

SHELL SHOCKED

Talking Sports with Your Wife

By Art Stevens

There's only one subject in life that husbands feel far superior to than their wives – sports. Most wives are not conversant in the language of sports – birdies, grand slams, slam dunks, third and one, and clearing the puck.

While our wives go for the home and family section of the daily newspaper the men immediately peruse the sports section first. Among the subjects to be reviewed are: did Bonds tie Hank Aaron? Is Tiger Woods breaking par? Is Serena Williams healthy enough to tackle another Grand Slam? Will Kobe Bryant stay with the Lakers?

Once we get the answers to these questions we can then go on to more mundane subjects such as Iraq, globing warming, red algae, the price of gas and Paris Hilton.

Since my wife knows nothing about sports I parade my sports knowledge openly and tauntingly so that she will know who the boss is in that influential sphere of life.

“So, dear, do you think A-Rod will hit his 500th soon?” I tease.

“No,” she says, “B-Rod may, but not A-Rod. He needs a new fishing rod to even come close.”

“Do you think the Yanks can come from behind?”

“They did in World War One and World War Two. And when James Cagney wowed them with ‘I’m a Yankee Doodle Dandy’, that proved that no one can stop the Yanks.”

“Do you think the Splendid Splinter was the greatest hitter ever?”

“No, I think Henry the Eighth was better. What a number he did on his wives.”

“Do you feel the onside kick is a sound strategy?”

“No, I prefer the backside kick for greater impact.”

“What is your position on steroids?”

“Steroids on the rocks is a great party drink. It should be the main drink of the Sanibel City Council.”

Naturally, I felt far superior to my wife. She didn't know the first thing about sports. I asked her if she ever read the sports page. She said that she used it to wrap fish. I asked her if she was familiar with some of the major names in sports – Bonds, Bryant, Manning, Woods, even Beckham.

She said that the only names in sports she was aware of were Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Donna Karan and Givenchy. When I pointed out that these were clothing designers she made the case that anyone wearing their clothes was considered sporty.

Since I came in a distant second in discussions with my wife on any other subject but sports I pressed on. “What did you think of the Gagne trade?” I asked. She said, “I gagged.”

“Do you think Roger Clemens has anything left?”

“Yes,” she replied, “about a hundred million dollars.”

“Who do you think has the best change up?”

“Laura Bush.”

“Why is that?”

“Because she has so many events to attend that she needs to change her clothes constantly.”

“Does the pump fake work enough times to try it?”

“Not if you need air in the tires.”

If you’re getting that my wife refuses to acknowledge that she doesn’t know the answers to all these questions I’m throwing her way you’re right. Her answers may not be the ones I’m looking for but they make sense in a feminine sort of way.

Try it, guys. Try to stump your wife with any sports question and see what she comes up with.

“Who has the most home runs in baseball history?”

“Robert Redford in ‘The Natural’.”

“Who scored the most points in a professional basketball game?”

“Denzel Washington.”

“Which woman athlete has won the most Grand Slam events in tennis?”

“Barbara Walters.”

“Are you in favor of inter-league play?”

“Yes, as long as there are chaperones present.”

Men can smirk and feel smug when it comes to sports. My God, I’ll bet my wife doesn’t even know Derek Jeter’s batting average, or how many hits Albert Pujols got last night – or even who’s in first place in the Western Division of the American League.

That’s a good one. “Dear, who’s in first place in the Western Division of the American League?”

“That’s an easy one. It’s Arnold Schwarzenegger. Now would you let me finish the crossword puzzle which you’ve never completed once in the past fifty years?”
