

## DIVERSIONS

### THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# The puntathlon: Altered sport names

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1444 the Empress asked you to slightly change the name of a sport (or sport-related term) and describe the new one. Too many people to credit among some 1,800 entries offered the **tryathlon** (everyone gets a trophy), **BMX changed to BM** (you can imagine), the **snot put** (ditto) and the **shot putt**, hitting a 16-pound iron ball with a golf club.

#### 4th place:

**Offencing:** Talk-show hosts compete to say the most reprehensible, dangerous things. The winner gets a prime-time spot on cable so they can complain every night about being “censored.” (*John Hutchins, Silver Spring*)

#### 3rd place:

**Worstminton:** Instead of a shuttlecock, it’s played with a grenade. (*Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.*)

#### 2nd place and the winner of the book ‘The Gas We Pass’:

**American Ninja Warrior:** Anxious parents must surmount a series of extreme obstacles, from the devilishly sensible “He’ll probably text us in the morning” to the terrifyingly reasonable “She’s an adult; she can make her own choices.” (*Hannah Seidel, Alexandria*)

#### And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

**Marrython:** The only endurance sport where you try not to reach the finish line. (*Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.*)

#### Gave only 109 percent: Honorable mentions

**Blaséball:** Whatever it is that the Orioles do year after year. (*Bruce Carlson, Alexandria*)

**Splatform diving:** The world’s foremost bellyflopers show what gravity and mass can do to an unsuspecting body of water. (*Diana Oertel, San Francisco*)

**Antennis:** Contestants find it’s really hard to hit a ball with a racket strapped to your head. (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

**Lagrosse:** Players drink huge quantities of beer and try to score by vomiting into the opposing team’s goal. (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

**March Adness:** Three weeks of commercials, occasionally interrupted by a few minutes of basketball. (*Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring*)

**The 20K talk:** Two-person teams recite one of Aaron Sorkin’s walking dialogues without taking a breath. (*Ira Allen, Bethesda*)

**Microsoftball:** Every few innings the umpire updates the rule book, often requiring the game to restart. (*Eric Nelkin*)

**Moderna pentathlon:** Comprises the Vaccination Booking, the Serpentine Queue Dash, the Immediate Selfie Post, the Info-Sheet-Into-Recycling-Bin Toss and the Two-Days-Later Sore-Armed Sports Bra Removal. (*Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.*)

**Poll vault:** Would-be voters try to clear the high bar set by their state legislators. (*Diana Oertel*)

**100x4-meter relay:** It’s all about the baton pass. (*John Klayman, Fairfax*)

**Bandminton:** Replace rackets with instruments: Amateur level: banjo; pro level: clarinet. (*Craig Dykstra, Centerville*)

**Vladminton:** Racket sport played shirtless on horseback. Strongly advised you let him win. (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

**2x4x100 relay:** Long pieces of lumber ensure socially distanced handoffs. Just watch for splinters. (*Pam Sweeney*)

**50-meter crash:** All runners must change lanes before the finish line. (*Marleen May, Rockville*)

**Slam donk:** Bouncing the ball off a defender’s head and into the basket. Two points. (*Brett Dimaio, Cumberland, Md.*)

**Archerry:** Shooting an apple off someone’s head? That’s for novices! (*Mike Gips, Bethesda; Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.*)

**Anarchy:** No targets, just shoot at whatever you want. Not a highly attended event. (*Brian Collins, Olney*)

**Hibocce:** Lawn bowling on a red-hot grill keeps the action moving. (*Connie Ostrowski, Niskayuna, N.Y., a*



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1448: Hear, hear — it’s Limerixicon XVIII

Though she sang with a voice operatic, She ate marshmallows like a fanatic. But then it got tricky — Her tonsils got sticky! Now all we can hear is s’more static. (*Beverley Sharp*)

Just about a year ago, we checked in for the 17th time with limerick guru Chris Strolin, whose mission to create a full English dictionary with every entry in limerick form had worked its way up to the ha- words. (Chris’s current estimate for completion at OEDILF.com: Oct. 15, 2061. “I’ll live to see the Z- section open if I can just make it to my 109th birthday.”) And now for our 18th sliver of the dictionary: **Supply a humorous, previously unpublished limerick significantly featuring any word, name or term beginning with “he-,”** as in the example above from a 2010 limerick contest. By “significantly,” we mean that a “he” or “her” won’t qualify your limerick unless it were really focused on that word.

Please see our guide “Get Your ‘Rick Rolling” at [wapo.st/limericks1448](http://wapo.st/limericks1448) for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: “perfect” rhyme, and a strong “hickory-dickory-dock” rhythm in Lines 1, 2 and 5; a “dickory-dock” in Lines 3 and 4; additional unaccented syllables on either side are fine). See OEDILF.com about submitting limericks there, if you like, after this contest is over.

**Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1448](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1448)** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Aug. 16;** results appear Sept. 5 in print, Sept. 2 online.



**In case you’d like to give your bulletin board some scratches: dog butt push pins, the latest second prize.**

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement,** our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a set of **Dog Butt push pins**, the adorable inch-long rears of five assorted breeds plus a bonus half a fire hydrant. The Empress is thinking they could be modified into lapel pins as well. Donated by Style Invitational Devotees member Sheri Sutherland.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of our “For Best Results, Pour Into Top End” Loser Mug or our “Whole Fools” Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “No ‘Bility” or “Punderachiever.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The “Puntathlon” headline came from both Chris Doyle and Jesse Frankovich; Tom Witte wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev); “like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bil.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bil.ly/inkofday); and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week’s at [wapo.st/conv1448](http://wapo.st/conv1448).

