



The
Shuttlecoque
Sporting
Club

The PURPOSE of the S.S.C. shall be:

1. To call attention to, and ably champion, those aspects of sport that are either most ennobling or transcendent. We believe vigorously in sport as Provocation—that is, that it facilitates those instances when something inside of us resonates vibrantly with something outside. We aim to shout to the roof tops the names of Enthusiasm's greatest practitioners, who, by virtue of their acts of physical genius, serve both to celebrate human potential and produce within us curious moments of inner freedom.

We shall call this the principle of SPORT AS PROVOCATION.

2. To promote and legitimize the idea of man at play (*homo ludens*), as opposed to the traditional American-Protestant disposition towards joyless toil and labor (*homo faber*). We consider most important and satisfying those acts in which we partake wholly without obligation, by virtue of their own worth, and which allow for experimentation and mastery—a.k.a. *autotelic* activities. Spectatorship, in particular, we esteem not as mere diversion, but as a participatory activity with its own demands that, when understood sufficiently, might provide equal meaning to that which we typically call “work.”

We shall call this the principle of PLAY.

3. To act as a retreat, meeting ground, and occasional symposium for those interested in The Good Life, by which term (i.e. The Good Life) we mean freedom from anxiety, emotional disturbance, and unnecessary exertions (a state known as *ataraxia*, in the Greek). And, while we do not endorse any one means of achieving this state, we founders do believe that a constant study of, and curiosity for, ethical philosophy—that is, The Art of Living Well—is imperative to its pursuit. Nor by this do we mean only a theoretical understanding of that philosophy, but a willingness to put into practice its most elegant precepts.

We shall call this the principle of ETHICAL LIVING.

4. To create, by virtue of a selective membership process, the ideal environment for adult camaraderie—especially that sort which produces animated conversation, a lively exchange of ideas, a generosity of spirit, and honest criticism. In particular, we honor the bond of fandom, which brings together those of us having been seduced by sport's penchant for Revelation, who wish to share amongst the equally devoted such stirring Provocations.

We shall call this the principle FRIENDSHIP.

5. Finally, to document and share amongst members such instances as illuminate the merit or further intensify the mystery of the first four principles. *Fides quaerens intellectum*, theologians call it: “Faith in search of understanding.” For we who have borne witness to great Enthusiasm, who have been seized by such pleasure as sport provides, there exists also the desire to recognize such experiences, whether by analysis, narrative, or praise.

We shall call this the principle of FAITH IN SEARCH OF UNDERSTANDING

To learn more, tune into the Shuttlecoque Sporting Hour on 1450AM, Sundays at 9:00PM, or point your internet browser to sportinghour.blogspot.com.

THE NEW ENTHUSIAST
SPORTING WEEKLY
EXALTING THE WORLD OF SPORT, CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEISURE
07 FEBRUARY 2008

JOEL STRONG'S AMERICA IN WHICH THE AUTHOR DISCOURAGES PEEING IN POOL FOR FEAR OF THE CANDIRÚ

For those that have Radio Machines equipped with an AM dial, you may have heard of the *changing breeze* in Joel Strong's America. (Or if you spend any time discussing important current events with the natives at your local watering hole, someone probably mentioned it to you.) While there is possibly nothing more American than a version of Global Football where Salad Dodgers dominate the pitch, that sporting interest is over for a spell now that the Professional Footballing Cup of the North Americas has been played. It is now time for the other side of the leaf—Boys Basketball.

With that, I invite you, Dear Citizens, to join me for a Playful Splash around in the Boys College Hoops Swimming Hole. (Girls are allowed to swim with Me in this pool, of course, but I should mention up front that we won't be cannon-balling into the always-refreshingly-tepid-but-shallow Girls College Hoops Swimming Hole.) On our first lap of the pond, doggy paddle with me over to the Pac-10 section and observe with me the Washington State Cougars splashing around frantically. Let me play Jeff Corwin for a moment and tell you a little about this creature, its prey and predators, and why you, The Citizenry, should care.

A briefcap: Entering Pac-10 conference play, where the combatants beat one another inside a circle of fire, the Cooooogs were poised to make a run for RunnerUp with an interior defense featuring significantly more bite than John Canzano and an efficient offensive strategy that makes me blush. It was all working to plan until the smartest kids in the conference came to town last week. WASU guard, Derrick Low (See Below: Dreamy Hoopster of the Week), couldn't put the Trey Round-Ball in the large hole despite several tries in a discomforting loss to UC-Berkeley. This effort was followed up with a battle v. the Whiter, Wealthier and more Talented (than Berkeley) Boys of Stanford. The Cougars had their chances but free charity tosses proved to be a difficult task and they dropped their second in a row at home. That's distasteful pie, friends: losing back-to-back to the conference Mensa Kids at something involving coordination.

