

ROB ROSSI'S
The Flip Side
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significant chatter
from the unreality of sports

"I don't play that way.
If you do, you're in the
wrong ballgame."

— Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech football coach,
on why he chose not to run up the score
in a 30-10 win against Boston College.



words
from beyond the Confluence ...

"PERHAPS THESE CHICAGO
White Sox could have won their
first World Series since 1917
without Ozzie Guillen as their
manager, but I doubt it."

— Gene Wojciechowski for ESPN.com



Green Bay
Cheeseheads

theweeklytake

In honor of the **Cheeseheads**,
who rank supreme as the NFL's fab
fans, The Weekly Take is all about ...

CHEERINGSECTIONS

10 CHICAGO CUBS

Really bummed now
that White Sox are world champs.

9 "HARRY POTTER"

Well, at least people are reading.

8 PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

If you can't say anything
nice about somebody ...

7 CLEVELAND BROWNS

Though, they lose points
for willingly being called "dawgs."

6 NEW YORK KNICKS

They'll even turn on Larry Brown,
just wait.

5 UTAH JAZZ

Yeah, but what else are you
going to do in Utah?*

4 OAKLAND RAIDERS

Freaks!

3 MONTREAL CANADIENS

Expérience religieuse.

2 "STAR TREK"

Pity the pretties who are forced
to watch the movies.

1 BOSTON RED SOX

Passion is unmatched.

*ASIDE FROM TAKING A FEW WIVES.

yourcall

Could Virginia Tech hang
with either USC or Texas?

>>>Drop thoughts at
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sportswarp pennantfevercomingtopittsburgh

IF over the course of consecutive campaigns, baseball clubs from
Boston and Chicago can claim World Series championships,
then **The Flip Side** can dream of day ahead in which your

Pirates put together a chase for a pennant.

Why not?

Sure, the Pirates as they are constructed don't appear to have the necessary
pieces to finish .500 or better, let alone win a World Series — so? Take a look
at the White Sox roster and ask yourself if the players who make it are that
much better than the likes of Jason Bay, Jose Castillo and Craig Wilson.

They're not.

TFS, for selfish reasons, is pulling for the Pirates to catch some pennant fever
in 2006. However, in the case of such a scenario playing out, yinz might want
to engage in the following activities:

Make a legitimate last will and testament

Tell her that you love her

Drive to Cleveland and see LeBron James play
just once ... then, head to Mellon Arena and
take in all that is the splendor of Sidney Crosby

Work on your tennis backhand
(you never know where you'll need it)

Give peace a chance

Vote

Organize a golf outing to Pebble Beach

Embrace your inner Space Ghost

Forgive Neil O'Donnell, Stan Belinda
and Tom Barrasso

Convert a 7-10 split

Loosen your tie

Live through "The Backyard Brawl"

Give JoePa his props

Relax

And finally ...

Two words: Icky Shuffle. Enough said.

3 AND OUT ... three quick questions for ... LEGENDARY SPORTS AUTHOR JOHN FEINSTEIN ...

TFS: So, you are working on a second children's book — what's that like?
JF: It's not weird. It's different and fun, but it's not weird. I have an 11-year-old and an 8-year-old, so working on my first children's book was a lot of fun for me. And it did well, so I'm thrilled to be doing a second one. My 11-year-old is actually my editor, I bounce chapters off him. He's a lot tougher than adult editors, let me tell you.

TFS: Do you have a favorite?
JF: "Civil War," because of the kids. I worked with those kids and they were just so different than athletes. They loved being part of a team — just being part of a team. Plus, I have a lot of respect for military academies, always have. I'm still close to a lot of those kids in "Civil War"; my wife calls that book our third child.

TFS: You write so many books, do you ever get sick of such exhaustive work?
JF: Most of the time, the work isn't hard because I truly do love what I'm doing. I get to pick my own projects. I do books because I want to do them, so there is very rarely any drudge work. There are times that I overbook myself and my wife gets on me about that all the time. But books are what I do; all the other stuff is fine, I just always come back to books.

CATCH JOHN FEINSTEIN'S
NEWEST BOOK, "LAST
DANCE," ABOUT THE
FINAL FOUR, IN STORES
THIS COMING MARCH.