CONTENTS_09.19

42 GET IN LINE -

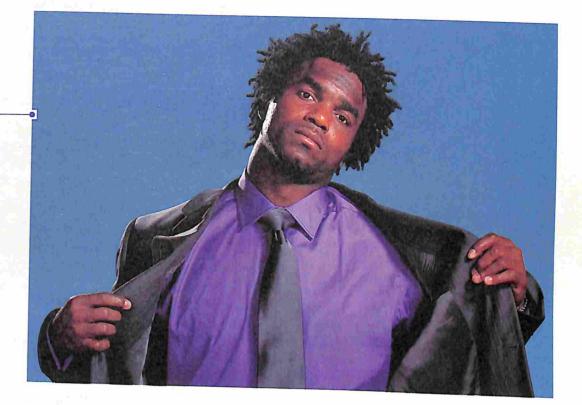
It may look like former Colt EDGERRIN JAMES jumped from a luxury liner to a rowboat, but he's got the Cardinals thinking full speed ahead. BY CARMEN RENEE THOMPSON

52 FALL PREVIEW

The air is turning cool, so *The Mag* turns to *Cheap Seats* cognoscenti JASON and RANDY SKLAR for the sports-mad, mustn't-miss dates—games, movies, scenes—over the next three months.

64 MAN OF THE HOUSE

People see the punishing hits Rebels 'backer Patrick Willis doles out, and they think he plays angry. Sure, he plays hard. But if you had his life, you would too. BY BRUCE FELDMAN

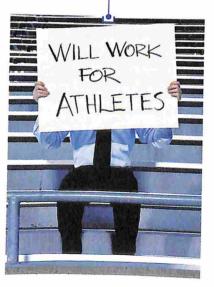


70 O TO 200

When you're blowing people's doors off in The Chase for the Cup the way Denny Hamlin is, sometimes it's real hard to enjoy the view. BY RYAN MCGEE

30 THE SHOW GOES ON

Ryan Howard is poised to surge past Roger Maris and head where only Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa have gone before. And that's the problem. BY DAN LE BATARD



DREAM JOB

86 NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT Not all of us can soar like LeBron or toss like Peyton. But you can still have a dream gig in sports. We teamed with *The Wall Street Journal* to show you how. BY PETER KEATING AND STEFAN FATSIS

88 FANTASY PLAYER

Matt Silverman had nothing on his résumé to suggest he could run a baseball team. He's doing a pretty good job with the Devil Rays anyway. **BY TIM KEOWN**

92 THE ENTOURAGE

It's a fact of the superstar's life: Every Tony Stewart needs his Turtle, every Dwyane Wade needs his E. Meet the guys behind The Guys.

98 DOLLARS AND SENSE

Didn't your mom tell you it's impolite to ask people how much they make? We asked anyway. Check out our inaugural survey of who makes what in the sports biz. DAN LE BATARD: IS RYAN HOWARD FOR REAL? IS ANYONE? SPECIAL SECTION: HOW TO GET A JOB IN SPORTS (EVEN IF YOU CAN'T PLAY)

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E CARDINALS THOUGHT

THE CARDINALS THOUGHT THEY WERE GETTING A GREAT RUNNER THEY GOT A WHOLE LOT MORE

FALL PREVIEW

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EDGERRIN JAMES

ESPN THE MAGAZINE * 9.19 * SEPT 25 2006 * ESPN.COM * \$4.99 US/\$5.99 CAN/FOR