

# CONTENTS

11.22

## NBA PREVIEW

43 **HOW DO YOU KNOW ...**

44 **THIS GAME ISN'T ROCKET SCIENCE?**

Houston's brainiac GM Daryl Morey is bringing a Moneyball approach to the NBA—and Ron Artest may be just the man to prove it works. (We kid you not.)

BY ERIC NEEL

50 **WHO KNOWS BEST?**

Which b-ball bloc *really* knows talent when it sees it: players, coaches, GMs/scouts, stat geeks or fans? We surveyed all of 'em to find out.

54 **WHO'S BETTER?**

The league's Next Great Point Guard is either Chris Paul or Deron Williams. But you can't go wrong with either. BY RIC BUCHER

59 **HOW IT ALL WILL END?**

Here are the 30 hot topics for NBA 2008-09. (Spoiler alert: Purple-and-gold is the new green.)

## MLB OFF-SEASON

70 **COUNTDOWN ... TO THE HOT STOVE LEAGUE**

Manny Ramírez and Mark Teixeira can expect big paydays, but most free agents should prep for a cold winter. Plus: Players named Fielder, Peavy and Francoeur could be on the move. BY BUSTER OLNEY

72 **REVERSING FIELD**

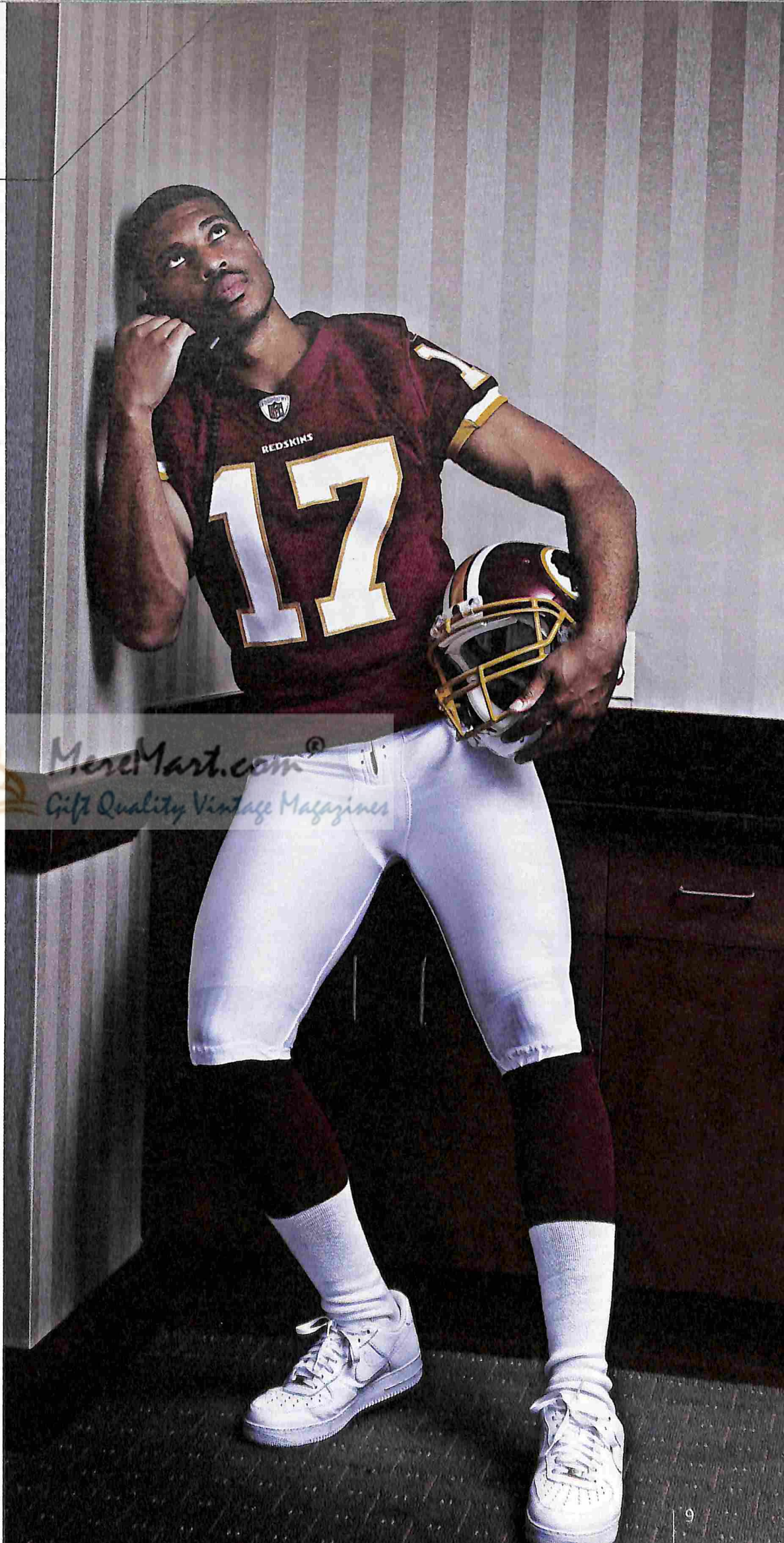
Sure, Redskins QB **JASON CAMPBELL** has it all figured out now. But a trip through his past shows that he was always on the right track. BY JUSTIN HECKERT

