

# DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# The Witter Olympics: Scoreboard pairs

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1263** we supplied lists of the abbreviations used on scoreboards for Olympic and college teams, and asked you to say what would happen if any two (sometimes more) were matched up. The most common combination: the **BAR**bados-**BER**muda match was a close shave, won by a whisker, a hairy competition, lots of clipping calls, point shaving, etc. etc. etc.

### 4th place

If Utah State University (**USU**) played the University of Rhode Island (**URI**), there would be guaranteed high interest. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

### 3rd place

The players drowned out the crowd when Burkina Faso (**BUR**) took on Papua New Guinea (**PNG**) in competitive beer drinking. (Mary McNamara, Washington)

### 2nd place and the electric Yodeling Pen:

When Turkey (**TUR**) and Villanova (**NOVA**) play, there are plenty of fumbles and interceptions. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

### And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

If Grambling State (**GRAM**) was to play Morocco (**MAR**) . . . Wait — Is that “was” or “were”? (Meg Winters, Alexandria, a First Offender)

### Division II: Honorable mentions

Not just athletics  
Haiti (**HAI**) v. Kansas (**KU**)  
It is poetry  
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

If Ghana (**GHA**) played Argentina (**ARG**), fans on both sides would be extremely frustrated with the referees' calls. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

If Robert Mueller oversaw a game between Wichita State (**WICH**) and the University of North Texas (**UNT**), some would call it the single greatest one in history. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

When the Democratic Republic of Congo (**COD**) plays Germany (**GER**), they mostly just complain about their injuries and how much better the game used to be. (Gary Crockett)

You can always expect to see Harvey Weinstein at a Sierra Leone (**SLE**)-Azerbaijan (**AZE**) match. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

Everyone remembers when Alabama (**ALA**) played Miami-Ohio (**MOH**). (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

If Netherlands Antilles (**AHO**) played Latvia (**LAT**), it would be the highest-scoring game in Olympic history. (Danielle Nowlin)

If Armenia (**ARM**) played Pittsburgh (**PITT**) in football, each team would rely heavily on its right guard. (Jesse Frankovich)

If Barbados (**BAR**) played Estonia (**EST**) in a pickup game of basketball, it would be skins vs. skins. (Jesse Frankovich)

When Louisville (**LOU**) plays Syracuse (**SYR**), both teams finish second. (Mark Raffman)

If Burkina Faso (**BUR**) played Germany (**GER**), the game would be played with relish. (Mark Calandra, Sudbury, Mass.)

If Central African Republic (**CAF**) raced Tanzania (**TAN**), the uniforms would be comfortable, if not exactly designed for speed. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Indiana (**IND**) was supposed to play Arkansas (**ARK**), but no one told them. (Duncan Stevens)

If Estonia (**EST**) played Russia (**RUS**), the winner would surely play the Miami Heat. (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

The game between Peru (**PER**) and Vietnam (**VIE**) was canceled because ewwww! (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

If Indiana State (**INST**) played Antigua and Barbuda (**ANT**), the game would be decided by a coin toss. (Brian Halbert, Ashburn)

If Iraq (**IRQ**) played Somalia (**SOM**), the spectators would get all annoyed with both teams. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Let's just hope none of the athletes just ate before the big Barbados (**BAR**) vs. Finland (**FIN**) match. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New for Week 1267: Jingle bungle

- Vincent van Gogh sells Bose speakers: “These are great even with only one ear!”
- Joan of Arc sells Zippo lighters. “When you need a steady flame . . .”
- The Donner Party shown on a Snickers commercial: “Too bad they didn’t bring along a few of these!”

Head slapping is illegal in NFL football. But what else can you do when you see the words of a sermon by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — a sermon that goes on to attack the urge to accumulate status symbols, like cars — used in a Super Bowl commercial for Ram Trucks? The idea quickly got the Loser Community digging into its Big Vat of Terrible Ideas. In the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook, Duncan Stevens offered the ad slogans and “endorsers” above. **This week: Suggest an ill-advised spokesman (dead or alive, or fictional), along with a humorously noooo slogan or jingle.** (We’ve done this contest a couple of times over the years, but without asking for slogans; some people sent them anyway, like this from Russ Taylor in 2008: “Johnnie Cochran for Trojans: “If the glove won’t fit, you can’t emit.”)

Submit entries at the website [wapo.st/enter-invite-1267](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1267) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a pair of thin, stretchy socks that aim to make your feet look like two beefsteaks. Modeled here (for just a few seconds) by the Empress. **Other runners-up** win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, “I Got a B in Punmanship.” Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “We’ve Seen Better” or “Diot Card.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Feb. 26;** results published March 18 (online March 15). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline “The Witter Olympics” is by Jesse Frankovich, as is the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev).

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress’s weekly online column discusses the new contest and results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv). This week the E will share the results of the earlier bad-endorser contests.



