



The American Way

Nice guys finish last

Opvallende uitspraken uit de Amerikaanse sport



In *The American Way* worden opvallende aspecten en ontwikkelingen in de Amerikaanse sportwereld geschetst. Deze aflevering gaat echter niet over bijzondere organisaties, prestaties of transacties. Bij deze presenteer ik nogmaals een aantal hilarische uitspraken van personen in en rond de Amerikaanse sportwereld. Want ook die geven een indruk van de Amerikaanse sport. De quotes zijn overgenomen uit diverse verzamelbundels en zijn in de meeste gevallen – voor het beste effect – onvertaald gelaten. Geniet ervan.



Door Pieter Verhoogt

Walter Garrison, de vroegere running back van de Dallas Cowboys, in antwoord op de vraag of coach Tom Landry ooit lachte:

"I don't know. I only played there nine years."

PGA senior golfer Bob Brue:

"I used to play golf with a guy who cheated so badly that he once had a hole in one and wrote down a zero on the scorecard."

Chicago Bulls-basketbalster Michael Jordan, gevraagd om een reactie op zijn nominatie voor het NBA All-Interview Team:

"No comment."

California Angels-eigenaar Gene Autry:

"Grantland Rice, the great sportswriter, once said: 'It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game.' Well, Grantland Rice can go to hell as far as I'm concerned."

Een variatie hierop van voormalig golfer Sandy Lyle:

"It's not whether you win or lose. It's whether I win or lose."

Nog één van Lyle. Zijn antwoord op de vraag wat hij vond van Tiger Woods:

"I don't know. I've never played there."

David Courtney, public relations-directeur van de Los Angeles Kings, op de

vraag waarom hij geen film met hoogtepunten van zijn ploeg had samengesteld:
"What we have is only a highlight slide."

Washington State-basketbalcoach George Raveling, een van de weinige Afrikaans-Amerikaanse coaches in de collegesporten:

"When the athletic director said I should recruit more white players to keep the folks in town happy, I signed Rufus White and Willie White."

American football-coach Bear Bryant over zijn favoriete spelmoment:

"It's the one where the player tosses the ball back to the official after scoring a touchdown."

Voormalig football-ster Johnny Unitas, toen hij hoorde dat Oakland-quarterback Dan Pastorini een football vanaf een parkeerterrein op het balkon op de zesde verdieping had weten te gooien:

"I guess his receivers were on the second floor."

Countryzanger Willie Nelson, op de vraag of hij wist wat par betekende, vlak nadat hij zijn eigen golfbaan had gekocht in de buurt van Austin, Texas:

"Anything I want it to be. For example, this hole right here is a par 47. And yesterday I birdied the sucker!"

Tv-commentator Ken Coleman, over een lange, verre homerun van Bob Watson, eerste honkman van de Boston Red Sox:

"They usually show movies on a flight like that."

Schrijver George Orwell:

"Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. That would be like war without the shooting."

Basketbalcoach Kurt Rambis:

"I'm in favor of drug tests, just so long as they are multiple choice."

Houston Oilers-coach Bum Phillips, na een medisch onderzoek:

"If I drop dead tomorrow, at least I'll know I died in good health."

Milwaukee-pitcher Dan Osinski, op de vraag van de ober of hij zijn pizza in zes of in acht stukken wilde:

"Better make it six. I can't eat eight."

Tv-commentator en voormalig catcher Tim McCarver over de slagkracht van Mark McGwire:

"The great majority of bats are supplied to major league batters by Rawlings, Louisville Slugger, Hoosier, and, in the case of Mark McGwire, the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory."

Nogmaals McCarver, ditmaal over Hall of Famer Bob Gibson:

"Bob Gibson is the luckiest pitcher I ever saw. He always pitches when the other team doesn't score any runs."

Honkballegende Henry Aaron:

"It took me seventeen years to get 3.000 hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon playing golf."

Voormalig New York Yankees-pitcher Tommy John:

"When they operated on my arm, I asked them to put in a Koufax fastball. They did. But it was a Mrs. Koufax fastball."

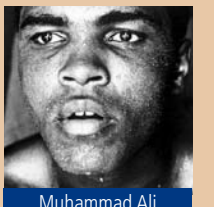
Voormalig New York Yankees-outfielder Dave Winfield:

"These days baseball is different. It used to be you came to spring training, you got your legs ready and your arm loose. Now you come to spring training, you get your legs ready, your arm loose, your agent ready and your lawyer lined up."

Brian Kingman, op dat moment pitcher van Oakland Athletics, na zijn zoveelste transfer:

"I'm the only player on the team with a perforated page in the media guide. That way it's easier to take me out when I am traded."

"It's hard to be humble when you're as great as I am"



Muhammad Ali

Tweede honkman voor de Baltimore Orioles Bobby Grich, uitverkoren voor de 1976 All-Star Game, vooral omdat sterspeler Rod Carew had besloten dat hij liever eerste dan tweede honkman wilde zijn:

"When Rod Carew moved from second base this year I felt the same as Avis would feel if Hertz went into the hotel business."

Honkballer John Gibson over zijn teamgenoot Cool Papa Bell:

"Cool Papa Bell was so fast he could get out of bed, turn out the lights across the room and be back in bed under the covers before the light went out."

Schrijver George Plimpton over sportboeken:

"I have a theory. The larger the ball, the less writing about the sport. There are superb books about golf, very good books about baseball, not many good books about football and very few books about basketball. There are no books about beachballs."

Radio-commentator Harry Kalas over Philadelphia Phillies-outfielder Garry Maddox:

"He turned his life around. He used to be depressed and miserable. Now he's miserable and depressed."

Los Angeles Dodgers-pitcher Claude Osteen:

"I'm not sure which is more insulting, being offered in a trade or having it turned down."

New York Yankees-manager Yogi Berra, op de vraag of eerste honkman Don Mattingly zijn verwachtingen had overtroffen:

"I'd say he's done more than that."

Earl Warren, opperrechter van het Amerikaanse Hooggerechtshof:

"When I pick up the newspaper I always turn to the sports section first. The sports page records people's accomplishments; the

front page has nothing but man's failures."

Honkballer Paul Waner:
"They say money talks, but the only thing it ever says to me is goodbye."

Denver-quarterback John Elway, over de herhaalde grafische afbeelding in de kranten van de spierscheuring in zijn biceps:
"I just hope I never get kicked in the groin."

Vroegere tennisster Ilie Nastase op de vraag waarom hij het verlies van zijn creditcard niet had aangegeven bij de politie:
"Whoever found it is spending less money than my wife."

Honkbalcoach Leo Durocher:
"Nice guys finish last."

Notre Dame-basketbalcoach Dick (Digger) Phelps over hoe hij aan zijn bijnaam was gekomen:

"My father is an undertaker, and I worked for him part time. There were some advantages to the job. For instance, while I was dating my wife I sent her flowers every day."

Acteur Sylvester Stallone:
"Playing polo is like playing golf during an earthquake."

Bokser Frank Moran op de vraag waarom hij een carrière als tandarts had laten schieten om bokser te worden:

"It pays me better to knock teeth out than put them in." ●

"Hockey is a sport for white men. Basketball is a sport for black men. Golf is a sport for white men dressed like pimps"



Tiger Woods