

BMAZ MADE ME RUIN TRASH TALK

[youtube]9ufwukWgKfI[/youtube]

I tried to avoid this, really I did.

But here it is Beer Thirty ... in Denver's (and bmaz's) time zone! And there's still no sign of Trash Talk on Divisional Playoff weekend.

So I had to whip out my old standby Tom Brady soft porn. Profuse apologies. I didn't want to do this, really I didn't.

Pats, Packers, Ravens, NOLA. That's who I'm taking.

In the bracket I did before the playoffs, I said the Stillers would eliminate the Pats in this round. And while I do think the lack of snow in Foxboro is actually proof that god invented climate change so as to help Tim Tebow avoid snow at Gillette stadium—with real weather, there'd be little chance he'd look like the QB he played on TV last week, without it, he can certainly do some damage against **the worst D in football!** But I do think the Pats can beat Baby Jesus. Or maybe I'm just hoping that the rule—which thus far has held up—that True Evil always beats Baby Jesus still holds.

I think the Gents—who **will** face real weather at Lambeau (the goddess has finally blessed us Midwesterners with snow)—stand a really good shot at the Packers. They certainly have the best D in the playoffs—and perhaps the best D in the NFL—to shut down the Packers, particularly if it gets sloppy at all. Still, tough to beat against the Packers here. But I've been trash talking about how well that other UM standout player, Charles Woodson, has held up over the years, so I'm gonna suggest that he brings out the Bad Eli.

The Texans looked pretty great last week, and QB position aside, they're finally beginning to get healthy. But TJ Yates has yet to make the

intimate acquaintance of the Ravens D, and playoff games are not the time to do so. So I take the Ravens.

I think the toughest game of the weekend, though, is the NOLA-9ers game. A few weeks ago, I said we'd have a repeat HarBowl for the Super Bowl. I'd still be happy to watch that one. But I'm feeling really good about the Saints this weekend, slow grass and scary outdoors and all. Besides the fact, this is one game where I'd be happy no matter who wins.

WILDCARD WEEKEND AND BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN TRASH

Sometimes you see things that just make you shake your head and say "what the hell is going on here?"

Here we are at the start of the NFL Playoffs – the always thrilling, and often surprising Wildcard Weekend – topped off by the Saturday night special featuring the Detroit Kitties first return to the playoffs since the late 1990s. And Marcy is going to be getting her culture on at a staging of Battleship Potemkin.

Say what???

Yes, you read that correctly. We have here a playoff game with two, count em two, 5,000 yard passers. Yep, while all the focus down the stretch was on Drew Brees, Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady, Matt Stafford quietly put up one hell of a season and eclipsed the magic 5,000 yard barrier. In short, he has been great and along with a semi-healthy MegaTron Johnson, gives the Lions a puncher's chance tonight. One other thing about Stafford, while he did give up 16 picks this year, 9 of them came when he was

struggling with a protective glove over a broken index finger. That has mostly resolved and Stafford was money down the stretch. Also, the Kitties have their defensive backfield back to full strength with the return of Louis Delmas and CB Aaron Berry. The Saints are, of course what we thought they were. Flat out bad ass nasty good on offense led by the field general Brees and Darren Sproles chewing up ground. The Saints' O-boys can get some game on, but their defense is not what it was in the Super Bowl run two years ago.



I
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capable of winning this game over the Saints, and it should be a LOT of fun to watch. Well, that is, assuming you are actually watching the game and not Battleship Potemkin! Which brings up the collateral damage problem. McCaffrey. You see McCaffrey LOVES him some football, and must be in the throes of despair at not being able to watch the Kitties and Saints like other rational American dogs. McCaffrey, seen at left during happier times, is considering filing a lawsuit for emotional distress. Soon as he puts his paw print on the contingency fee agreement, we are off!

