

## Voice of the Fan

**Choice voice** I'm sick of hearing how Scottie Pippen can't survive without Air. I don't remember Jordan winning a championship, or even making it to the Eastern Conference Championship, without Pippen.'

—Derek Johnson  
East Lansing, Mich.

### More to see than McGwire, Sosa

I think you have the right idea, Mark Bonavita (TSN, June 14). This year has been great for baseball, and there is a ton of stuff to enjoy. Sammy Sosa has played a tremendous role in the Comeback Cubs' late-inning victories and deserves mention.

However, many sports news shows try to make a ridiculous correlation between Mark McGwire's home runs and the Cardinals' recent losses. How can a home run contribute to a loss? McGwire is a team player all the way, and I'm certain he hates these articles about his long home runs while his team is certainly struggling.

Cody Lovell  
Stigler, Okla.

It seems that all people care about is the Sosa-McGwire record. Note to broadcasters: There's a game going on here. I didn't realize that we've changed the name of the game from baseball to the home run record chase.

Alison Joy Kentos  
Rockaway, N.J.

### Leave Shaq be

I must take issue with Dave Kindred's assertion that Shaquille O'Neal is the main reason the Lakers were eliminated from the playoffs (TSN, June 7). Although Shaq's free-throw shooting proved to be a detriment, an offense that failed to get him the ball for long stretches in crunch

time was a main factor in the sweep by the Spurs. Very often, Kobe Bryant would hoist up impossible shots and deflate the team. Bryant's lousy play had much more to do with L.A.'s loss.

Mark C. Johnson  
Gays Mills, Wis.

**KOBE'S STAKE:**  
Bryant, not O'Neal,  
is reason for  
Lakers' collapse.

### Say what?

The last couple paragraphs of Dave Kindred's "A Face to Remember" (TSN, June 14) brought readers to Willie Mays' defense. Readers wouldn't dispute Hank Aaron's statistics and accomplishments, but when it came to Aaron calling himself a better hitter than Mays, the "Say Hey Kid" found a few supporters.

"Aaron is quoted in the last paragraph as follows: 'And I was always a better hitter than Willie. That's a given.' What?" wrote K.C. Landphore of Atlanta. "Aaron fared better than Mays later during his career because in part of Mays' numerous injuries. That's a given. Mays spent the majority of his career at arthritis-inducing Candlestick Park, where home runs go to die, while Aaron performed in two hitter's parks, the latter of which was accurately referred to as the 'launching pad.' Yes... these are givens. But no, Mr. Aaron—and Mr. Kindred—you were not a better hitter than Mays. And that's a given."

Another reader didn't want to place Mays ahead of Aaron so much as he just wanted to see the two sit side-by-side for the accomplishments.

"What exactly was the purpose of Dave Kindred and Henry Aaron's pathetic denigration of Willie Mays?" wrote M.J. Crippes of Belleville, Ill. "Granted, Aaron hasn't always been as esteemed as he most certainly deserves to be, and, yes, Mays was flashy. Still, couldn't they have just admitted that they were probably the two best players of their generation and leave it at that?"

### Get off the Huskers' backs

I have been to the College World Series, and it was the best experience that I've ever had. No, I wasn't assaulted by Huskers football players, either. Can't you get off the Huskers' back (TSN, June 14)? We haven't had a problem with the team since 1996.

Michael Rohr  
Tobias, Neb.

### Poor officiating

I love the game of basketball. At least I did, until watching the playoffs and having to endure some of the worst officiating I have ever seen. I know these games can't be replayed, but this issue needs to be addressed.

Todd Seger  
Tucker, Ariz.

**Got a comment?** THE SPORTING NEWS would love to hear from you. Write Voice of the Fan, 10176 Corporate Square Drive, Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63132, fax your message to us at 314-997-0765, or send us electronic mail at [tsnmail@aol.com](mailto:tsnmail@aol.com). Be sure to include your name and city with your e-mail. THE SPORTING NEWS reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and content.

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