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IN THIS WEEK'S MARCH 8, 2010 ISSUE:

SID THE KID COMES THROUGH FOR CANADA—WILL HE (AND OTHER NHL STARS) BE BACK FOR SOCHI?

NFL DRAFT: COULD GERALD MCCOY AND NDAMUKONG SUH BE THE FIRST DEFENSIVE TACKLES EVER TO GO 1-2?

DAVID WRIGHT'S PLAN TO BOOST HIS POWER NUMBERS AND THE METS' MORALE

HOW FORMER SOONER RECRUITS SCOTTIE REYNOLDS AND DAMION JAMES—"A MODERN-DAY HOOPS ODD COUPLE"—HAVE MADE A LASTING IMPACT AT VILLANOVA AND TEXAS

WHY THE LONE GOAL-SCORER IN AMERICA'S 1950 WIN OVER ENGLAND—ONE OF THE BIGGEST UPSETS IN WORLD CUP HISTORY—WAS MARKED FOR DEATH



(NEW YORK – March 2, 2010) – This week's March 8, 2010, issue of Sports Illustrated, on newsstands tomorrow, features Olympic hero Sidney Crosby with the billing THE KID COMES THROUGH FOR CANADA. SI senior writer Michael Farber recaps the epic gold medal game between the U.S. and Canada and delves into hockey's hot-button debate: whether or not NHL players should be back for the 2014 Games in Sochi. Says IOC president Jacques Rogge (*page 34*): **"Do not forget one thing—the ratings of the final of the Olympic Games are way higher than the ratings of the final of the Stanley Cup. So this is a fantastic promotion for hockey in North America."**

Crosby's game-winning overtime goal not only sent Canada into a frenzy, it may have also prevented a full-fledged American embrace of hockey. Farber writes: **"If Zach Parise's opportunistic goal with 24.4 seconds left in regulation had led to a U.S. victory instead of merely setting up Crosby's star turn in overtime, this could have been the tipping point that brought hockey in from the American cold. As [USA Hockey G.M. Brian] Burke says, 'A gold medal immortalizes a team.' A silver can tarnish in the four years before Sochi, when NHL players might, or might not, be going."**

NFL COMBINE: THE BIG DRAFT DECISION – PETER KING

Defensive tackles are entering a lucrative age in the NFL, and SI senior NFL writer Peter King (twitter.com/si_peterking) weighs in on the draft prospects of Gerald McCoy and Ndamukong Suh, who could be the first pair of tackles to ever go 1-2. King traces Suh's development into college football's most feared defensive player (*page 58*): **"Over his final two seasons in Lincoln he had 19 ½ sacks and 32 quarterback pressures as he became the most feared defensive player in college football. Strangely, despite having the performance of his life in the Big 12 title game, Suh frets that he was responsible for Nebraska's loss, which came on a Texas field goal as time expired. 'I blocked three other kicks last season,' he said glumly. 'I should have blocked that one, without a doubt. It will always bother me, the way that game ended.'"**

DAVID WRIGHT: THE TRIALS OF MR. MET – LEE JENKINS

SI senior writer Lee Jenkins (twitter.com/SI_LeeJenkins) reveals David Wright's plan to bring the Mets back from their horrendous, 70-win campaign in 2009 and restore his status as a premiere power hitter despite the Mets' cavernous home field (*page 48*): **"The first time Wright tried to hit a ball out of Citi Field, tractors were still parked in center. It was September 2008 and not a blade of grass had been laid, but Wright wanted to check out his new digs. So he and a few teammates crossed the street from Shea Stadium and one by one dug into the batter's box. Wright went first. 'It looked big,' says outfielder Nick Evans. 'But it was cold and windy that day, so you couldn't tell how big. I just remember that David wouldn't get out of the box until he hit the first home run.'"**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL: DIVIDED, THEY'VE CONQUERED – KELLI ANDERSON

SI senior writer Kelli Anderson takes a closer look Villanova's Scottie Reynolds and Texas's Damion James. These two senior leaders had originally planned to play together at Oklahoma before then-coach Kelvin Sampson's departure for Indiana. After awkward adjustment periods at their new schools, both players have left profound impacts on their programs and coaches (*page 52*).

Reynolds was initially unwilling to open up to Wildcats coach Jay Wright. Nowadays, Reynolds and Wright are always on the same wavelength: **“Wright believes he finally has the kind of relationship with Reynolds that [Reynolds’s AAU coach Gary] Hall had.... That’s not all: Because of Reynolds, Wright is now more willing to go after high-profile recruits, such as the four top 50 players in this year’s Villanova freshman class. ‘Scottie has given me faith that even great players can remain humble and grounded,’ he says.”**

Like Reynolds, James had trouble connecting with his new coach, Rick Barnes, before establishing a sense of trust: **“Before the game at Oklahoma in James’s sophomore year, Barnes shooed everyone out of the locker room but James and launched into a *help-me-help-you* talk.... James confessed that Barnes’s use of profanity, which is an invitation to fight in the projects [of James’s hometown of Nacogdoches, Texas], bothered him.... Barnes promised James that he’d quit cursing. (By all accounts he has.) The next day James thanked him. Since then they have grown close. ‘Damion has taught me a lot,’ says Barnes.”**