The early game on Saturday is Bengals at Texans. If the Texans were at full strength, this is not close. But Matt Schaub is done for the year and Houston is going with rookie TJ Yates, who has a bruised up left shoulder, with Jake Delhomme in reserve. Andre Johnson should play, but is clearly still fairly hobbled. Linebacker Mario Williams also out. Houston really backed in to

the playoffs with three losses to close out the season, but do have a great ground game. The Bengals did not exactly light it up down the stretch, but did really shows signs of maturing as a team, and Andy Dalton looks very much like a professional QB rather than a rookie. Edge to the Bengals.

The early game Sunday is Dirty Birds at Gents. If this game was in Hot'Lanta, I think it is not even close. But in NY (okay New Joisey), it is a tossup. The Giants defense seems to be gelling at just the right time and the running game is coming around a little. Atlanta despite the stability that should come from the air/ground combo of Matt Ryan and Michael The Burner Turner, has tendencies to be flaky. Probably all comes down to whether Good or Bad Eli shows up. Bet here is that it is Good Eli and the Giants boasting is correct, they are going to be a tough out in the playoffs.

The late game Sunday is, of course, The Tebowl. Stillers are gonna go pay their respects to Baby Jesus at the Mile High Mount. Probably won't be much actual respect shown though. Big Ben is gimpy, and Ryan Clark is staying home because of the altitude and his sickle cell issue. And the Steelers have other health issues and blah, blah, blah. They are still the Steelers and Tim is still Tebow, great heart and no arm. Is it possible for the Broncs and Baby Jesus to pull off a shocker and win? Sure, but not damn likely.

This will in all likelihood also be the designated Trash post for Monday's BCS Championship game. Not much to discuss there, we have already seen this game, it is just that the craptastic BCS is making us watch it again. Both are excellent teams, and both have killer D's. But, just like last time, the slight edge goes to Honey Badger and LSU.

Throw down some Trash people!

SEASONS END NEW YEAR'S TRASH

Happy New Year folks! As we celebrate the start of the new year of 2012, we also today reach the end of the NFL regular season, and there are some big games on tap. So let's get down to the nitty gritty. Also, ring in the new year with a little Jerry Jeff Walker. Don't hear to much about Jerry Jeff anymore, but hot damn, he was, and is, *really* good.

No game is, nor could ever be, as big as the Tebowl between Baby Jesus and the man who wrongfully had Baby Jesus' position at the start of the season, Kyle Orton. Really, the entire game is only between Tebow and Orton, or so it seems from the week's worth of blather at ESPN. In all seriousness though, it truly is pretty compelling theater. The Chefs can play, as they demonstrated by rolling the Pack in the only loss for the Cheese of the year. And you know Orton would love to pound the Donkos and keep them and Baby Jesus out of the playoffs. For Denver, if they win they are in; if they lose they are not (well, unless Oakland loses to the Bolts, in which case the Donks would still win the division with a lousy 8-8 record). Simple. I would take the Chefs pretty easily here, but the game is at Mile High, and that matters. Still gonna go with the KC BBQ, but Tebow will play his heart out; Baby Jesus is nothing if not a gamer. That leaves the AFC West division championship, and its playoff berth up to the Rayduhs and Bolts game, where the edge has to ride with Carson Palmer and the ghost of Al Davis, in the Black Hole, over the Bolt who are just done (as is Norval, finally, it would appear).

The other win or go home game that is must see theater is the 'Boys at the Gents in the NBC Sunday Night finale. Winner takes the NFC East

and moves on to the playoffs, loser is toast. Here, too, the game is a tale of two quarterbacks Good/Bad Eli and Tony Romeo. They are both like Gump's damn box of chocolates, you never know what your are gonna get; consistently inconsistent and all over the road. Romo does have a bruised up hand from the Eagles game, but no way he does not play, and a pretty fair bet he plays well. Everything points to the Giants here, including them playing at home, but I am going with a 'Boys upset.

Ray Lewis and the Ravens are in Cincy for a key game for both teams. The Ravens lock up their division with a win, and a first round home game (and homefield throughout if the Pats lose to the Bills) in the process, which is key because the Ravens have been a bad road team this year. The Bengals, on the other hand are young and hungry for a wildcard spot, which they would nail down with a win. This could be a great game, no idea who wins it, but either way it is hard to see the Patsies losing to Buffalo when the number one seed is still on the line.

