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THE FAN ISSUE

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We gave them a few rules: Act like pros, write down everything you see and, for the love of god, don't cheer in the press box. Behold, our new army of fan reporters.

48 READ BETWEEN THE LINES

If the Giants-Patriots Super Bowl matchup doesn't have you on the edge of your seat, just follow our prop-bet guide—and bet your lungs on "Free Fallin'." BY KC JOYNER, EDDIE MATZ AND AARON SCHATZ

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As Giants and Pats backers descend on the desert for Super Bowl XLII, it's hard to imagine a team more in need of some good luck than the Cardinals. But if you ask the football-mad folks in one Pennsylvania town, that luck isn't arriving anytime soon. BY DAVID FLEMING

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Freeskier Kristi Leskinen is dotty about her Steelers. Prick NASCAR's Elliott Sadler, and he'll bleed Tar Heels blue. These five athletes kick butt in the real world, but they still get their kicks by being fans. BY STACEY PRESSMAN

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If you're an NBA team (say, the Wolves) and you subtract your heart and soul (say, KG), you might energize other fans (say, Boston's) and leave your faithful wondering how it adds up. BY RIC BUCHER

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A sports star reaches out to a sick little kid, and both of their lives are changed. You've heard that story a hundred times—just not quite like this. BY ERIC ADELSON

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People have been talking about the USC freshman for years, but do any of them actually know what they're talking about? We decided to find out. BY LUKE CYPHERS

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For 352 days a year, Ron and Laura Ezell have the perfect marriage. Those 13 other days—when Auburn or Alabama takes the field—are a whole other story. BY RYAN MCGEE

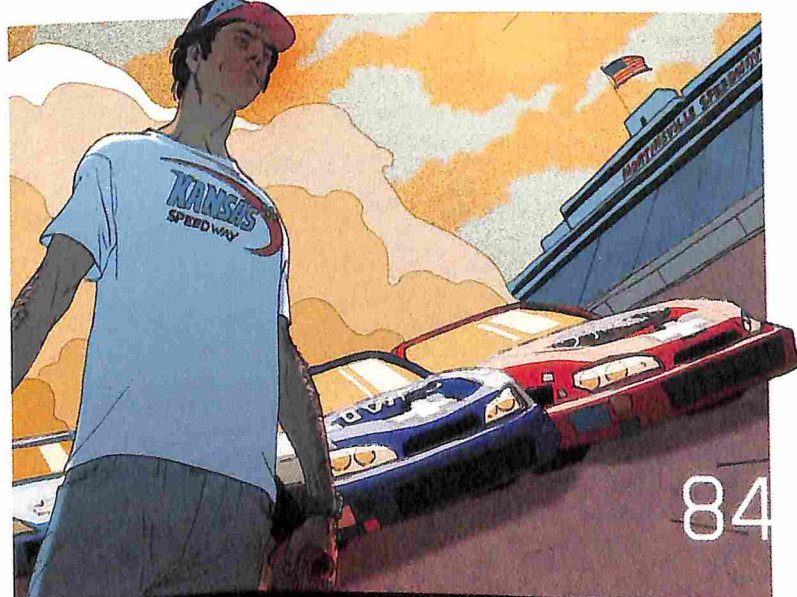
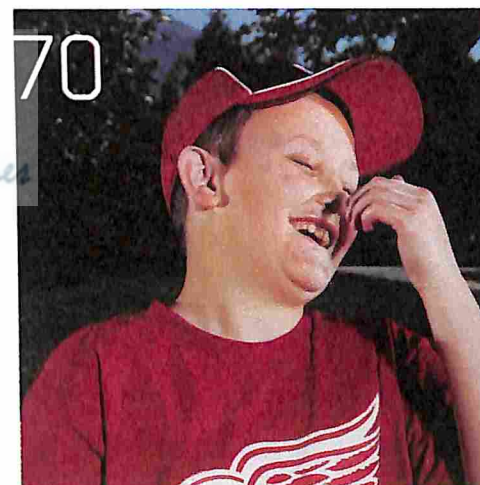
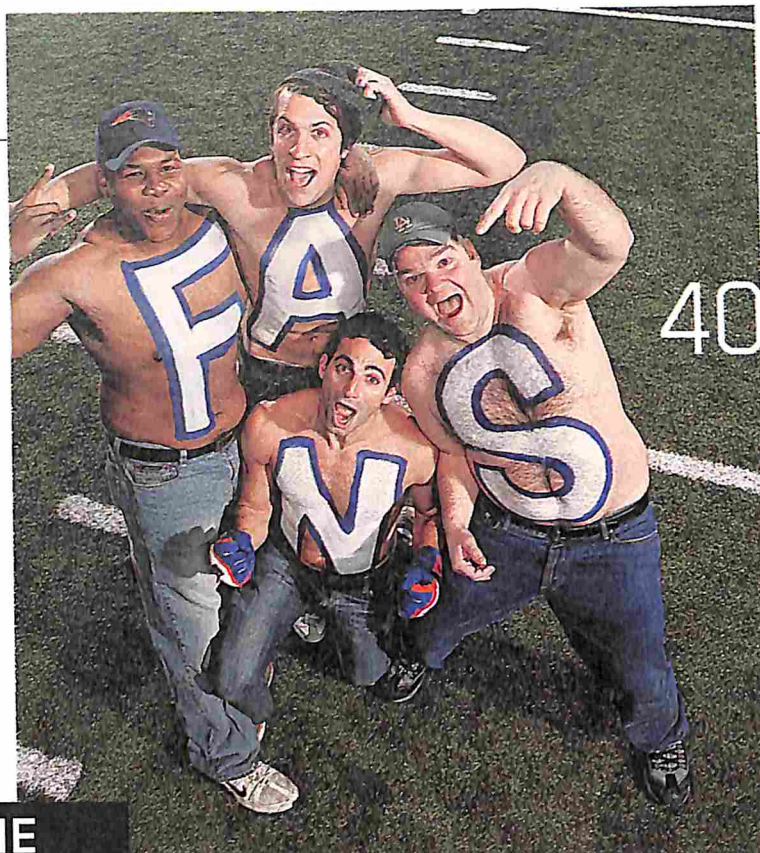
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SUPER BOWL XLII PREVIEW



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SPECIAL ISSUE
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