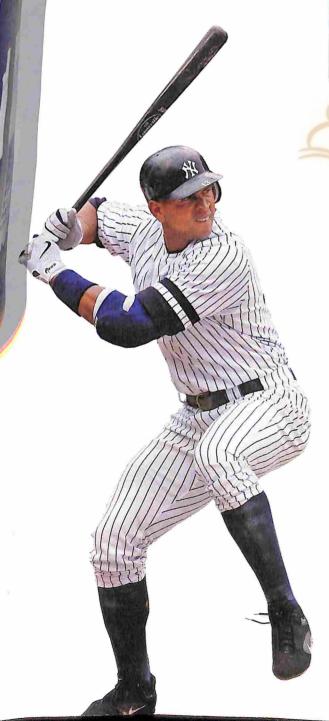
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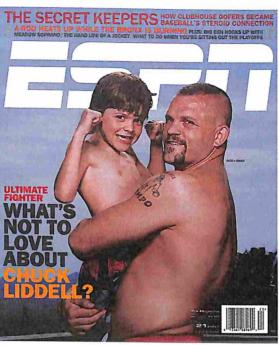
48 THIS GUY SCARES YOU?

As the toughest, most famous Ultimate Fighter, Chuck Liddell—one of our two cover subjects—has transcended the sport to become a cultural touchstone. Turns out the scariest man in the world's scariest sport is not that scary. **BY ALLISON GLOCK**

58 THE END IS NEAR!

With the dynasty crumbling and a new stadium rising across the street, the Yankees need Alex Rodriguez more than ever—even though he has one foot out the door. BY BUSTER OLNEY AND PETER GAMMONS





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How dirty are the people who do baseball's dirty work? Former Mets bat boy Kirk Radomski isn't the only case of a clubhouse gofer as keeper of the game's lurid secrets. BY LUKE CYPHERS

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Call him Peyton's Plan B if you want. But after watching Reggie Wayne catch everything thrown his way for years, we have no problem calling him the best receiver on the Colts. BY CARMEN RENEE THOMPSON

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After free agency, after the draft, after millions and millions spent on brand-new players, is your team any closer to winning the Super Bowl? We'll tell you.

80 HELL OF A LIFE

Outside the winner's circle, the jockey's life includes constant battles with bulimia, broken bones and the threat of a fatal fall. Punch the clock with the littlest men in sports. BY TIM KEOWN

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When half the teams in your sport move on to the postseason, odds are you'll make the cut if you stick around, right? Tell that to Olli Jokinen (nine years without a playoff game) and Jamal Crawford (seven). BY LINDSAY BERRA

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If you're going to be sitting, you might as well have that knee scoped. A look at the upside of being down and out: getting healthy.

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With no structure and plenty of time on their hands, players find all sorts of ways to keep busy. Some, not so good.

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Whether to catch rays in Argentina, waves in LA or a round of golf in Ireland, feel free to call these guys for traveling in the off-season.

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THE SECRET KEEPERS HOW CLUBHOUSE GOFERS BECAME BASEBALL'S STEROID CONNECTION

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