Then we have the "lose or go home" game. Colts at Jags. Both these teams have been woeful for the season, although the Not-Peytons have a shocking two game winning streak going. The problem for the Colts is, of course, a win against the Jags might well put them out of Luck. Andrew Luck that is. Thing is, Jags may well want another QB in the draft and have nothing to gain with a win either. Jacksonville has already fired its coach, Jack Del Rio, and the franchise was just sold. In short, they are a mess. This will be a really interesting game to see who loses the best and how.

The last of the killer klashes this week is another Black and Blue grudge match, this time between the Kitties and the Cheese. The Pack has nothing to play for having already wrapped up the NFC top seed and home field throughout the playoffs. If Rodgers plays at all, it will likely not be much. Look for Matt Flynn to get most of the time behind center, with Graham

Harrell getting a little game experience too. The Kitties, however, need to win to keep the fifth seed, which could mean the difference between playing the Giants/Cowboys winner or the Saints. That is healthy motivation. Lions should win this one, but if they do, it will be their first win on the Frozen Tundra in 20 years.

Titans at the Texans also has some playoff implication, but not many. Titans slim hopes for making the postseason show depend on a win against the Texans, and a LOT of help. Texans get Andre Johnson back and that is good because they need to get some game chemistry between him and young TJ Yeats before the playoffs begin. I rate this as a toss-up. The rest of the teams are pretty much just playing out the string.

We will either update or, more likely, just put up a new thread for all the college bowl extravaganza starting Monday. So, let us all take a Tee Bow, and raise a frosty. Commence trashing!

EMPTYWHEEL'S CHRISTMAS EVE MEGA FOOTBALL TRASH TALK

[Okay, for the most sacred honor and ritual, yes the meet and greet of Halas' Bears and Lambeau's Packers on the hallowed Tundra, I have cavalierly re-upped Trash Talk to the top of the totem pole pecking order until the conclusion of the sacred event]

Hey there Wheelies and Wheelettes, it's Christmas Eve Day!! And that can mean only one thing; yep, Emptywheel's Christmas Eve Mega Football Trash Talk!

Since the NFL decided to move all but one of its Christmas Day normal Sunday slate of games up a

day to give most in the league Christmas off and with their families, we have a full schedule of games today. And, unless The Most Transparent President In The History Of The Universe decides to autopen the NDAA and spring the big kahuna of signing statements today, there is not a heck of a lot else going on. So, to the Game Cave Batman!

The biggest game of the weekend, by just a slight margin, is the battle of the New Yorks which, of course, takes place in New Jersey. Marcy and her family are already in a passionate discussion over whether this means Bad Eli Manning and Mistake Mark Sanchez share the same locker and pass notes to each other. This is a huge game though; the winner likely goes to the playoff, and the loser likely stays home. And it *really* is for bragging rights in New York City. It is a grudge match, and it does count. Big time; one of these teams is going to be eaten alive in the tabloids. I think it comes down to Eli versus Revis Island and Bart Scott and the Jet bruisers. If the Jets get hard pressure on Eli, Jets win; if not they don't. No clue who comes out of this alive.

The other game nearly as big is Eagles and Cowboys. Iggles are starting to get healthy and gel, even if it is almost surely too late. They are technically still in the playoff hunt though, have pride on their mind and hate the Cowboys. So, another NFC East grudge match. DeMarco Murray is done for the year, and Felix Jones will play, but is hurting. Other than Jones, Dallas has Sammy Morris. If they do not generate a solid running game, Philly is gonna win this. Even though the game is in at Jerry's House in Big D, I think the Iggles win it.

