

## SPORTS

HEARD ON  
THE FIELD...Honoring Pitchers With  
Arms That Didn't Quit

The Chicago Cubs on Sunday retired No. 31 in honor of pitchers Ferguson Jenkins and Greg Maddux. Noteworthy beyond their combined 639 wins was their unreal endurance: Mr. Maddux surpassed 200 innings over 14 straight years, while Mr. Jenkins pitched at least 289 innings six years in a row, the latter especially an unthinkable feat today. Cubs manager Lou Piniella recalls when pitch counts weren't kept quite so rigorously. "I remember when I played," he says, "a couple times the manager would ask the pitching coach, 'How many pitches does this guy have?' And he'd give him a number, and he'd say, 'Take 30 off.'" —*Tim Marchman*

Private-Equity Group  
Has Agents Seeing Blue

One of the Kentucky Derby's big winners this weekend was Jonathan Blue, chairman of the Louisville-based private equity group Blue Equity, which has been snapping up major sports agents recently at bargain prices. Acquisitions include NBA agent Dan Fegan, Joel Segal's Worldwide Football Inc., and SFX Sports Group. On Saturday Mr. Blue says he watched the race from his table at the celebrity-studded Turf Club with New York Knicks forward Al Harrington, Toronto Raptors forward Shawn Marion and his COO, Michael Principe, and won \$2,073.40 on a \$1 exacta box bet. —*Hannah Karp*

## 2-Minute Rout, 2-Round Bout

50-to-1 Kentucky Derby Longshot Goes the Distance, But Boxing's Ricky Hatton Does Not

BY JASON GAY

This past Saturday presented a glorious, tantalizing, possibly home-wrecking marathon of sports entertainment: the Kentucky Derby followed by Game 7 of the Celtics-Bulls playoff followed by a feisty boxing match between Manny Pacquiao and Ricky Hatton. All told, it would be seven-plus hours of mud, sweat, tears and Brian Scalabrine's pungent headband.

We began the early evening in Churchill Downs, home to the 135th running of the Derby. The past couple of years have been dif-

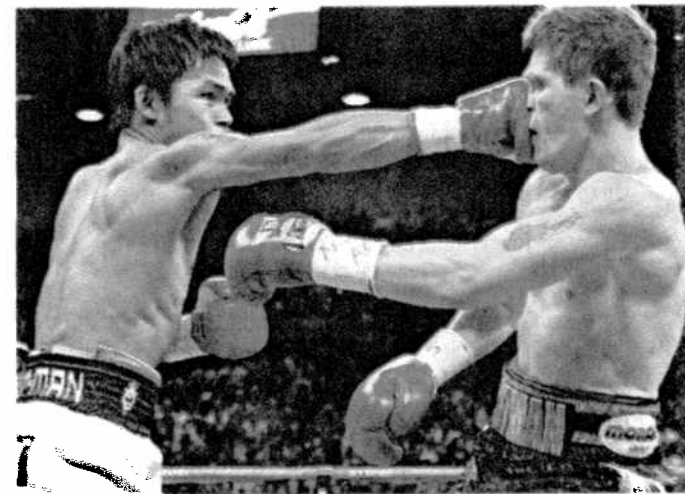
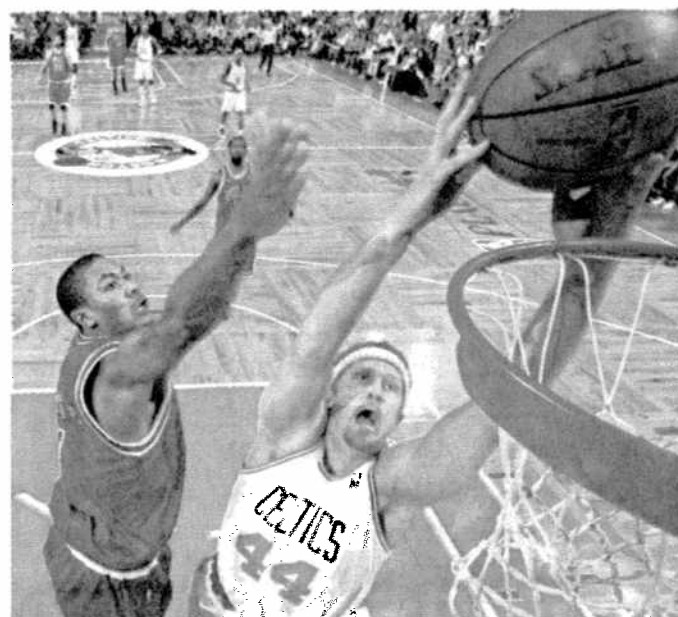
## The Couch



ficult ones for horseracing—the Barbaro saga, Eight Belles being euthanized on the track, and more drug issues than a Black Sabbath tour bus. Those drug suspicions only widened last summer, when Derby winner Big Brown batted .475 with 76 home runs and was seen Jet Skiing in Miami with Jose Canseco.

But the Couch confesses a soft spot for horseracing. The sport is full of things we thoroughly enjoy: pageantry, bourbon and socialites wearing very funny hats. Our lone gripe is the Derby calling itself "the most exciting two minutes in sports." Everyone knows that title belongs to Manny Ramirez jogging down the first base line on a ground ball to short.

As usual, we were amused by the charismatic horse names. There was Atomic Rain, which sounded like a Prince album, or a treatise by Jonathan Schell. There was Mr. Hot Stuff, who'd spent the past fortnight nightclubbing in Ibiza. Then there was West Side Bernie, who was not joined by his brother, East Side Bernie, who, as we all know, is currently facing 150 years for investment fraud.



Clockwise from top: Jockey Calvin Borel crosses the finish line on Mine That Bird to win the Kentucky Derby; Manny Pacquiao dominates Ricky Hatton in the junior-welterweight title fight; and Boston's Brian Scalabrine takes a shot in Game 7 of the Celtics-Bulls playoff.