

Sports

by Jerry Keys

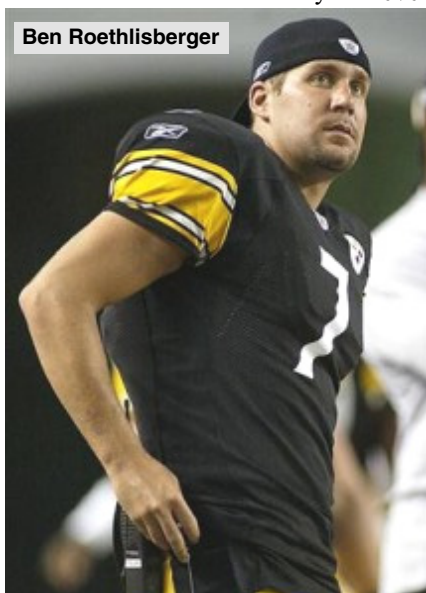


Championship / Behavior / George Lucas

Everyone is anticipating, a showdown with Kobe and LeBron for all the marbles. Let us not forget the grudges Kobe and Shaq have for the other.

At the moment I am not sure which network will be covering the Finals, but if it is a Lakers-Cavaliers match-up; they will be dancing in the streets. If I had to bet a crate of tomatoes which two teams will meet in the Finals, it would be these two. But I can not keep thinking about how far Atlanta could go if...

Reality tells me teams build step-by-step. Just like the Detroit Pistons did in the mid-1980's when they



Ben Roethlisberger

finally knocked off the Celtics. Just like MJ did in the early-90's when the Bulls eventually stopped Detroit. Two years ago the Hawks showed character in the first round, last year they showed it in the second round. This year their next logical step is to show it in the Conference Finals. I am sold on the Hawks taking down the Magic in round two. I am not completely sold yet on them besting Cleveland. But you never know, a key to beating the Magic will be them looking ahead to Cleveland. What if Cleveland is caught looking ahead to the Finals match-up with the Lakers?

The verdict was handed down today on Pittsburgh Steelers QB Ben Roethlis-

berger and his March 5th incident near a small college in the former capital of Georgia, Milledgeville. Big Ben will be suspended for six games beginning with Week 1 of the 2010 season. Ben can have the suspension reduced to four games if he agrees to counseling sessions chosen by the NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. If Ben complies with Goodell's demands, he will still forfeit almost \$2,000,000 in salary, if he refuses to comply (highly unlikely), he will miss seven weeks (Pittsburgh has a bye week in Week 5) of paychecks.

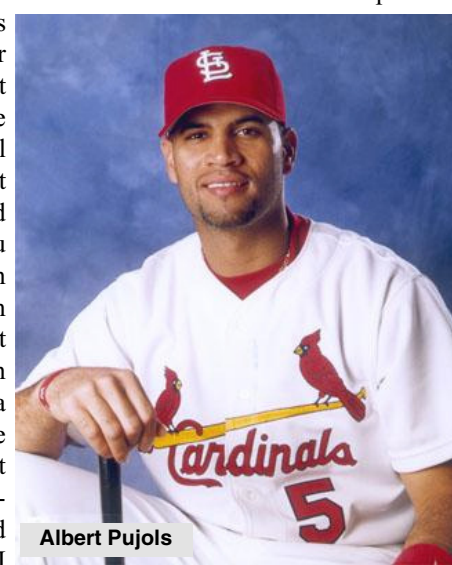
If he is non-compliant he will lose roughly \$3,300,000. Ben is, I believe 28; therefore he should know better than to bounce around the town and spread mischief as would a 20 year-old. Ben...you signed a \$100 million dollar contract not too long back. There are perks to having that amount of money AND some drawbacks. You are a one-hundred million dollar prize for anyone in college - and you knew it. I will admit first and foremost, you have led

Pittsburgh to two Super Bowl victories. On the other end of the coin, you are a representative of Pittsburgh. The fans who cheer you on and buy your jerseys, pay your salary. Do not go Pete Rose and think you are bigger than the game. You are not...NOT BY A LONG-SHOT! Ben you are on the verge of being a train wreck or the next Terry Bradshaw. Yeah, I heard you do not like TB. Tough dung! Terry has four rings. You have two. No, you are not the king of the Steel City. As a lifelong Steeler fan, I will personally say right now, I would rather have TB and his depression episodes in my foxhole in a war, than you. At least I know TB is covering my

back and not the wet bar. Do not get me wrong, Ben...you are a true gamer. Here is the deal...win two more Super Bowls and then show your rearend. You are yet to be added into the four Super Bowl ring yet kid. That belongs to TB and Joe Montana. You are still in Peyton Manning and Tom Brady's shadow. Let me tell you this in closing, kid, I was a Steeler fan before you took your first step. If it meant partial paralysis and constant pain, I would suit up in the "black and gold" for any game. Yes, I would be carted off of the field, but in my heart I gave 110% for my team. The "Chief" would be proud. Take a cue from a Steeler fan and straighten up or you just may be shipped out before you equal TB.

I mentioned George Lucas in the title for this reason. He was the creator of Star Wars and I see Albert Pujols as Star Wars IV: A New Hope. Yes, there were three previous Star Wars (in reality SW showed parts 4-6, then 1-3) films. I would like to link the first three to former and current baseball players. The first was Mark McGwire, an extremely likeable individual with a dark secret (steroids) who shattered the single-season home run mark and raised the bar from 60/61

(Ruth's 60 in 154 games; Maris' 61 in 162) to 70. When you think McGwire...think Senator Palpa-



Albert Pujols

and further allegations still pending, Alex, once the hope of bringing truth and integrity to the all-time home run record; was dis clothed as just another slugger with a little extra help. In SW IV a new hope rises from the ashes. This athlete has never tested positive for any substance abuse and is a "fairy tale story" very similar to the recently retired NFL QB Kurt Warner. Both men married women with children from previous relationships who had cognitive disabilities. Think birth cycles of potential Jedi's according to SW lore. I noted about a year ago, my son's favorite player was Pujols. I also noted my divorce of 30 years with baseball. With the help of a little more listening than stubbornness, I have caught myself glancing at box scores. All I can say is I hope Pujols is the real deal. Throughout the 2010 baseball season I will list where Pujols ranks and provide players he might possibly pass during the next month.

Below is a box with two categories. They pertain to Albert Pujols and his monthly progress in the all-time categories of Home Runs (HR) and Runs Batted In (RBI). Each month from now until the end of the baseball season, I will compile a list of players he is expected to pass within the month between issues.

Albert's Ascension

Homeruns

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Jim Edmonds | 382 |
| Frank Howard | 382 |
| Jim Rice | 382 |
| Albert Belle | 381 |
| Orlando Cepeda | 379 |
| Tony Perez | 379 |
| Matt Williams | 378 |
| Norm Cash | 377 |
| Jeff Kent | 377 |
| Carlton Fisk | 376 |
| Rocky Colavito | 374 |

RBI's

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| B.J. Surhoff | 1153 |
| Rudy York | 1152 |
| Roy Sievers | 1147 |
| Mark Grace | 1146 |
| Dante Bichette | 1141 |
| Ken Boyer | 1141 |
| Ron Cey | 1139 |
| Tony Gwynn Tommy | 1138 |
| Corcoran Roberto | 1135 |
| Alomar Scott Rolen | 1134 |
| Joe Morgan | 1133 |
| Greg Luzinski | 1128 |