ATTENTION! Update: Oh my. My ears were hot, burning if you will, whilst I was away at brunch. I think I have discovered why! It doth seem I neglected to cover the big Kitties versus Bolts clash in Motown. I have thus shat upon both Marcy AND Randiego. Not good. so, here we go: Uh, the Bolts are visiting Matthew Stafford,

Megatron and Suh, Suh, Suhshie at Ford Field. This is indeed a top shelf game; the Kitties have a ton of young, if somewhat undisciplined, talent trying to keep the ship righted and sailing for the playoffs after last week's win over the Rayduhs. They need a win in their last two games to get there, but have to go to Lambeau next week. The Bolts are, improbably, making yet another save Norval's ass surge in December. With the TeDonks getting circled up in Boofalo, the Chargers would be in the thick of the hunt in the AFC West with a win. A lot on the line, and two exciting offenses. That makes for a great game. Ryan Matthews is on a roll for the Chargers, but the Lions are down to a wounded Kevin Smith at running back. That is the difference. Kitties gonna have to win on the Tundra methinks.

It will not be on national TeeVee, but the Niners-Squawks game may turn out to be very good. Seattle has really come on hard down the stretch, and shockingly Tavaris Jackson is playing at a very high level lately. San Fran defense probably too tough, but this may approach a toss up since it is in the Emerald City. And, of course, we have another week of Tebowmania. This week, Baby Jesus and the Donkos visit the suddenly hapless Bills. Don't think the wagons can get circled enough to stop the Tebow train, but Brian Dawkins is likely out, and he is the real glue for the Denver defense. That makes it a real ballgame; a toss-up if you will.

The other two first class matchups are on Sunday Night and Monday Night Football respectively. First up for SNF on NBC is the most famous rivalry in football history, yep it's the Bears and Packers on the Frozen Tundra at Lambeau. Really, what more could a football fan want for Christmas than Bears/Packers on a winter night, with steam coming out of the facemasks like dragons, from the Shrine in tittletown? If you look up football in the dictionary, that is what they got. I would say Da Bears might make this an upset if they had Cutler and Matt Forte, but

they do not and I doubt the Cheese is going to sleep two weeks in a row. Not to say the Pack does not have issue though, their two most critical O-linemen are out, as is Greg Jennings. Still, hard to see GB losing this.

Lastly, the MNF game has some post Christmas firepower on tap for us. Dirty Birds at Saints in Nawlins. Matt Ryan and the Falcons need one more win to lock up a wildcard spot; the Saints are playing for a possible first round bye. And Drew Breeeeeeees is closing in on Marino's yardage record and Brady's TD record for a season. That and home field will prove too much for the Falcons.

Let the games and Christmas cheer begin!

From Me, Marcy and Jim White, Merry Christmas to one an all, and thanks to one and all for your support and participation here at the Emptywheel blog. You are the best gifts of all.

EARLY CHRISTMAS TRASH: RUNNING WITH THE DEVILS

Well, you might not know it, but there is a HUGE bowl game tonight! Yes, it is the Granddaddy The All Except All The Others, the Maaco Las Vegas Bowl. From, of all places, Las Vegas! And in this fascinating game, my team, the Arizona State Sun Devils have the pleasure of getting their asses whipped up one side and down the other, by my team, the Boise State Broncos.

We have talked about both of these teams enough this year that there is nothing shocking to report for tonight's game. Boise is 11-1, with only a one point last second loss to a very good TCU team blemishing their record. Kellen Moore and crew are well coached by Chris Peterson and

their defense is bigger and faster than given credit for. The Devils also have a very good quarterback, Brock Osweiler and a couple of excellent receivers. Their running game and middle and deep defense are all very spotty and suspect though. They had good personnel in those areas, but were decimated by injuries in practice before the season started. ASU has a problem with speed, and Boise has got that in spades. The only hope is that the Devils pull one out of their rear for coach Dennis Erickson in his final game. I would not bet a plug nickel on that though. Game starts at 8 pm EST and is on ESPN.