MARK HOLT

### Sole food: This week’s second prize (feet not included).

If Team Canada (**CAN**) played Canisius (**CAN**) in football, it would be all about the kicking game. (Emmah Lynch, Alexandria, a First Offender)

If Lamar (**LAM**) played Estonia (**EST**) in football, it would be like any Browns-Giants game. (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

If Morehead State (**MORE**) played Missouri State (**MOST**), it would only be a quantifying round. (Liv Johansson, Alexandria)

If Netherlands Antilles (**AHO**) played Lesotho (**LES**), they would both be disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct. (Larry Levine, Rockville)

Extra lifeguards were hired for the Singapore (**SIN**)-Kenya (**KEN**) swim meet. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

If Slovenia (**SLO**) faced off against Bahrain (**BRN**), the game would take forever but you’d be riveted every second. (Noam Izenberg, Columbia)

If Turkey (**TUR**) played Bangladesh (**BAN**) in football, their helmets might not be too useful. (Marleen May, Rockville; Beverley Sharp)

When Puerto Rico (**PUR**) plays Germany (**GER**), they’re going to heave everything on the field. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

If Yemen (**YEM**) plays Oman (**OMA**), you can be sure everybody will score. (Jeff Hazle)

Whatever the outcome of the Butler

(**BUT**)-Howard (**HOW**) game, the winners seem puzzled by their victory. (Kathleen Cross, Silver Spring)

No one is overly concerned about the outcome between Southeast Louisiana (**SELA**) and Vietnam (**VIE**). (Jeff Shirley)

Spectators in the stands love to do the wave when Suriname (**SUR**) plays Finland (**FIN**). (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

The Latvia (**LAT**) Estonia (**EST**) match just ended. (John Hutchins)

Today’s match between the Cayman Islands (**CAY**) and Bulgaria (**BUL**) has been rescheduled for next Thursday between 8 and 4:30. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Two teams from Papua New Guinea (**PNG**) would be more likely to face off in table tennis. (Daniel Hall, Toronto, a First Offender)

When Indonesia’s track team (**INA**) competed against Belarus (**BLR**) the crowd blinked and missed it. (Mary McNamara)

When they compete, the teams from Barbados (**BAR**) and Estonia (**EST**) dress like ancient Olympic athletes. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

If Bermuda (**BER**) played a intrasquad scrimmage, the field would be highly durable, stain-resistant, and generally more affordable than thicker, plush fields. (Jesse Frankovich)

If the University of Richmond (**RICH**), Tanzania (**TAN**), Belize (**BIZ**), Manhattan College (**MAN**), Turkey (**TUR**), the Netherlands (**NED**) and Poland (**POL**) played each other in turns, it would be, like, the roughest more winners at [wapo.st/invite1267](http://wapo.st/invite1267).

**Still running: two simultaneous contests; deadline for both is Monday night, Feb. 19: song parodies about education (wapo.st/invite1265); and new words found in ScrabbleGrams “racks” (wapo.st/invite1266).**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Feb. 18:** This year, you will make some major changes. You will be more focused on increasing your financial security than ever. Saving and investing money almost become natural to you. If you are single, your allure is undeniable. You are likely to meet someone of interest this year. If you are attached, your relationship grows because of the mutual respect you and your sweetie have for each other. Aries encourages you to take a stand and live your life more proactively.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Perhaps you had not noticed that your energy has been off until today. You probably woke up and knew that something wasn’t right. Whatever you plan, make sure you include a good amount of physical activity, or else you could become high-strung.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
You enter a period during which you are more likely to succeed with any project you have in mind. Always get feedback from a trusted adviser. You will only improve whatever you are about to launch.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Let your ideas emerge, but don’t feel that you have to share them with everyone. Listen to others’ comments for words of wisdom, or at least a helpful suggestion or two. Your ability to accept feedback and criticism will be remembered.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
You might feel as if you have little control if you just go along with others’ ideas. Present a suggestion or two of your own and get some feedback. You are likely to have some strong opinions about what is being said.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Your smile melts another person’s resistance. You know that all’s well that ends well. If you’re feeling misunderstood, detach and try to see the big picture. Just be yourself, and everything will fall into place.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
You might feel as if there is something left to say in a conversation with a loved one. This person probably didn’t act or respond in way that you were expecting, which could upset you. Handle this matter ASAP.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
You could be more in demand than you’d ever thought was possible. As a result, you might be finding yourself running in every direction. Don’t worry so much about what you are doing. Consider sharing more of yourself with a loved one.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
You seem able to integrate what you hear with your own ideas. Your ingenuity peaks, and you will come up with unusual ideas. You could be thrilled by what you hear. Be willing to open up to an associate, but only if you trust them.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Your playfulness delights a child or a loved one. Depending on who you are with, your inner child is likely to reveal itself more frequently. You suddenly could find that you are acting as if there were no tomorrow.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
You are more likely to say what you mean right now, and you also will not hesitate to ask for more of what you want. Your friends and loved ones seem to like this openness; they will find you more authentic and fun to be around.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
You are likely to touch base with quite a few people today. Reach out to someone with whom you rarely have time to speak. Take the time to visit and catch up on this person’s news. Get a stronger hold on your finances.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
You are full of ideas and energy, but don’t feel as if you have to produce them immediately. Start sharing some of the personal issues you have been mulling over with a sibling or a dear friend.

### Answers to last week’s puzzle.

B	A	B	U	A	L	O	T	O	F	S	P	E	C	S	E	T	C		
E	B	A	N	D	E	N	O	V	O	W	E	C	A	N	X	E	R		
G	R	A	M	C	R	A	C	K	E	R	A	D	O	B	O	C	R	O	
S	A	L	A	M	A	N	D	E	R	A	M	A	S	C	B	E	R	S	
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