



# The New Don Quixote Times

Article II

"The Musings of a Mad Minister "

- since 2007 -



## Musings on the Mitchell Report



When I was a kid I joined a "Pop Warner" football league. I was # 77, a heavy 5th grader on a 6<sup>th</sup> grade team. At the time the older and stronger kids intimidated me. This, along with being socially immature, secured my place on the bench.

***"Why do athletes get paid the gross national product of small nations to simply hit, kick or dribble a ball?"***

There is an attrition of athletes along the path of professional stardom. In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade I lost my bid to be in the NFL. Later the NHL lost me because I could not skate, the NBA lost me because I am short and can't dribble and finally the MBLA lost me because I began to notice girls. So my sports life was relegated to watching my favorite teams on my favorite television.

However something interesting has begun happening to me. I am

beginning to ask myself "WHY?"

*Why* do I love the Patriots, the Red Sox, the Celtics, and the Bruins when none (or few) of the players are actually from New England?

*Why* do I support teams that make it almost financially impossible for a lower middle class father to take his kids to a game? And when I do, it makes me feel guilty because I know the money is coming out of their college fund.

*Why* do athletes get paid the gross national product of small nations to simply hit, kick or dribble a ball?

I understand that the marketplace dictates these salaries, but has our society become so dysfunctional as to allow one individual to make 100 million dollars just to hit a round ball with a wooden bat? Have you ever considered that number? Let me put this in perspective: I won't make 100 million pennies in my lifetime.

Lastly, if I am going to watch these athletes they better, naturally, be at their best. The recent Mitchell report on steroid use only details what many of us already knew: these athletes are not the best of the best. Many of them began their use in college and, no matter how limited the use, they cheated

to get an edge over their teammates and opponents. So when Roger Clemens or Barry Bonds enter the Hall of Fame it is not for being the best of the best but rather for being great athletes that cheated in order to look like the best of the best. .

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I don't want to seem negative about sports, so let me end this on a positive note. For all of you that had to leave your cleats on a 5<sup>th</sup> grade field - raise your head high! Though you may not have made much money, you were better athletes than most modern Hall of Farmers. Everything you did...you did it using your own natural abilities.

This Mitchell report, as damaging as it is to professional sports, has been wonderful for my self-esteem. I get to feel like # 77 from the 1978 Framingham Warriors was a good athlete because although he never played... he also never cheated.

-Pastor Broderick