

Letters To The Editor

A request....

Dear Editor:

I am a sports fan and in particular a big follower of Thoroughbred racing totally agree with the position the Times has taken regarding the abuse and doping of horses at race tracks across America. These are key issues to resolve if the sport is to move forward.

That said, the N.Y. Times rarely covers any racing news unless it is negative or during its inferior coverage of the Triple Crown races. The Times continually misses opportunities to give something of value to it's readers. It is also a disservice to the sport.

For years horse racing, which has many positive and interesting angles to it, routinely gets ignored. It baffles me especially when you see how the sport is revered in other parts of the world and a few locals in the U.S. Instead of taking a mostly one sided position on racing in New York, perhaps the Times should make an effort to have some knowledgeable person report on a more regular basis many of the fascinating human interest stories that surround the industry. The sport has so much more to offer then the parimutuel payoff although, given the millions of dollars wagered daily should be of interest.

—THOMAS PONZIO

Requesting Copy of a Photo

Dear Editor:

The June 4th issue of Sports Illustrated contains a photo of Dario Franchitti, his wife Ashley, and my son, Kevin O'Donnell, Dario's crew chief on the far left. Quite a stunning image of Target Chip Ganassi Racing's victory at the greatest spectacle of racing.

I am requesting you send me a hi-res file of that photo so I can have it printed and framed for my private use. If there is a release or fee to receive this file, please forward the necessary requirements.

Thank you for your consideration.

—CORY O'DONNELL



Rooney

Dear Editor:

Rooney is not an international centre forward, but he could be world class midfield player. At club level he could replace Paul Scholes has Ferguson bottled it. In fact he could be Roy Keane and Paul Scholes rolled into one.

—TONY GIBSON

The Washington Nationals

Dear Editor:

Recently, in the wave of a Phillies' losing streak, someone asked, "What's wrong with Lee?" Here we are, in the middle of July a \$120 million pitcher with a win-loss record of zero, his ERA is a whopping 7.30 in the last four Phillies' games. In fact, Lee's ERA for the 2012 season is 4.13, the highest he has had in five years.

So I ask, what is wrong with Lee and the Phillies in particular in this 2012 season of high expectation? Well, injuries aside, I do not think anything is wrong with Lee except for some psychological remaining effect from his elaborate exit from the Phillies a couple of years ago, when he was booted out of Philadelphia after his brilliant regular season's pitching performance and his stellar pitching in the 2009 World Series. After all, why would Ruben Amaro or any other intelligent human being trade someone who was solely responsible for the 2009 championship season in Philadelphia for the simple reason of getting the coveted marquee player the Phillies wanted in the name of Roy Halladay?

I believe, enough is been said about the miscalculated 2009 trade that sent Lee to Seattle only to reclaim him back in 2011 when the pressure by the Philadelphia's fans became evident that indeed, Amaro had made a mistake in letting Lee go. I was one of those fans, who for the life of me, did not comprehend nor did I believe the reason given for

getting rid of Lee in the first place.

So in a nutshell, nothing is wrong with Lee because time will cure all. The 2012 Phillies will soon be history with the Washington Nationals winning the division. I only hope that the Phillies can return as champions in 2013 because as I said so many times before, timing is everything. The Phillies lost a golden opportunity in 2009 and 2010 and as a result, in 2012 must settle for mediocrity.

If Hamels resigns with the Phillies, I believe the Phillies can recapture the glory days of 2008 when they single-handedly won the World Series. As an avid Phillies' fan I wish for nothing less than to have a 2013 World Series in Philadelphia.

—JOHN PINO

Hockey Stanley Cup

Dear Editor:

I saw the very first Kings game at the old Forum, and 21 more that first season. I have waited all these years for that Stanley Cup! Thank you, Kings, for fulfilling a life long dream! And GO KINGS GO!!!

—RAYMOND SCHWARTZ