Also tonight is the NFL Network Thursday offering, this week with Houston at the Indianapolis NotQuitePeytons. The Colts are coming off their first win of the year, and actually played a solid game last week. But the Texans have been holding their own and growing with rookie TJ Yeats taking over at QB for the injured Matts Schaub and Leinart. If Indy can play tough defense, they might have a chance at home. But I doubt it, Houston's running game, led by Arian foster, is too much.

We will likely scare up some new Trash for Saturday's NFL extravaganza, but for now hoop it up here!

TEBOWLING FOR COLUMBINE TRASH

Not since Michael Moore's 2002 epic "Bowling For Columbine" has life in Denver been under such a national microscope. But even that is nothing compared to Tebowmania! which is running wild and rampant in the Mile High City. And good lawdy, here comes Mr. Bundchen himself, Bieber Brady, to town. That is a LOT of awesomeness in one city, much less on one football field.

Before we get to the specifics of the Big Tebowl at Mile High, there is actually a game tonight, Scribe's Dallas Cowboys at the Tampa Bay Sucs, er, Bucs. DeMarco Murray is done for the year for the 'Boys, but they are hoping Felix Jones will return to the form of his early promise and pick up the slack. Despite the deflating loss to Eli and the Giants last week, Dallas still controls their own destiny for the division title if they win out, including over the Giants in NY on the last Sunday. That is a tall order, but they shouldn't have any problems with Tampa tonight. Game is on NFL Network. Oh, also, if you are colorblind and can thus handle the "grass" from Boise State's field, the Famous Idaho Potatoes Bowl is on ESPN with a scintillating matchup between Ohio and Utah State.

But the game of the century, of course, is in Denver where Bill Bel and the Patsies come a callin. Despite the intense hype and Tebowmania! across the nation, the NFL and NBC have refused to flex the game to the Sunday Night Football slot. Apparently CBS pitched a hissy fit and Robert Kraft did too, because he didn't want it to be any colder and more hostile than necessary and he wanted to leave town earlier in the day. So some people, tragically like me for instance, will have it blacked out (because the fucking Cardinals have a home game at same time versus the woeful Brownies. Bleech). The rational side of me says "don't be an idiot bmaz, Brady and Gronk are gonna run up the board on the offense challenged Broncos". But Denver plays really tough team defense, it's December, colder than shit and at Mile High Stadium. Marcy has pointed out off blog that the Pats have a history of issues at Mile High against the Donkos. Just to give you an idea, Elway was 9-0 against New England and is going for 10-0 as a GM. Denver is the only team in the league Tom Brady has a losing record against (record is shockingly 1-6). The other things is, the Pats have a defense that even Tebow may be able to throw on. I have no idea in the world how this sucker will go, but it is, by far, not only the best game of

the week, but one of the more interesting in a while. Baby Jesus is gonna have to play like Superman (see: Kinks video above; here is a live version from 1979. The Kinks are freaking killer; one of the most under-appreciated and most important rock bands ever) to win this. But Tebow seems to have the possibility and potential in him to do Superman like deeds, so exciting to see!

I will add a few more things in a few minutes, refresh and check back!

PRO FOOTBALL TRASH TALK

Yeah, we are in the doldrums between end of the college football season, start of the playoff and Super Bowl stretch for pro football and the start of the baseball season. Oh, and, of course, March Madness. Here is what I am having an, uncomfortably, hard time giving a darn about: the NBA.

Just as appropriate filler info, I used to "Love This Game". No joke. I had Phoenix Suns season tickets since before the start of the Kevin Johnson/Tom Chambers years, straight through the Charles Barkley fun and into the after-period where the doldrums set in. Chuck was the icing on our cake, but the stadium was already a sellout and the team already a serious contender in the league championship well before he came. That said, there has never been, before or after, quite the excitement and buzz that Sir Charles brought. It was a magical time, even if it was second fiddle to Air Jordan and the Bulls (though by the slightest of margins in 1993). The point is, Jordan is gone, the Chuckster is gone, Magic and Bird are gone; it is all gone. There are only a couple of stars that have the panache and balls of the old crowd left in the

league, such as Kobe Bryant and Dirk Nowitzsky. I would love to say there is a "new generation" taking over in the NBA. But, unless you consider Kobe the "new generation", the new generation in the NBA is a bunch of self entitled, selfish, jerk punks like "King" LeBron James. Bleech.

