



## WORLD CUP 2006

### 54 GAME'S WORLD

For one month in Germany, all the world's a stage for the greatest tourney of them all. And all the men—even England's **DAVID BECKHAM**—are merely players.

**BY LUKE CYPHERS**

### 62 DEFEND AND COUNTER

Four years ago, a quarterfinal run put Team USA on the World Cup map. But this time, the team's young stars won't catch the world by surprise. **BY JEFF BRADLEY**

### 65 WIN, LOSE OR DRAW

Okay, so Brazil is the favorite. But with our 32-team breakdown, if there turns out to be weeping and gnashing in Rio, you'll know why.

### 42 DOUBLE CLUTCH

The Cavs pushed the Pistons to the limit. But in the end, the yin and yang of Rasheed Wallace and Tayshaun Prince denied King LeBron his crown. **BY CHRIS PALMER**

### 48 RAW FISH

It could have been a recipe for disaster. But by stirring one no-nonsense manager with a handful of rookies and castoffs, the Marlins just might cook up some fans. **BY JEFF PEARLMAN**

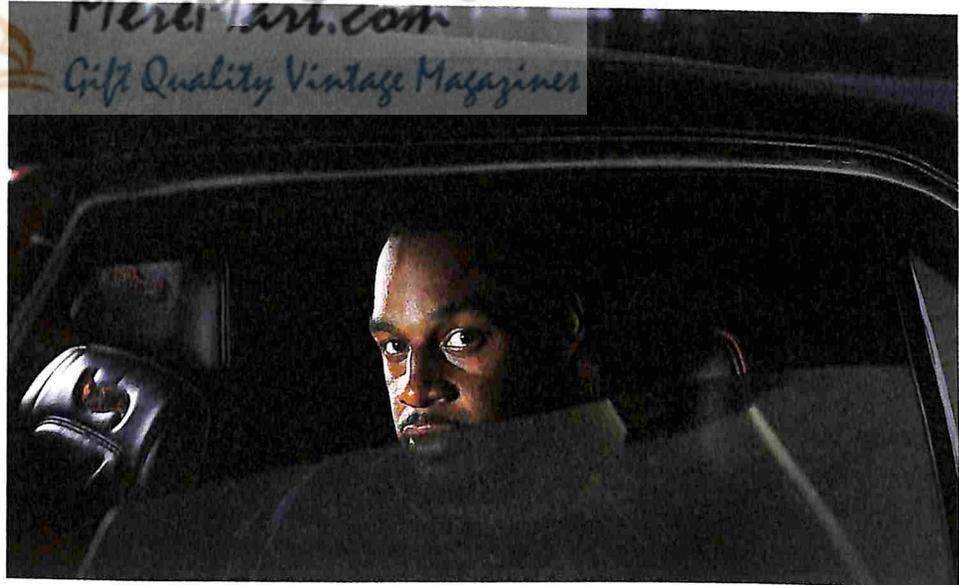
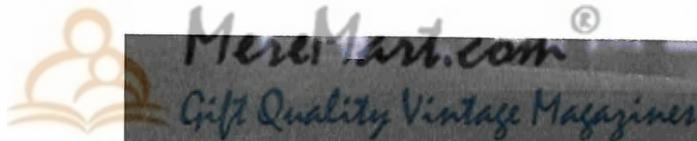
### 72 BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL

In a remote corner of Pakistan where Osama bin Laden is rumored to be hiding, two tribes keep war at bay with a brand of polo that makes hockey look like tennis. **BY MATTHEW COLE**

### 102 CHANGE OR DIE

Sabres rookie goalie **RYAN MILLER** is one blowout away from the bench, and he knows it. That may sound cold, but in the NHL playoffs, the coach who hesitates gets lost.

**BY LINDSAY BERRA AND E.J. HRADEK**



## WHEEL WORLD '06

### 84 SAND BLAST

With his new bride's blessing, IndyCar's Buddy Rice spent his honeymoon racing a two-ton truck across the Mexican desert. Ah, love.

**BY TIM STRUBY**

### 92 FRONT END LOADED

Since 1911, Victory Lane has been the near-exclusive domain of cars starting from the first three rows. Here's who has the inside track at this year's Indy. **BY DAVID D. McCALL**

### 94 TOTAL ACCESS: WHEELS DOWN

The Gumball 3000 attracts thrill-seekers (Tony Hawk, Bam Margera) worldwide. How do their rides make the trip? With the world's largest planes, of course. **BY LUCAS CONLEY**

### 96 MUSCLE MAN

Celebs (50 Cent) and jocks (**DONOVAN McNABB**) roll with DJ Funkmaster Flex when they want their wheels of steel. **BY NICOLE BLADES**

HOW RASHEED & TAYSHAUN DENIED LEBRON HIS CROWN

POLO IN OSAMA'S BACKYARD

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WORLD CUP 2006

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FROM LEFT:  
LUIS FIGO PORTUGAL  
RUUD VAN NISTELROOY NETHERLANDS  
DAMARCUS BEASLEY U.S.  
ADRIANO BRAZIL  
JI-SUNG PARK SOUTH KOREA

