



The American Way

“If everything is under control, you’re going too slow”

Opvallende uitspraken uit de Amerikaanse sport

In The American Way worden bijzondere kenmerken en ontwikkelingen van de Noord-Amerikaanse sportmarkt belicht. Deze aflevering beschouwt de Amerikaanse sport als bron van entertainment. Niet in de vorm van beeld of geluid, maar via opvallende, meestal lachwekkende uitspraken van spelers, managers, journalisten of andere betrokkenen. Opgetekend uit diverse verzamelbundels en in de meeste gevallen – voor het beste effect – onvertaald overgenomen. Geniet ervan!



Chicago Bulls rookie Jack Haley, on his NBA debut, in which he played one minute and didn't score:
“I’ll always remember it as the night Michael Jordan and I combined for 52 points.”

Comedian Rodney Dangerfield:
“I went to a fight last night and a hockey game broke out.”

Former NBA coach Butch van Breda Kolff, explaining why he prefers his new coaching job with the New Orleans Pride of the Womens Basketball League:
“The time outs smell a lot better.”

Frank Broyles, athletic director of the University of Arkansas, asked if he would still like his football coach, Ken Hatfield, if the team would win only half of its games:
“Sure I would. I would miss him, too.”

Boston Red Sox pitcher Roger Clemence, asked to name the three most dangerous hitters in Major League Baseball:
“Robin Yount in the first inning, Robin Yount in the fourth inning and Robin Yount in the seventh inning.”

Radio announcer Bogdan Chruscicki:
“Baseball was designed for American television: fifteen second of action and three minutes for commercial breaks.”

Hall of Fame linebacker Dick Butkus, on his reputation for playing dirty:
“I never set out to hurt anybody deliberately unless it was, you know, important. Like a league game or something.”

Tampa Bay University football coach Sam Bailey, discussing a prospect he tried to recruit:
“There’s this interior lineman. He’s big as a gorilla and strong as a gorilla. Now, if he was smart as a gorilla he’d be fine.”

Lou Holtz, the new football coach at the University of Minnesota, whose team was much scored against in the previous season:
“Any time your defense gives

up more points than the basketball team, you’re in trouble.”

Actor Jack Lemmon:
“If you think it’s hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball.”

ESPN-commentator Jack Arute, when driver Jimmy Means lost a wheel near the end of a NASCAR race:
“You picked a fine time to leave me, loose wheel.”

New York Mets pitcher Jeff Innis, complaining about an unflattering newspaper photo of him:
“That picture was taken out of context.”

Philadelphia Phillies sportscaster Richie Ashburn, discussing rookie first baseman Dane Lorg:
“The kids doesn’t chew tobacco, smoke, drink, curse or chase broads. I don’t see how he can possibly make it in the big leagues.”

Harry Neale, coach of the NHL Vancouver Canucks:
“Last season we couldn’t win at home, and this season we can’t win on the road. My failure as a coach is that I can’t think of anyplace else to play.”



“I am the most loyal player money can buy”

Pitcher Don Sutton

Jack Nicklaus, asked how he missed an 18-inch putt:
“The same way you do.”

California Angels centerfielder Mickey Rivers:
“We’ll do all right if we can capitalize on our mistakes.”

Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Bob Veale:
“Coach Tanner used to have a bed check for me every night. No problem. My bed was always there.”

Writer John Sonderegger, on a scientific study of the most strenuous sports:
“Soccer proved to be the toughest and motorcross racing was second. Pro football came in eight.

It is presumed that baseball players were not tested because the doctors did not want to awaken them.”

Pittsburgh Pirates manager Jim Leyland:
“I knew I was in for a long year when we lined up for the national anthem on opening day and one of my players said, ‘Every time I hear that song I have a bad game.’”

Chicago White Sox speller Steve Lyons, on veteran team mate Carlton Fisk:
“Pudge is so old they didn’t have history class when he went to school.”

New York Yankees manager Ralph Houk, to umpire Bill Klem:
“I just thought you might like to know that I passed by a kennel on the way to the game and your mother is all right.”

New York Yankees manager Casey Stengel, to outfielder Bob Cerv:
“Nobody knows this, but one of us has just been traded to Kansas City.”

Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda:
“We’ve been married twenty-eight years, and we still go out dining and dancing three times a week. She goes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, I go on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.”