Navy has brought the big battleship guns and beat Army (again) in a surprisingly hard fought and close battle of the armed forces. Congratulations Navy! Which brings us to the real Trash, pro football. The NFL! Yea!

Aaaaannndddd the big game today is, of course, the TEBOWL! That's right T and the Bows take on Da Bears. Both teams come into the game with a 7-5 record and playoff aspirations. If there is a team in the league that has the defense to bust up the Baby Jesus train, it is the Bears. Urlacher and the boys are tough and disciplined. But the Broncos have been kicking ass and taking names on defense lately too, and Chicago will not have Jay Cutler or Matt Forte. That is bad news, Bears fans. Also, the game is at Mile High, which is a tough venue. Should be pretty interesting to see if the messiah can keep it up.

The Rayduhs, who are tied with the Tebows at the top of the AFC West, travel to The Frozen Tundra to visit Mr. Rodgers' Neighborhood. Hard to pick against the Pack here, but Oakland is a pretty good team. Carson Palmer seems to be settling in, but running back Darren McFadden (right foot) and big-play receivers Jacoby Ford (left foot) and Denarius Moore (right foot) are all out. Combined with a porous pass defense, that spells trouble for the Raiders.

The other interesting game is the Cowboys and Giants. The 'Boys are 7-5 and the Gents have slid to 6-6, but this game will be for the NFC East lead heading down the stretch, so it is critical. Romo has been playing pretty well lately, and rookie DeMarco Murray from Oklahoma is an emerging star at running back. The Giants have been all out of whack on both sides of the ball. The game is in the Big D. Everything seems

to be lined up for a Dallas win. So I am taking the Giants here.

The Bills are out Randiego's way to meet the Bolts. Both clubs have fallen off the face of the earth, and are at 5-7. Will be interesting to see which one actually wants to step up and win a game here. Maybe they can actually pull off a rare tie here; that would be fitting. Houston at Cinci will be a good test to see if the Bengals can capitalize on the Texans being without a first line QB and big play Andre Johnson. TJ Yeats kept the team in the game and won last week, this will be another good test of how he will hold up. The Kitties host the Vikings. Ponder has a touchy hip, but likely will start; Adrian Peterson is hobbled, but will also likely play after missing last week's game. Suh, of course, is suspended and, hopefully, won't crash his car on the way to the local sports bar to watch his team play. Detroit ought to be able to win this and get back on track. If not, stick a fork in them. Patsies are at the Skins and should make pretty easy work of that. The rest of the games are just not particularly noteworthy.

That is the rundown; make some noise in comments. Oh, and nothing has changed in Major League Baseball.

THE PRICE OF NCAA TRASH

I have been having a pretty interesting discussion off blog with Gulf Coast Pirate about the coaching carousel and big money in college football. The long and short is that his team, the Houston Cougars, has a hot young coach, and my team, the ASU Sun Devils, needs one. Enrollment wise, ASU is in the top five in size, has surprisingly good research and business

sponsorship, fantastic facilities for football including a nearly 80,000 seat stadium that, with healthy attendance (especially full attendance) is a gold mine for cash flow. Oh, and starting in less than 30 days, we have our full share of this:

The Pac-10 – soon to officially become the Pac-12 – has agreed to a 12-year television contract with ESPN and Fox that will more than triple its media rights fees and be **the most valuable for any conference in college sports.**

The contract, which will begin with the 2012-13 season, will be worth more than \$225 million per year – or \$2.7 billion over the life of the deal, Sports Business Daily and The Associated Press reported on Tuesday.

