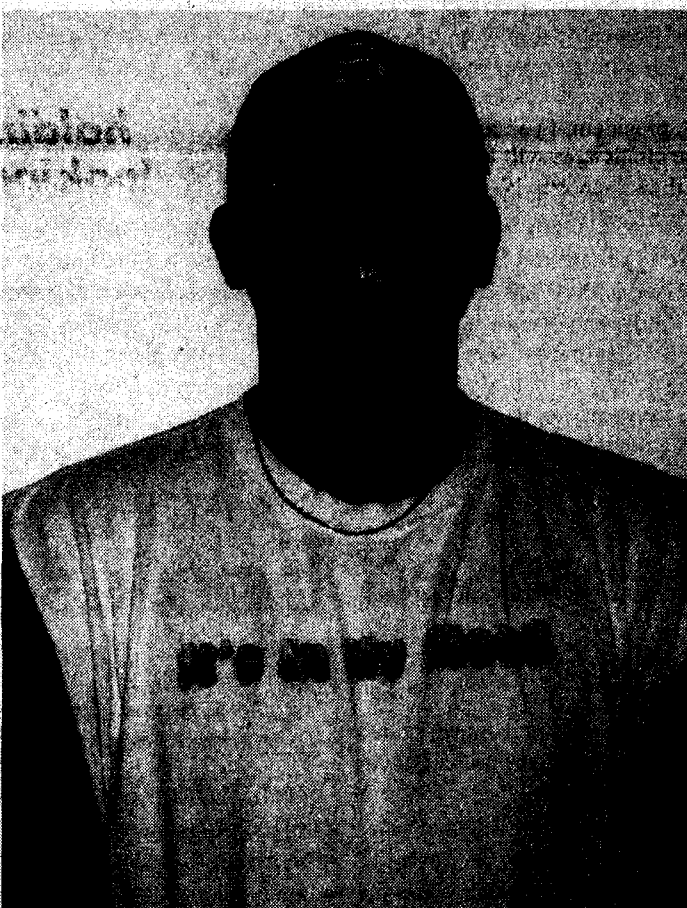
Sign up for my Sports class, this ain't no joke.



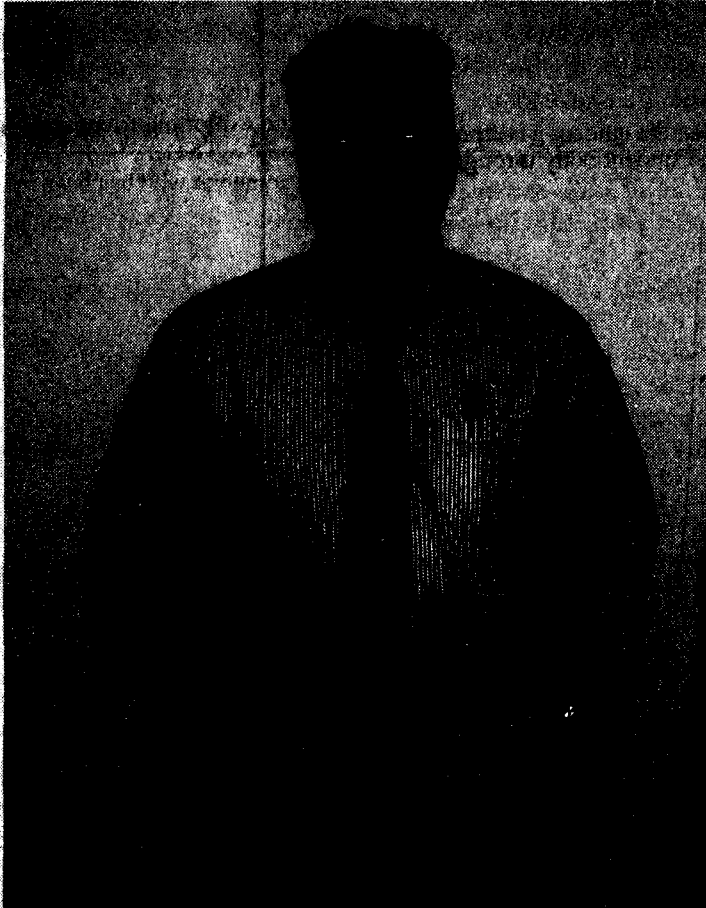
Matthew Carroll



Austin Kulp



Kris Aumiller



Dr. Kupfer

Too bad we don't get a George Mason into the Final Four very often. Usually the dust is settled by then and the big dogs are still chompin'. I see Tennessee falling short, probably to a 2-3 seed coming out of the ACC. Like, say, a Duke, which makes me puke, or UNC, which would be misery.

