

A Woman's Guide to Fantasy Football

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By Ali Wisch

If your boyfriend plays in a fantasy football league and you know as much about fantasy football as you do about biochemistry, then I'm on your team.

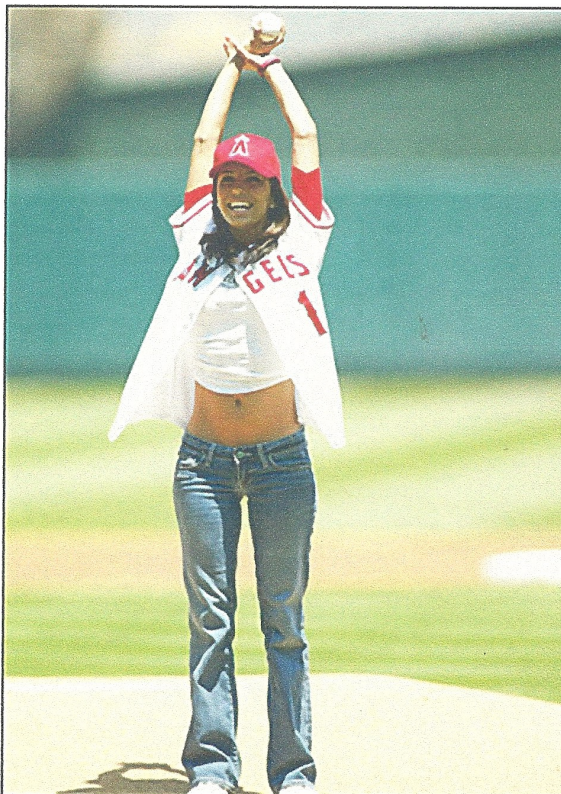
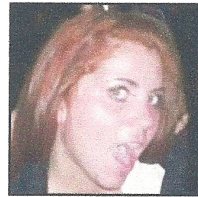
For the first couple of weeks after I'd heard about this phenomenon, I thought my guy friends were talking about a new PlayStation game or something. When it finally reached the point where I couldn't have a conversation with the guy I'm dating without hearing terms like "depth chart," "free agent" and "IDP" in every other sentence, I began to get curious. That, and I started to feel like we were speaking two different languages. In reality, he was just tuning me out to focus on the game, and I just didn't understand fantasy terminology. When he and his friends got together it was like they were talking in Pig Latin or sign language, the middle finger being the most used sign.

Now, I didn't let my curiosity get to me right away. I figured, he's a guy, let him do his "jock" thing; he can enjoy his football games and I can watch reruns of *Sex and the City*. That is, until my television remote got smashed because of **Terrell Owens'** broken finger -- then it became clear that my pseudo boyfriend's fantasy world was colliding with my reality. So I started Googling. A click of the mouse later and I was face to face with a whole other universe I had no idea existed, or that I at least pretended didn't exist until I was forced to confront it.

I found some interesting Web sites and did some research; however, the first thing to catch my attention was that some women somewhere created something called the FFL, a.k.a. the Fantasy Fashion League. Apparently the founder was sick of her husband's obsession (and for most

The Walk-On

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If the fantasy fashion draft was held today, Eva Longoria would likely be a first round pick.

Darrell Miho/US Presswire

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men it does border on that) with fantasy football, so she decided to create something for herself. While it is not nearly as popular as its counterpart, I think her idea is genius and I plan to join a league next season; honestly, I think I'd even have a shot at winning it. And this is only after a skim of the page and a scroll through the rules. This being said, after spending hours listening to my guy friends talk about rushing yards and running backs, surfing the Web and even purchasing and reading a fantasy-football magazine (they do exist), I still understand Fantasy Fashion League about a hundred times better than I do fantasy football.

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