Why does all this matter? Because hot young coaches, Like Houston's Kevin Sumlin, do not come cheap. The former coach at ASU, Dennis Erickson, was making in the vicinity of \$1.25 mil/yr. ASU was making backchannel offers to Sumlin reportedly in the vicinity of \$2.5-3 mil/yr. Several key locals thought they had their man, and were all set to fly to Houston to make it official after the Cougars' league championship game against Southern Mississippi today. But noooooo, the damn Aggies from Texas A&M up and fired their perfectly good coach, Mike Sherman, and they are hot to trot over Sumlin. Reportedly, the new asking price for Sumlin is now starting in the \$3.5-4 mil/yr range. ASU has already bailed on that race.

The interesting dynamic here is that it is certainly not that ASU doesn't have the money and facilities to compete with A&M; they do in spades. Not to mention that, while you may not beat them every year, ASU can easily be very competitive with USC and Oregon every year. The chances of consistent success are WAY better at a place like ASU in the Pac than they are at A&M where they have deteriorating facilities and

will never consistently complete in the top tier of the SEC. Yet ASU threw in the towel. Why? I am not sure yet. Mostly, I think, we just have a crappy and weak AD, Lisa Love. Love should be toast along with Erickson to be honest.

Now the point here is not to pitch ASU as a destination, but just to show how wild the money in college football really is. It is easy to scoff at the giant sums of money paid to a coach like Kevin Sumlin to move jobs, especially in light of the skyrocketing tuition for students, depressed salaries for educators, and general costs of education. But, that said, the difference between 50,000 and 78,000 butts in seats at Sun Devil Stadium for fall Saturday nights is one hell of a lot of money. And huge for the local downtown economy too. So, yeah, when you really count the money it brings in, it is probably worth it. Not to mention that I live in a state with many idiots; there is a big and positive buzz about how UofA scored by hiring Rich Rod and how they were going to overtake ASU in football (they OWN our ass in basketball already, and most other asses in the Pac too). That cannot maintain (and never has in modern history), the Devils must do something!

So, onto the games!! Houston and Southern Miss for the Conference USA Championship (hey Brett, are you there?) is already underway on ABC. USM is actually a decent team (their coach, Larry Fedora also on the ASU list by the way), but Houston is going to move to 13-0 here and get a BCS bid. Baylor plays the Whorens for whatever title is at stake; go RGIII. The Georgia Gawks are a good team, but LSU will run over them for the SEC crown. The glam pick is for the Sooners to upset Okie State in Big-12, I don't think so. Lastly, the best game of the day (actually, this one at night, is the inaugural Big-10.2 Championship between Michigan State and Wisconsin. Sparty beat the Badgers at the end of the game on a bogus play earlier in the year. Even though this is in Lansing, I think Russell Wilson, Monte Ball and the Badger Boys win in a great game.

I will add in some pros stuff in a bit. The music this week is by a little known guy, except in music circles, Jerry Riopelle. He was, still is I guess, really good. For bmaz trivia buffs, I think the girl with him in the duet and playing guitar, though not positive (it is bad video copy and has been a LONG time) is Llory McDonald, who I went to high school with and knew pretty well.

Make some Trash noise, will ya?

FAST TRASH

Um, okay, couple of MAJOR problems here. First is the issue of the illegitimate Trash appearing on this blog. and the musical selection for the same? Holy crap, I just do not know how I can work under such conditions. So, it turns out that Detroit had Nickleback, while The Cheese that is Green Bay had an actual quarterback. Like a Honey Badger, Aaron RoDgers don't care, he just carve you up like Thanksgiving turkey.

Today there are already great games on. I was just talking to Marcy and, during the phone call, there were claims of both good and bad touchdowns in the Big Blue/Ohio game. Yeah, the Buckfucks do not even rate being referred to as Ohio State anymore. Michigan gonna do the Hokey Pokey on dem Buckeyes.

Soon the JoePas will be taking on Russell Wilson and the somewhat inconsistent Badgers. There is a side of me that would not mind the young kids who are the Penn State team winning this game and shoving it in the face of a lot of hyperventilated crap. But the football side of me thinks Wilson and the Badgers are a lot better team. I will go with that.

