

**K.C.
FANTASY
LEAGUE**

Old news: Hackers are everywhere. Even in fantasy football, as employees at a Kansas City technology info company will tell you. In 1991 they became suspicious when an owner made a waiver claim for wide receiver Don Beebe. Slight problem: No one had yet put Beebe on waivers. The shady team owner, who had designed the company's internal e-mail system, was busted for hacking into and peeking at e-mails detailing upcoming transactions. Oddly, his fellow owners let him finish out the season, and he won the league title. His only punishment: 15 years' (and counting) worth of verbal hazing.

Seen & Heard

Lunatic Fringe

People will do crazy things to play and to win fantasy football. Here's proof >>>> BY ADAM DUERSON

THERE IS no shortage of megastaked fantasy football leagues catering to fancy-pants high rollers. These leagues pit thousands of strangers—over the Internet—against thousands of other strangers and typically pay out millions of dollars. More often, though, fantasy is not about ultrahigh stakes, but about dedication, fanaticism, rule book idiosyncrasies and winnings that are relative chump change (especially when considered on a per-hour basis). Here are five leagues whose spirit takes fantasy football to our kinds of extremes.

HJ's Fantasy Football League

Could it be long before "full fantasy disclosure" becomes a wedding-vow standard? In 2005 five HJFFL members gathered to watch Super Bowl XXXIX with their better halves. Talk quickly turned to the just-ended fantasy season and its \$12,000 payout. One opponent asked the champion, "How did you spend your money?" The an-

swer came from the champ's wife, who until then hadn't been privy to the league's high stakes. The cash, she declared, would go toward a Viking stove and granite kitchen countertops—and the champ would never play again.

Quince Football League

How did you spend your summer? In 1999 Quince brethren (all Phi Kappa Psi from George

Washington) spent their concocting what they've come to call The Constitution. Seven years later their rule book is a monstrous 81 pages. Some elements: franchise and transition tags, practice squads and a two-round rookie draft. Not surprisingly, three members of the league became lawyers.

The Fat Boy Fantasy Football League

In 2002 a 10-man collective of rugby chums, in search of a twist for their head-to-head league, came up with the idea of drafting coaches in addition to players. Five points—the equivalent of a passing TD—would be awarded for any coach whose team beat the point spread. Bill Parcels was taken first. Bill Belichick went last. (The rationale: The Patriots play too many close games.) In Week 3, after the outcome of a league game was decided by coaching points, the idea was, mercifully, canned.

Republic of Texas Fantasy Football League

In 1998 one ROTFFL team owner nearly had his draft day derailed when his employer, an unidentified Big Six consulting firm, sent him to the U.K. on assignment. Instead of folding, he placed an international call (to Texas) and drafted over the phone, waiting as long as 20 minutes between picks. The call lasted 3½ hours and cost several hundred dollars—which was ultimately expensed to his company. Probably of no consolation to his employers: He won the league.

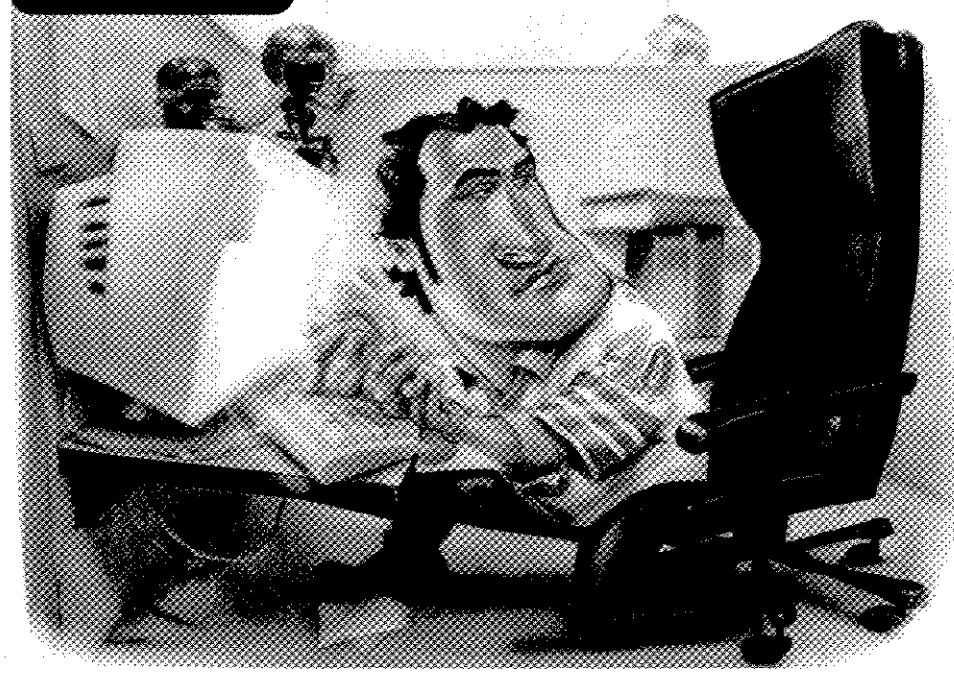


ILLUSTRATION BY GARY LONGE

STUDS & DUDS

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