Muhammad Ali, when asked about his golf game:
“I am the best. I just haven’t played yet.”

Texas Ranger pitcher Jim Kern, on being removed from the game:
“I told my coach I wasn’t tired. He told me, ‘No, but your outfielders sure are.’”

Pittsburgh Pirates manager Chuck Tanner:
“If I were the captain of the Titanic, I would tell my passengers we were stopping for ice.”

Pittsburgh Pirates general manager Larry Doughty:
“Baseball is a non-contact sport, but our hitters seem to take that literally.”

Philadelphia A’s manager Connie Mack, after losing 117 games:
“You can’t win them all.”

Voetbalinternational Alexi Lalas:
“Ik kan echt genieten van een goede, cleane tackle. Zo eentje waarbij je de bal hebt, maar ook de speler en de eerste drie rijen publiek meeneemt.”

Baseball manager Bill Veck:
“I try not to break the rules, merely to test their elasticity.”

Baseball umpire Ed Vargo:
“We’re supposed to be perfect our first day on the job, and then show constant improvement.”

Pitcher Bill Gullickson, on playing in Japan:
“It was strange. The only English words I saw were Sony and Mitsubishi.”

Bokser Jim Watt, met een suggestie voor op zijn grafsteen:
“You can stop counting, I’m not getting up.”

Sportswriter Michael Ventre, on his favorite Olympic sport:
“I think it is the one where you make your way through the snow, you stop, you shoot your gun, and then continue on. In most of the world it is known as the biathlon, except in New York City, where it is known as winter.”



“Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity”

American football coach Darrel Royal

Coach legend Vince Lombardi:
“We didn’t lose the game. We just ran out of time.”

Voormalig IndyCar-coureur Mario Andretti:
“If everything is under control, you’re going too slow.”

Chicago White Sox pitcher Ken Brett:
“Things were so bad in Chicago last summer that by the fifth inning we were selling hot dogs to go.”

San Diego Padres pitcher Larry Anderson:
“Some questions are just eating on me. Was Robin Hood’s mother called Mother Hood? Why does sour cream have an expiration date? How do you know you’ve run out of invisible ink?”

San Francisco Giants manager Dave Bristol to his team after a terrible loss:
“There’ll be two busses leaving the hotel for the ball park tomorrow. The 2 o’clock bus will be for those of you who need a little extra work. The empty bus will leave at 5 o’clock.”

Detroit Tigers-slagman Mickey Stanley, nadat hij drie slag had gekregen van

de erkende hardgooier Nolan Ryan:
“Those were the best pitches I ever heard.”

Chicago White Sox hitting instructor Charlie Lau over het slaan van een knuckle-ball, een bal die door de werper met een onvoorspelbaar, dwarrelend effect wordt gegoid:
“There are two theories on hitting a knuckle-ball. Unfortunately, neither of them work.”

Basketball coach Frank Layden, denkend aan zijn rough-and-tumble high school days in Brooklyn:
“We had a lot of nicknames. Scarface, Blackie, Toothless. And those were just the cheerleaders.”

Frank Layden, complaining about a former player of his:
“I told him, Son, I can’t understand it with you. Is it ignorance or apathy?” He said, ‘Coach, I don’t know and I don’t care.’”

Oklahoma State basketball coach Sam Aubrey, asked how he slept after his team’s 83-62 loss to Colorado:
“Just like a baby. I would sleep for an hour, than wake up and cry for an hour.”

Broadcaster Otto Graham, just before the Cleveland Browns and the Cincinnati Bengals met for the second time ever:
“This will be a typical Browns-Bengals game.”

Baseball Manager Tony La Russa, on baseball wisdom imparted by veteran major league skipper Chuck Tanner:
“When I first became a manager, I asked Chuck for advice. He told me, ‘Always rent.’”

NFL-referee Jim Tunney on the typical fan:
“He’ll scream from the 60th row of the bleachers that you missed a marginal call in the center of the interior line and then won’t be able to find his car in the parking lot.”

Kansas City Royals Freddie Patek, on how it feels to be the shortest player in the major leagues:
“A heckuva lot better than being the shortest player in the minor leagues.”

Voormalig NFL-coach John Ralston over zijn vertrek bij de Denver Bronco’s:
“I left because of illness and fatigue. The fans were sick and tired of me.” ●

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