

Friday Follies 05/03/2002

(Sorry...I got busy Friday and forgot to send these out...If I don't do it the first thing Friday morning...it doesn't get done!)

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Hey!

Last week when we were driving back from North Carolina, we took a "cut across" highway that we would ordinarily never take. It was highway 150 which allowed us to cut over to I-85. Absolutely breathtaking countryside. And absolutely RACE country. Every little shop had a checkered flag hanging out front, there were motor cross tracks and "supped-up" body shops everywhere, and signs with numbers like, "Call 1-800-FAST", etc. Now, we had just left our friend's house which was in the same neighborhood as Rusty Wallace's, (Rusty's home is on the market for \$6,000,000, by the way!) so we knew it was race country, but this was ridiculous. We were already an hour or so away from Rusty's town, and we just knew he couldn't be THAT influential.



Well, we stopped at a stop light in one little town called Mooresville. I just happened to look up and saw a sign that read "Dale Earnhardt, Inc." with an arrow. I guess I was kind of zoning out, because, it didn't really register until about a block down the road. I cleared my throat and said, "AHEM, JP, I couldn't swear to it, but I think that sign back there just said, 'Dale Earnhart, Inc.'"



Well, I thought he was going to wreck the car. We, of course, did a u-turn and went to find the place. The truth is, we saw it and drove right past it the first time. It had no sign out front, and it looked like a huge, luxurious office complex of some type. Never in a million years would we have imagined that would be Dale Earnhardt, Inc. Only when we turned into the drive did we see a small, very classy sign that stated what the buildings were.



(We did not have our camera with us, so I pulled these from the internet.)

Now, I am not truly a NASCAR fan, and I really do not know what I expected...but it was unbelievable! It was spotless, reverent, palatial, expensive, quiet, had gigantic conference rooms, dining halls, and bars/party rooms which you could rent...complete with hand carved stools. There were photos the size of the walls, memorabilia, paintings, and every trophy you could imagine from the three generations of Earnhart drivers. I have to admit that I gained a tremendous amount of respect for these drivers as I walked through and read about the different races and examined the cars face to face.



The actual garage was behind glass, so guests could actually stand there and watch them working on the engines. All the workers were in white, as well as all of the walls, floor, and counter tops. There was not one spot of grease or dirt in the entire garage. Amazing. The shop is now home to the Chevrolet teams of Dale Earnhardt Jr., Steve Park, and Michael Waltrip.

It was an unbelievable experience, and after such a sad reason for our trip to North Carolina begin with, it was a one hour interlude that lifted our spirits. If you ever get a chance to take that little 150 highway in NC...DO! It is beautiful!

Also this week, the sports world lost another great, Mr. Lou Thesz.



6 Time World Heavyweight Champion in
4 Different Decades

(From the Internet)

"If there can be such a thing as a dynasty in an individual sport, Lou Thesz would qualify. Just as Joe Dimaggio achieved icon status in baseball with his grace and style, so did Thesz in wrestling. He achieved ring records and longevity that may be as difficult to break as Dimaggio's 56-game hitting streak. The Triple Crown championship in Japan is one of the most prestigious titles in the world today and its roots trace back to Thesz' recognition as the first International heavyweight champion in Japan. He was the last wrestler to legitimately claim the undisputed World heavyweight championship. He held the World title, which pre-dated the NWA title, a total of six times. His first win came at the age of 21 in 1937 over Everett Marshall in St. Louis. He still holds the record for being the youngest world champion of all-time. His sixth title reign ended in 1967, 32 years later, at the hands of Gene Kiniski. His eight-year reign from 1948 to 1956 ranks as the longest world title reign of all-time. He was World heavyweight champion in four different decades and is the only wrestler to ever compete in seven different decades. Thesz was as fierce of a champion for wrestling's credibility and integrity outside the ring as he was in it."

JP knew and idolized Mr. Thesz.

This is part of a note which came to him this week from Lou's family...

"Hi,

If good news travels fast, bad news must leave it at the gate! I have had so many wonderful message from our friends, and I haven't even sent out my message to all of you.

Lou died this a.m. about 7:35. He had spent the night periodically stroking my head as I attempted sleep with my head on a pillow on his bed. He had struggled to breathe for too long. He knew this match was over and wanted us all to go home and resume our lives. He just stopped breathing.

With a full heart and clear head, I can tell all of you

Lou died content and with no regrets!

We had some wonderful times together in the hospital and shared loving moments and laughs. The young guys envied his dirty old man persona and the females loved flirting with him, and vice versa.

Lou will be cremated here in Florida, I will take his ashes to St.Louis, we will have a simple memorial service (yet to be determined), and I will let his ashes go into the Merrimac River where his happy memories of life started. Later we will have a wake type party here in Winter Garden. Don't mourn - just love what he gave you. He loved and appreciated what you all gave him.

In the meantime, have a glass of wine, or a beer for Lou...and pray you have a life as full or as happy!

Love to you all,
(Lou and) Charlie"

Also in the "Godsey News" this week....We heard from JP's brother, Jason, who is internationally ranked as an EXTREME Fighter. He is scheduled for more fights soon and was joking about being too old...can you imagine? Jason is also a high school science teacher. (Would you "cut-up" in his class!?!?) Look for him at your local video store!



Name: Jason Godsey

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 250 lbs

Birthdate: 1/1/1964

Team: Integrated Fighting Academy

Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Comments: UFC, Pancrase, Extreme Challenge, IVC veteran

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Good Luck Jason! Let us know how you do!

Much more to tell...just no time...

Remember, life is short...we need to make it a good one.

Grow in peace and wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,

Judi Godsey

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent e-mails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20

were on our list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday list.

PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. You tend to go through huge numbers of jokes that way.

Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day! If you would like to see a small portion of what I actually do, look up our homepage at [www.chcs.pvt.k12.va.us](http://www.chcs.pvt.k12.va.us) and check out the Soundings section, a publication I produce four times a year which pretty much recaps most of what I am involved in.

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