Final Four: Georgetown, Memphis, UNC and. . . from out of the West, your national champion UCLA Bruins (-). Ugh. Gimme Cinderella any day of the week. (+) (3 Points)

My Thoughts - Kulp, you're lucky you gave a half decent answer, considering you got your answers in the last day of deadline.

Carroll, you're right, this will be a short week for you, buddy.

Aumiller's answer was weak as well, but at least he answered the entire question and gave me his national champion.

Carroll, why don't you make like the Indiana Head, Kelvin Sampson and just QUIT! Maybe Ariel should start answering your questions. She probably would have better luck!

### Question 2

defensive and offensive needs.

Sjostrom is a physical player who is having a career-high season with 10 goals and Backman is a great veteran defender that's physical with a great presence on the ice. Ovechkin will win the MVP (+). He has 48 goals this season, which is 1st in the NHL, and he is 2nd in points with 82 only 2 points behind Evgeni Malkin (0 Points- total 2 Points).

Aumiller (1 Point) - For the last time Sarver, no one watches Versus but you and other hunters! (+)

Moving on, I'm taking my Devils in the East and to win it all. My strong reasons? Least amount of goals allowed, they are the best team at home in the East right now, and oh yeah, I always bet on #30 in the net (+).

As for the other two questions, let's go with Dallas out in the West (+) to lose to the Devils, and the MVP let's go with Alfredsson from Ottawa (3 Points- total 4 Points).

King Kupfer (3 Points) - The Devils sit atop the East and they think Stanley Cup berths are their birthright. Notice their 148 GA number: think Marty Brodeur

Devs face off against. . . whichever team comes outta the mammoth showdown between the Red Wings and the Ducks (-). It'll be the best post-season action in years. Quack, quack, the Ducks are mighty again after a slow start. . . But it's Detroit's season.

Amazingly, the rocking-chair brothers, Chris Osgood and Dominator Hasek (+), stop everything these days. Lowest GA in the NHL. These two geezers have one more run at greatness, and when the two-gray-headed-monster drinks Geritol from the hallowed mug on the home ice at the Joe, you'll remember where you read it first! (-)

MVP? It'll be everyone's favorite Russian, Alex Ovechkin (+), when the charismatic goal machine leads the Caps to the last playoff spot in the East.

And most importantly, BRUCE BOUDREAU, who started the season with our own HERSHEY BEARS, wins Coach of the Year (++)!!!! (2 Points- total 5 Points)

My Thoughts - Kulp, did you seriously say that the Rangers are going to make it to the Finals? You know Mark Messier isn't

Martin "I'm the best goaltender ever" Brodeur.

Kupfer, what are thinking about the Quack Attack? This isn't a Disney storyline anymore. There is too much talent in the West for them to come out for a second straight season.

Aumiller, you're an idiot in thinking Daniel "I'm the biggest cry baby in hockey" Alfredsson is going to win MVP. If Crosby didn't get hurt he would have his second Hart Trophy locked up.

But things happen and it's going to come down to the Russians, Malkin vs. Ovechkin. Hopefully Malkin will lay him out like he did a few weeks ago when those two faced off.

Well, it looks like Aumiller somehow, somehow has made it to the final Showdown to face the King.

### Showdown- Question 3

Aumiller (4 Points) - Bill Buckner in the 1986 World Series. So, I might be slightly partial, seeing as it is the last time my Mets won, however, it epitomized the Boston Red Sox fan.

Bill Buckner was a hell of a