76 **BE THE BALL**

Who knows the ins and outs of Penn State's potent Spread HD offense better than the ball itself? Hang on for an in-depth and high-flying ride. BY NIKE 3005 COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL, AS TOLD TO EDDIE MATZ

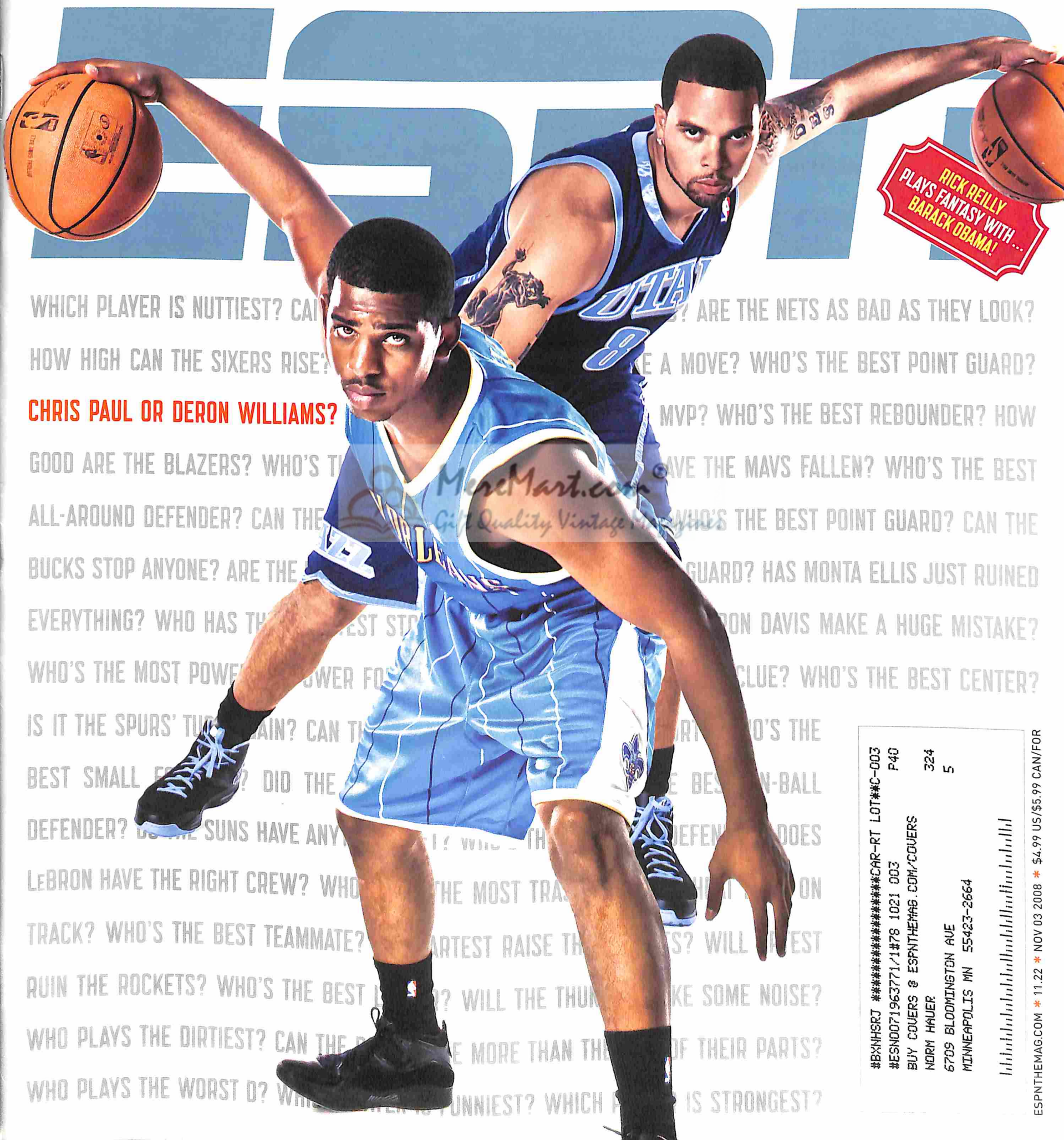
80 **COULD'VE BEEN WORSE**

As a sophomore forward at Nevada, Tyrone Hanson almost died at a party gone bad—and was kicked off the team for his trouble. Now the former New York prep star is in Arkansas, looking for a shot at redemption. BY JERRY BEMBRY



# NBA PREVIEW WHO KNOWS BEST?

We Got Players, Coaches, Suits, Statheads and Fans to Answer the League's **Toughest Questions**



**RICK REILLY  
PLAYS FANTASY WITH...  
BARACK OBAMA!**

WHICH PLAYER IS NUTTIEST? CAN THE SPURS WIN IT ALL? ARE THE NETS AS BAD AS THEY LOOK?  
HOW HIGH CAN THE SIXERS RISE? SHOULD THE BULLS MAKE A MOVE? WHO'S THE BEST POINT GUARD?  
**CHRIS PAUL OR DERON WILLIAMS?** WHO'S THE BEST MVP? WHO'S THE BEST REBOUNDER? HOW  
GOOD ARE THE BLAZERS? WHO'S THE BEST SHOOTER? HAVE THE MAVS FALLEN? WHO'S THE BEST  
ALL-AROUND DEFENDER? CAN THE HORNETS MAKE IT? WHO'S THE BEST POINT GUARD? CAN THE  
