

# 38



## DOWN THE ROAD

With help from players who were there, LeBron James reflects on how far the game he loves has come since the historic Texas Western-Kentucky game. He's come pretty far too.

AS TOLD TO CHRIS BROUSSARD

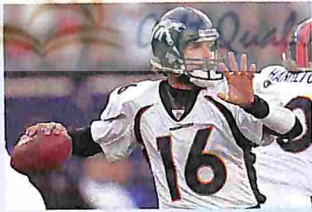
### PLAYOFFS '06



#### 46 OPPOSITE ENDS

A playoff bye usually means rest. For Bears Alex Brown and Adewale Ogunleye, it's one less chance to wreak havoc.

BY SETH WICKERSHAM



#### 52 BULL'S-EYE

Jake Plummer may be a better quarterback than his critics will ever admit. But you'll never hear him say it.

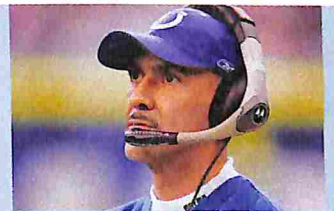
BY SETH WICKERSHAM



#### 56 WILD BLUE YONDER

For a guy who was just happy to land in Seattle, Bryce Fisher has sent the Seahawks D soaring to the playoffs.

BY CARMEN RENEE THOMPSON



#### 59 HEARTS AND MINDS

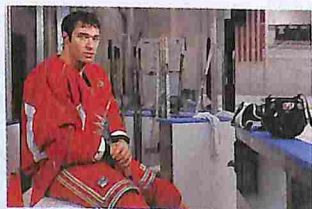
Tony Dungy's return has been a comfort to him and his team. But Scouts, Inc., has a mixed message for Colts fans looking past January.



#### 60 THE HIP

The bond between MSU guard Maurice Ager and coach Tom Izzo may just put the Spartans—and Ager—over the top.

BY ELENA BERGERON



#### 66 THROUGH THE GRINDER

It took five years for Dominic Moore to stick with the Rangers. With the playoffs in sight, they're lucky he did.

BY EDDIE MATZ



#### 72 SHRED HOT

Snowboard goddesses Gretchen Bleiler and Lindsey Jacobellis are set to tear it up in Torino. The IOC couldn't be happier.

BY LINDSAY BERRA



#### 80 HELL WEEK

Talk about putting for dough. For PGA wannabes (and a few used-to-bes), Q-School is the ultimate test of skill—and will.

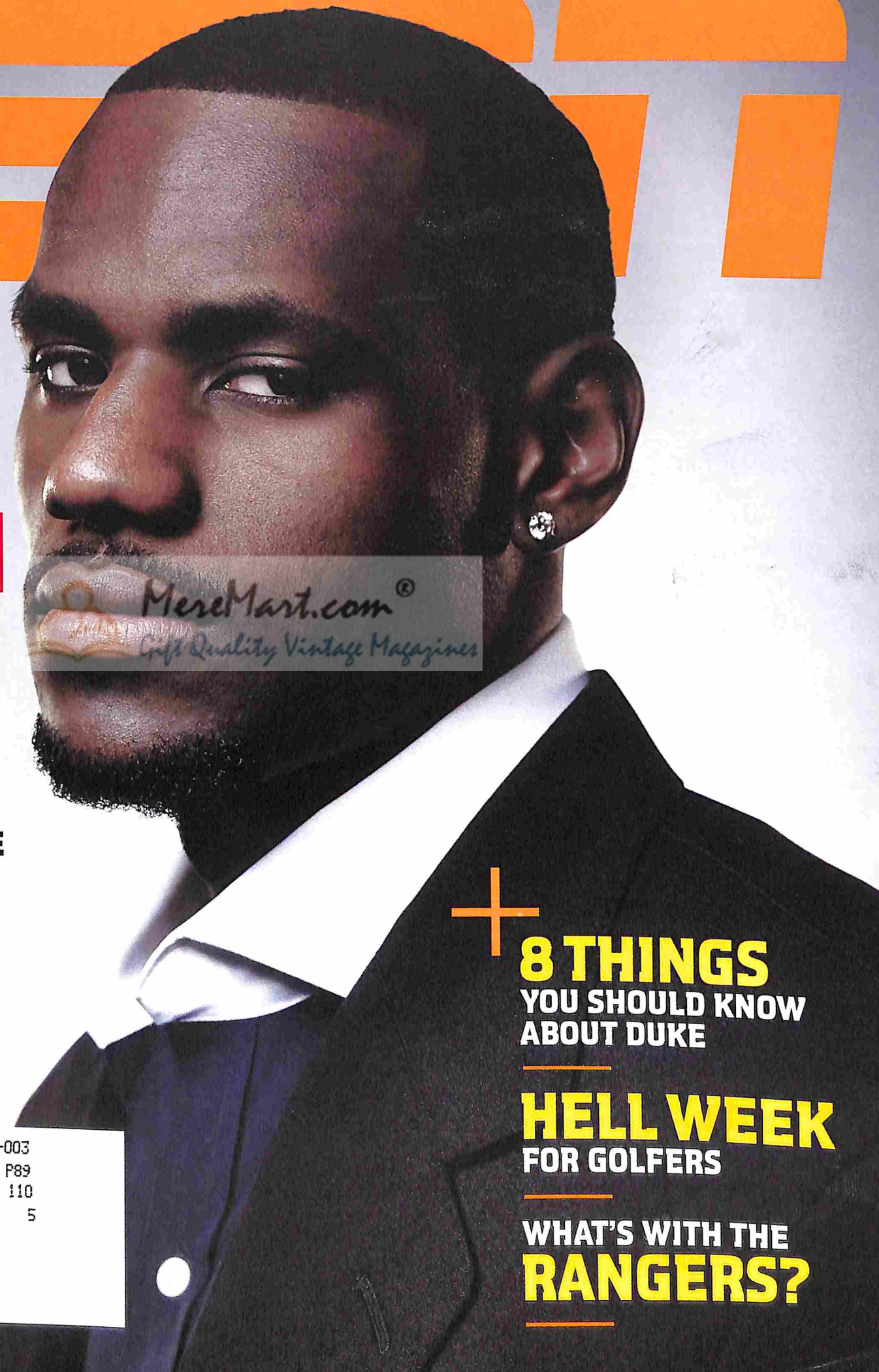
BY JEFF BRADLEY

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# NFL PLAYOFFS

ONE HAPPY BRONCO, TWO GRUMPY BEARS & OTHER BYE WEEK TALES

# ESPN



IN HIS OWN WORDS  
**LEBRON  
ON ...**

MISSING COLLEGE, THE GAME THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING, WHY HE THINKS **KOBE** IS THE BEST AND THE ELUSIVE QUADRUPLE-DOUBLE

**+**  
**8 THINGS**  
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ABOUT DUKE

**HELL WEEK**  
FOR GOLFERS

WHAT'S WITH THE  
**RANGERS?**

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