Also, this weekend is the final ring in The Circus. Yes, it is the Brazilian Grand Prix. Sebastian Vettel has now broken the impossible

record, and claimed his 15th pole for the season. the previous record was taken by a ground effects car that simply had an unfair advantage on the other teams in the field; Vettel's record is straight up. It is something special, along the lines of a Triple Crown winner, except for being the top one ever. Truly special. Hats off to young Vettel. Yes, his equipment has been superior, but still so was that of his teammate, Mark Webber, and Vettel has wiped the floor not only with competitors, but Webber as well. I will not say "unparalleled" in the history of motorsport, but is there are parallels, there are damn few of them. It is really something special. There was Fangio, Clark (even if cut short), Senna and then Schumacher. For Vettel to come on the heels so quickly after an all time legend like Schumi is unreal. Again, hats off.

I am apoplectic on a couple of stories, and one of them involves newly appointed Penn State "investigator" Louis Freeh. As to the other, has anybody else noticed the similarity between Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Emilio Largo (also "Eric the Red" for It Takes a Thief fans)? I am, disappointingly, but predictably, off in the tall grass trying to figure out what in the world is going on in both. So this is a placeholder for all the Lugnuts that are the Wheelhouse to lay down some shameful Trash in the meantime. Do not disappoint people!

Trash it up, and further analysis will likely follow later! Also, to cleanse the palate of that fucking Nickleback crap, please enjoy some early Bob Seger System.

TRICKSY TURKEY DAY

TRASH WITH NICKELBACK!

[youtube]Lj4NVYtzlQA[/youtube]

I'm officially launching a pre-emptive sneak attack on Turkey Day Trash because tomorrow, the undefeated Green Bay Packers come to the Lion's Den to be feasted. And to neutralize Packers loyalists in these parts—yeah, I mean you, bmaz and Phred—I'm rolling out the Detroit Kitties' secret weapon.

Nickelback!

I know you've all been bitching and petitioning and whatnot for the last month to try to get a real band for halftime.

But none of you seem to understand the point. The point is not to entertain **you** with music!! The point is to neutralize Aaron Rodgers with banality! If all goes well, Rodgers will get all woozy-headed like he used to get with his near weekly concussions, only this time there won't be any risk of physical injury to Rodgers.

Oh sure, we've got things planned to slow down Rodgers before halftime, too. You think we hired Ndomukong Suh for nothing? (Mostly, though, his job is to draw double teams so Cliff Avril can sack Rodgers.) But the way I figure it, Matt Stafford's injured finger will lead to a pick or hopefully no more than two (Charles Woodson, remember you were a Michigander before you were a Packer, okay?), so the Kitties' D is going to have to return the favor.

Thus, Nickelback. Sorry about that, folks. But I hope you understand this is a Division game against an undefeated team. We gotta use any advantage we can get.

In any case, I think the game will come down to three runners: James Starks, Randall Cobb, and Kevin Smith. Starks, because a knee injury might keep him out. Randall Cobb, because Detroit has been sucking it up on return coverage of late.

And Kevin Smith because he went from inactive to NFC Offensive Player of the week in the last 2 weeks.

Anyway, on to dinner, which is what we'll all be doing while the 'Boys host the Fins.

Because even if the Packers-Kitties game doesn't live up to billing, the HarBowl is sure to be a cracker. (Well, it will be a cracker for those of us who get NFL Network; for the rest of you, I hope your pumpkin pie is worthy substitute.) It features John Harbaugh and his Ravens hosting baby brother Jim's Niners for Thanksgiving dinner. If this were a normal game in a normal week, I'd definitely take the Niners in this game. They are playing that well this year even on the road. But this is a short week and Niners have to travel east.

Then again, Ray Lewis may be out again with his ouchy toe. And the Ravens have looked as inconsistent this year as every other team in the AFC (aside from perhaps the Texans pre-Schaub loss).

Ultimately, I gotta go with the NFC and the Wolverine coach over his bro.

Go Kitties!