Just a week ago, WASU only looked up at the Bruins' Lovely behinds. Now they're in the middle of the Best Conference in the USA. This is no comfortable sofa chair for a preseason top 10 and, two short weeks ago, a ranking of 6 in the entire world by Very Knowledgeable Folks. On deck and in clear view of the March Selection Committee are two banging battles. The Top-Notch UCLA Bruins competition (**Thurs, 7 Feb @ 7:30 on FSN**) will feature a good deal of pounding. If the Stanford bigs easily put Baynes on the sidelines for excessive use of The Penalty, UCLAs Love (Lake Oswego High!) spells trouble as the Bruins go for three about as often as Dr. James Dobson, instead opting for the Traditional and Holy Union of Two whenever possible. Then OJ Mayo Inc. (aka USC aka Southern Cal) rolls into town (**Sat, 9 Feb @ 12:30 on ABC**) playing the delicious game. As Eamon ffitch might say: Hi-Ho them boys have fros with them grills and they be comin correct! Ifter the Cougars lose to the UCLAs, this game will feature a high level of significance for both squads. (I have just learned, however, that the telecast of this anticipated game *may* be sidelined for the exgames... the *exgames*?!? You're talkin about the exgames. Isn't this MY America??? *sigh...*)

The Cougars are not a bubble team and in no real trouble of missing the tournament. But if they drop four in a row in the friendly confines of their living room, they can sift their fingers through the ashes of the burnt dream of a top four seeding. So let's swim away now but look over our shoulders as we go. WASU is in a corner and it's up to **Dreamy Hoopster of the Future Week**—Ponytailed Hawaiian, i.e. Samoan, **Derrick Low**—to plug the dyke by tossing the orange from far away into the basket over and over and over again this Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon.

—Joel Strong

WHITE

MEN

CAN'T

LISTEN

SPORTINGHOUR.BLOGSPOT.COM

FUN FACT, OR HARROWING FABRICATION IN WHICH THE AUTHOR IS LIKE, PSHAW

This is the part of The New Enthusiast where we experiment with tearing down our heroes. This week, we focus our attention on Joel Strong's America—aka, the best America ever. Can you separate the lies from the slightly-less-lies? Answer: most likely not.

1. In Joel Strong's America (JSA), there isn't a chicken in every pot, but the martinis are state-subsidized.
2. The music video for Chris Isaak's "Wicked Game" was filmed on the sepia-colored shores of JSA.
3. *Smoke and Mirrors* is the most apt description of a night out in JSA.
4. The alphabet isn't big enough to account for all the hepatitis in JSA.
5. R. Kelly wrote the national anthem—and it's bangin'.
6. *Smoke and Mirrors* is the most apt description of interior design in JSA.
7. The official government of JSA is a representative democracy. Pretty straightforward, really.
8. In JSA, it is common to pay one's employees by inserting cash directly into their respective waistbands. It's awesome.
9. *Smoke and Mirrors* is the most apt description of JSA's ~~leading~~ only exports.
10. In JSA, all apparel is intimate apparel.

—Carson Cistulli

THE TWO US IN WHICH THE AUTHOR GRINDS IT OUT

Eamon ffitch is not a player for, but crushes a lot on, the Trailblazers.

Game Report
Portland v Chicago Bulls
06 February 2008

Portland, Ore.—Last Wednesday night, shortly before the gongs of China rang in the New Year, the Portland Trailblazers defeated the Chicago Bulls in an altogether forgettable basketball game that has nothing whatsoever to do with the Chinese New Year, or even gongs. And, although another writer might here direct your attention to where "the real fireworks took place," it is the sensation of Ho mixed with Hum that guides the hand of this reporter. Indeed, the evening began late and ended early for both teams; the home side having the advantage of being the home side. From my exclusive vantage among the glittering lights of Section 331 only the dimmest tremors of exuberance could be sensed. Having myself arrived at the arena through a torrential spell of rain, it could be ventured that the mood at the Rose Garden was damp. From this bog the Trailblazers crawled, wresting control of the game from the double-starter-less Bulls midway through the first quarter and timidly defending it until the final tenths of the final seconds had expired in the fourth. Final score: Trailblazers 100, Bulls 97.

After the game Brandon Roy—starting guard, captain, and Western Conference All-Star—had this to say: "Nature hath made men so equal in the faculties of body and mind as that, though there be found one man sometimes manifestly stronger in body or of quicker mind than another, yet when all is reckoned together the difference between man and man is not so considerable as that one man can thereupon claim to himself any benefit to which another may not pretend as well as he." Essentially, both teams played hard but the Trailblazers had three more points than their Middle Western rivals when the clock ran out; and that, my friends, is how you win a basketball game.

And, although the *Future* of the team is bright, the immediate future of the same team is decidedly terrifying. As the trade deadline nears, the conversation around the sparkling water cooler at the Club turns to questions of "when," "how," and "for whom" will we get rid of Jarrett Jack or Steve Blake and, in turn, acquire a decent point guard.

—Eamon ffitch