BUCKS STOP ANYONE? ARE THE GRIZZLIES THE BEST POINT GUARD? HAS MONTA ELLIS JUST RUINED  
EVERYTHING? WHO HAS THE MOST POTENTIAL? SHOULD DERON DAVIS MAKE A HUGE MISTAKE?  
WHO'S THE MOST POWERFUL? POWER FORWARD OR SMALL FORWARD? WHO'S THE BEST CENTER?  
IS IT THE SPURS' TURN TO WIN? CAN THE HORNETS MAKE IT? WHO'S THE BEST POINT GUARD?  
BEST SMALL FORWARD? DID THE HORNETS MAKE IT? WHO'S THE BEST POINT GUARD?  
DEFENDER? DO THE SUNS HAVE ANY CHANCE? WHO'S THE BEST DEFENDER? DOES  
LEBRON HAVE THE RIGHT CREW? WHO'S THE MOST TRADED? WHO'S THE BEST POINT GUARD?  
TRACK? WHO'S THE BEST TEAMMATE? WHO'S THE MOST TRADED? WHO'S THE BEST POINT GUARD?  
RUIN THE ROCKETS? WHO'S THE BEST POINT GUARD? WILL THE THUNDER MAKE SOME NOISE?  
WHO PLAYS THE DIRTIEST? CAN THE HORNETS MAKE IT? WHO'S THE BEST POINT GUARD?  
WHO PLAYS THE WORST D? WHO'S THE FUNNIEST? WHICH PLAYER IS STRONGEST?

#BXNHSRJ \*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT##C-003  
#ESND071963771/1#78 1021 003 P40  
BUY COVERS @ ESPNTH#6.COM/COVERS 324  
NORM HAUER 5  
6709 BLOOMINGTON AVE  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55423-2664



ESPNTHEMAG.COM \* 11.22 \* NOV 03 2008 \* \$4.99 US/\$5.99 CAN/FOR