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FANTASY BASEBALL 2007

50 THE CASE OF THE \$103 MILLION MONSTER

Given the mixed success of Japanese players in the U.S., Boston's \$51 million bid to negotiate with Daisuke Matsuzaka could be seen as either a sign of hope or insanity. So what can you expect from the newest Monster at Fenway?

BY BUSTER OLNEY

56 UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

Can umps really affect pitching performance? Do players turn it up a notch in a walk year? And what's with those humidors at Coors Field? We go into CSI mode to blow the lid off of some of baseball's greatest unanswered questions.

64 POSITION RATINGS

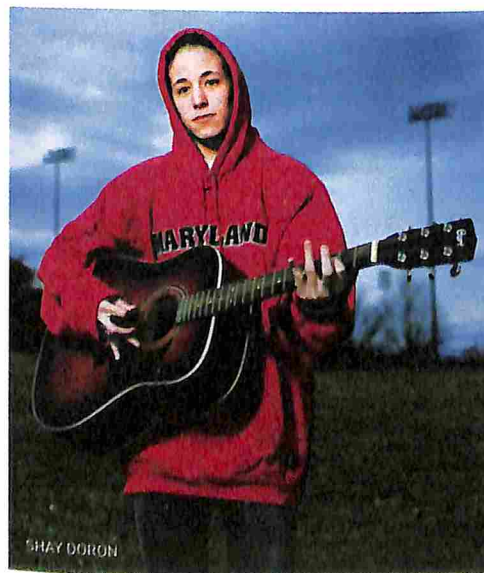
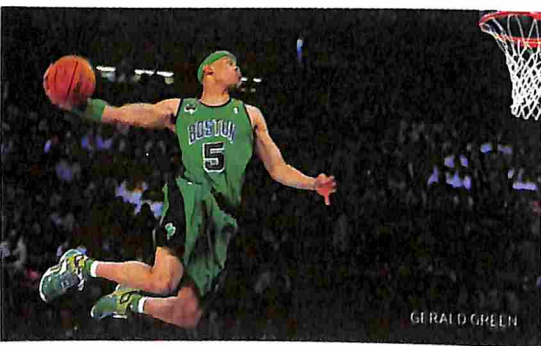
Going into your fantasy draft, you've got to have the numbers to go with the names. *The Magazine's* experts run down the best—and otherwise—at each position. Consider yourself warned.

44 NAME: ANDREA BARGNANI

That much, at least, we knew about the first Euro to be a No. 1 NBA pick. But critics had plenty of questions about the Italian. So far, he's answered them all with a resounding "Si." BY CHRIS BROUSSARD

93 THE BEST WEEKEND EVER

Celtics swingman Gerald Green soared from out of nowhere to take the Slam Dunk contest, and for a brief moment a C-list baller on a D-list team was as A-list as anyone in Vegas. BY CHRIS PALMER



96 SURGICAL STRIKE

Fired up by last year's first-round Tourney exit, Air Force has flown in the Top 20 all season. Now it's hoping the ride will last even longer. BY CHRIS SMITH

103 ANATOMY OF A GIANT KILLER

We rank the Tourney contenders in two hot mid-major conferences, run down the best of the rest and tell you which potential sleepers aren't worth your bracket. BY JORDAN BRENNER AND ANNA K. CLEMMONS

108 A HEART DIVIDED

Israeli Shay Doron came to Maryland to prove herself—and helped the Terps win the 2006 women's hoops title. But when bombs and bullets fly at home, she wonders about her choice. BY JON PESSAH

116 TO KNOW HER IS TO LOVE HER

From Guadalajara's elite country clubs to America's immigrant barrios, Lorena Ochoa has won the hearts of Mexicans rich and poor. Her next trick? Winning a major. BY LINDSAY BERRA

122 MADE IN MOOSE FACTORY

Many athletes have stories about beating the odds and making it to the pros. But Jonathan Cheechoo's journey from Moose Factory, Ontario, to San Jose ice is surely one of the best. BY GARE JOYCE

HOW TO PICK THE TOURNEY GIANT KILLERS NOT TO CHEAT IN NASCAR

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