



HUGH JASS/THE DIRTY BIRD

Oh God. What happened here? How do we get this photo to not show his crotch? Man I hate Photoshop, but I love Tanner Bronson!

Bronson to replace Bucky

By Mike Rotch
THE DIRTY BIRD

The Wisconsin Athletic Department announced Monday it will be using a different mascot at all men's home basketball games.

Tanner Bronson, former Badger hoops star and crowd favorite, will now be responsible for energizing the Kohl Center crowd at all home games, replacing the previous mascot, Bucky Badger.

"Tanner's been such a spark plug for our men's program over the past four seasons," UW Athletic Director Barry Alvarez said. "In my mind, no one else gets the crowd more excited than Tan Tan. That's why we've extended this wonderful opportunity to him."

For Bronson, the mascot job will mean he has to postpone his career in the NBA. It's likely he would have been a lottery pick in the 2008 draft, but he said being a mascot is something he feels he was born to do.

"Growing up, I always admired the great mascots like that red thing from Western Kentucky and Mariner Moose," Bronson said. "When I wasn't hitting the hardwood, I was envisioning what sort of mascot I would be. I had some pretty sweet ideas that I kept down in a notebook, but I think I lost it."

Bronson won't wear any costume when he performs his mas-

cot duties. Instead, he'll remain on Bo Ryan's bench during the game, coming onto the court sporadically to provide a boost to the crowd, and he'll be given a towel to wave around at key points in the game.

"Nothing against Bucky, but nobody brings it like Tanner brings it."

Bo Ryan
head coach
university of wisconsin



BRONSON

"It'll be great to have T-Bone on the bench with us for another season," Ryan said. "Nothing against Bucky, but nobody brings it like Tanner brings it. On the court, off the court — doesn't matter."

Bronson also discussed the possibility of becoming the mascot for other UW teams. He said he'd like to try football, but said he wouldn't want to have to do all those push-ups when the team scores.

"I don't have the biggest guns in the world," Bronson said. "Jason Bohannon, J.P. Gavinski — those guys are ripped. Power's not my

thing. I'm more of a finesse guy."

When he mentioned finesse, Bronson added that hockey might be his next-best option for his campuswide mascot tour.

"It'd be colder than basketball games, that's for sure. But I think I could skate pretty well," said Bronson, who almost walked on with the men's hockey team but decided to try basketball instead.

Two people on campus expressed their concern about the changing of the mascot guard. UW band director Mike Leckrone said he and the pep band will have to tweak their musical arsenal at basketball games to accommodate for the new face of the game.

"Why would we play 'If You Want To Be A Badger' if there's no Badger to be?" Leckrone argued. "I suppose we could always change it to 'If You Want To Be A Tanner.'"

And Bronson's teammate Gavinski said he feels he would make a better mascot than the former team manager.

"You see me waving those towels?" Gavinski asked. "Every time I do that, the crowd goes nuts! He gets more credit than I do for our Big Ten Title, and that's just not fair."

Buckingham U. Badger did not respond to numerous calls from the Dirty Bird.



BUCKY

Favre's legacy completely erased by steroids

by Jacques Strapp
THE DIRTY BIRD

MY COUCH — Sometimes, when it rains, it pours. And right now, Green Bay Packers fans must feel like they're drowning in a monsoon.

Just weeks after legendary quarterback Brett Favre announced his sudden retirement, ESPN's Michael Smith came out with some shocking news direct from the Dairy State itself.

Former Packers' team physician Dr. John Gray divulged information Monday that would make any Cheesehead cringe. Gray released a drug test dated Oct. 28, 1996, which showed positive results for anabolic steroids with the letters F-A-V-R-E typed in bold across the top of the vial.

"I just want to apologize to all my family, friends and fans," Favre said Monday. "I dug myself into a hole and by the time I was able to climb out, it was too late."

In May of 1996, Favre joined the NFL's substance abuse program for what was allegedly a pain killer addiction problem. Apparently, No. 4 wasn't just popping pills; he was shooting up as well.

"No wonder he could throw such laser-beam passes," said Aaron Rogers, Favre's heir to the Green Bay quarterback throne. "It all makes sense to me now."

Just hours after Smith shocked the football world with his report, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell held an emergency meeting with former commissioner Paul Tagliabue to discuss the repercussions for Favre. And after just 37 minutes of conversation, the two decided to strike Favre



ANITA BATH/THE DIRTY BIRD

Brett Favre, former quarterback for the Green Bay Packers, now holds zero NFL passing records.

from the record books completely, and the Packers' Super Bowl XXXI victory over the New England Patriots will be forfeited.

"The NFL lost its interception king," Goodell said. "It's a sad day for the league in general."

One person was elated, how-

ever.

"At least I'm back on top," said former Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino, who will now regain the passing yards and touchdown records that Favre will surrender. "I won those records fairly; I didn't cheat."

In his own defense, Favre could do nothing but apologize. And cry.

"I'm sorry," said Brett Almightly, as tears streamed down his face. "I'm just really, really sorry."

The world cries with him.

Softball team looks good on TV

by Clay Midia
THE DIRTY BIRD

SECOND FLOOR, WANDO'S — Three strikes and you're out.

Three Fishbowls and you're out, too.

The Wisconsin Badgers softball team did pretty good during its weekend tournament two weeks ago in Dallas, Texas.

Wisconsin played San Diego State and won, 5-7, but then lost their other game to the Houston Cougars 12-4.

Big Ten Network only showed highlights from the two games, but from the looks of it, the Badgers tried hard.

"I liked the effort they played with, especially Theresa Boruta," Wando's patron Jenna Thomas said between bites of bacon as she worked on an orange fishbowl last Tuesday. "I saw two highlights of her sliding and her uniform was dirty, so even though they lost once, they were still trying hard."

In the Badgers' game against San Diego State, they got going early. Valyncia Raphael hit a two-run homer in the second inning.

"Our starting pitching was very solid," UW head coach Chandelle Schulte said on UWBadgers.com.

Even though the Badgers were off to a big lead, it would take some late-inning drama and an "unbelievable" series of events to pull out the two-run victory.

Check www.wisc.edu/dirtybird sometime next week or the week after for the rest of the story.