## Miguel Cabrera (left) won the Triple Crown and the AL MVP.

**But Mike Trout** won WAR.

# THE ANALYTICS ISSUE

### INSIDE

### 10 THE TRUTH

Long live the King. By Howard Bryant

### 12 THE NUMBERS

Golf's new approach. By Peter Keating

### 16 ZOOM

The Super Bowl of cyclo-cross.

### 18 ZOOM

Is John Daly smarter than his fourth-grader?

### 88 THE FIX

One way to catch R.A. By Chris Jones

### PLAYBOOK

### 21 NBA

Steals and swats are the key to Lob City.

### 26 NASCAR

Welcoming the cars after tomorrow.

### 28 NASCAR

Matt Kenseth on switching shops.

### 30 FANDOM

A Newtown victim's

Who's got Klout?

Web gems from the days before web gems.

love of NASCAR lives on.

### 33 NHL

Paul Bissonnette.

### 34 COLLECTION

### **FEATURES**

### 49 THE ANALYTICS ISSUE

In our second annual installment, we offer an inside look at how next-level metrics are redefining what we think we know about sports.

### **50 WAR IS THE ANSWER**

Don't fight it. The 2012 AL MVP race proved it: Wins Above Replacement is MLB's signature stat. By Sam Miller

### 58 THE YEAR ANALYTICS TOOK OVER THE WORLD

A look back at how cockamamy numbers finally went mainstream. By Morty Ain

### 62 YOU CAN CALL THEM TRAILBLAZERS

Portland's roster is the fifth youngest in the NBA, but a sophisticated approach to analytics is helping the team grow up in a hurry. By Jordan Brenner

### 70 WOW FACTORS

One of these eight research papers could change the way you watch sports. By Ross Marrinson

### 72 LIKE A TEAM POSSESSED

Billy Donovan and the Gators are hell-bent on DER—a metric that is driving SEC offenses insane, every trip down the court. By Eddie Matz

### **80 THE ULTIMATE BETTING MACHINE**

Bob Voulgaris is the world's top NBA gambler—thanks to a catastrophic dry spell that inspired him to invent one valuable black box. By Scott Eden

### DON'T MISS



36 MICHAEL JORDAN HAS NOT LEFT THE BUILDING As he hits 50, MJ is starting to feel his own mortality—and finally looking beyond the next ass to kick. By Wright Thompson

# "Can I find peace away from basketball?" PAGE 36



THEANA
LYT
THEANA
THEAN

WE DID THE MATH

ANDREW LUCK HAS
BETTER LEGS THAN RG3,
STEPHEN CURRY IS THE
NBA'S GREATEST SHOOTER
EVER AND THE ORIOLES
WILL FINISH LAST. PLUS
THE GAMBLING MACHINE
THAT'S BEATING VEGAS.

MARCH 4, 2013 \$5.99

155 430

WINNEAPOLIS MN 55423-2664 430
6709 BLOOMINGTON AUE S P241

# HOW ONE GEEKED-OUT STAT IGNITED BASEBALL'S BIGGEST DEBATE

American League MVP
MIGUEL CABRERA and
sabermetric sensation
MIKE TROUT photographed
in New York City, Jan. 19