*First Offender*

**Arrhythmic gymnastics:** Me trying to do a cartwheel. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

**Basketball:** When a player shoots a hoop, an opposing player blasts at the ball with a shotgun. Shooting another player draws two free throws (not by the fouled player). (*John Kammer, South Riding*)

**Biosled:** A Winter/Summer Games crossover: Two sumo wrestlers ride down an iced and greased track in pursuit of a bowl of chankonabe. (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney*)

**Canoeing:** Not much paddling happens in this sport, unless your teammate is Christian Grey. (*Lee Graham, Rockville*)

**Clickit:** Chinese and Russian teams vie to entice naive Americans into opening email attachments. (*Craig Schopmeyer, Kensington*)

**Fig skating:** Instead of a garish costume, each skater wears nothing but a simple, elegant leaf. Not for the shy or the easily chilled. (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

**I’ll Pine skiing:** Southerners sit

around and long for snow. (*Drew Bennett*)

**IdidArod:** Madonna and J.Lo are among the participants in this popular New York sport. (*Mark Turco, McLean*)

**Mototoss:** Bodybuilders compete to see who can fling a Mini Cooper the farthest. (*Terri Berg Smith, Rockville*)

**NASCARA:** Competitors use the rearview mirror to put on eye makeup while driving 200 miles an hour. (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

**Po’lo:** A street game played on bikes with sticks and a soda can. (*Tom Witte*)

**Duper Bowl:** The Republican primary. (*Ward Foeller, Charlottesville*)

**Ruder Cup:** A golf tournament featuring strategic coughing and tactical arm farts. (*Jim Reagan, Herndon*)

*More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1448](http://wapo.st/invite1448).*

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 9: Our contest to translate a sentence in the paper into “plain English.” See [wapo.st/invite1447](http://wapo.st/invite1447).**

### L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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8/8/21
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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

### HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 8:** You have focus. You are determined, hard-working and creative. Adventure appeals to you, and yet you value security. You’re not afraid to commit. You are an excellent friend to others, always loyal. This year is more lighthearted and sociable. You might explore pleasing changes to your appearance, your routine or where you live. Others might seek your advice this year.

**Moon Alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The New Moon is in Leo.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Today’s New Moon is the time to think about how you can improve relations with your kids. Meanwhile, do you give yourself enough playtime vs. worktime? You need creative outlets. Work to improve your health.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Each New Moon is a time for resolutions. How can you improve your relationships with family members and where you live? Focus on home and family. Enjoy entertaining diversions, sports and fun activities with kids.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Think about how you communicate with others. Are you a clear communicator? Do you listen to others? How can you improve? Learn something new while redecorating and entertaining.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
Today’s New Moon is about money, cash flow, assets and wealth. Do you take care of what you own? Do you respect your assets? What do you need to get rid of? Think about budgets. You will have a busy schedule with short trips and errands.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
This is the best day in the year to take a realistic look in the mirror. How can you improve the image you create on your world? New hairstyle? Wardrobe change? Weight? What changes will make you feel better about your image?

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Think about your hidden agenda — not only your hidden agenda, but also your spiritual values and the things you think about in the dark. What values guide your life? Are your values worthwhile?

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are a social sign, and today the New Moon offers you a chance to think about how to improve your relations with casual friends, acquaintances and groups to which you might belong. These are important connections for you. What can you do to make them better?

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
At times we are all judged by parents, bosses, the police or VIPs. Today you are aware of your relationship with authority figures. What can you do to improve these relationships? Meanwhile, are you headed in the life direction that you want to go? Enjoy friendships and groups plus physical competitions.

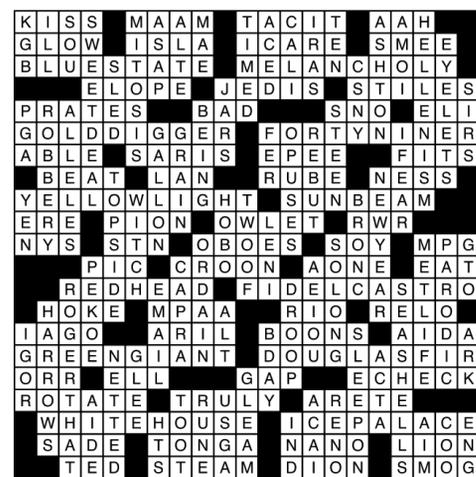
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Use today’s New Moon to think about what further education or training you can get that will improve your life. Furthermore, what travel can you explore or enjoy that will enrich your life? These issues are important to you.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Today’s New Moon urges you to be aware of anything related to inheritances, taxes, debt or shared property. Don’t overlook things or be slapdash. Roll up your sleeves and take care of loose details so you feel more confident about these areas. Check your finances. Travel and expand your universe.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Today the only New Moon opposite your sign all year is taking place, which is the perfect time to think about how you can improve your closest relationships. These relationships matter to you. What can you do to enrich these relationships?

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
This might be the best day of the year to ask yourself how you can be more efficient and effective in what you do. How can you work harder and smarter? Meanwhile, what can you do to improve your health?

#### Answers to last week’s puzzle.



8/1/21