JOE GAETJENS: THE HERO WHO VANISHED – ALEXANDER WOLFF

SI senior writer Alexander Wolff tells the tragic tale of Joe Gaetjens, a Haitian émigré who scored the lone goal in the U.S.’s 1–0 win over England in the 1950 World Cup—perhaps the greatest upset in World Cup history. In most countries Gaetjens would have been idolized. But in the U.S. he was ignored, and in his native Haiti he was marked for death (*page 62*): **“Gaetjens’s goal truly was a broadside with global reverberations, even if only one U.S. journalist, Dent McSkimming of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, made the trip to Belo [Horizonte, Brazil], paying his own way at that. The newspapers burned by fans in the stands to celebrate the Americans’ victory could have symbolized the way news of the achievement would go up in smoke back home.”**

Gaetjens’s hero status in Haiti soon meant nothing with the rise of François (Papa Doc) Duvalier, who used his infamous citizens’ militia, the Tontons Macoute, to target whole families for even the suspicion of a rebellious act by one of its members. Relatives pleaded with Joe to flee the country and join them in exile until his disappearance on July 8, 1964: **“Most family members describe an endgame in which the Macoutes draw their guns and slip into Joe’s car, with one taking the driver’s seat and the other a seat in back. [Joe’s cousin Guy] Laraqe, who had dashed desperately around town that day trying to find and warn his cousin, says he reached the shop only to catch a glimpse of Joe through the barred back window of a gray Macoute paddy wagon. Either way, Laraqe and Joe’s mother-in-law were the last family members to see him alive.”**

Gaetjens was taken to Fort Dimanche, a former ammunition depot and riflery range that Duvalier transformed into a center of detention and death. How Gaetjens met his end remains a mystery—he was one of some 3,000 people to go into Dimanche and never come out: **“As many as 33 prisoners would be wedged into each of 10 communal cells, which measured about 10 by 12 feet. When a cell hit capacity, the prisoners would sleep in shifts. They breathed the stench of their waste and dressed their sores with urine.... Knowing that each corpse would be thrown into the mass grave among the cactuses out back, inmates would etch the names of the dead on the walls to remember them. Years later, in a visit to Fort Dimanche after its closing, [Joe’s youngest sister] Matho found her brother’s name.”**

SI PLAYERS NBA POLL

Who is the dirtiest player in the NBA? (*page 15*)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Reggie Evans, Raptors F...21% | Anderson Varejao, Cavs C...5% |
| Ron Artest, Lakers F...13% | Kobe Bryant, Lakers G...4% |
| Andres Nocioni, Kings F...6% | |

[Based on a survey of 173 NBA players]

FAST FACTS Only Varejao (85th, 5.2 fouls) and Nocioni (89th, 5.1) are among the top 100 in fouls per 48 minutes. Evans has been injured and doesn’t have enough playing time to qualify.... Three of the top six vote-getters, including Hawks center Zaza Pachulia (4%), have played internationally.... The NBA’s leading fouler, Wizards forward-center Fabricio Oberto (9.1 per 48 minutes), received zero votes.

SCORECARD: WHEN MILLER TOOK MANHATTAN – CHRIS BALLARD

SI senior writer Chris Ballard (twitter.com/SI_ChrisBallard) pens a spirited review of *Winning Time*, the new documentary about Reggie Miller’s battles with the Knicks in the 1990s (*page 14*): **“The film refutes the notion that the league endured a barren period during the post-Michael (and inter-Michael) years. Sure Jordan appealed to a wide audience, but for true fans, series like Knicks-Pacers, and later Kings-Lakers, were just as appealing. These were *teams* playing *teams*, cities pitted against cities. And nowhere was this better embodied than in the feud between [Spike] Lee and Miller.”**

POINT AFTER: MOURNING GLORY – SELENA ROBERTS

SI senior writer Selena Roberts describes how Canada’s Joannie Rochette soldiered on after her mother’s sudden passing (*page 76*): **“The Olympics is triumph’s pulpit. The gospel is simple: *Try*. Joannie kept going.... After Joannie ended her long program, she awaited her scores and looked into the TV camera. ‘Usually I start by saying, Hi, Mom,’ she said later. She stopped herself. She was aware of the obvious: The skate was part of a routine, but everything else was different now.”**

MORE OLYMPIC COVERAGE

FIGURE SKATING: South Korea's Kim Yu-na delivered a pair of perfect performances, meeting her country's enormous expectations and bringing herself a semblance of peace. SI special contributor E.M. Swift looks back at how Kim convinced Brian Orser to be her coach, in 2006 (*page 38*): **"Kim and her mother came to Toronto to have choreographer David Wilson create a program for her. Kim, 15 at the time, was having problems with some of her jumps. Wilson asked Orser, who was just helping out, to take a look at them. Orser was still touring professionally, but after he'd worked with her for 20 minutes, Kim wanted him to coach her full time."**

BOBSLEDDING: SI staff writer David Epstein explains how the United States 1 sled—a.k.a. Team Night Train—won America its first men's bobsledding gold in six decades, thanks to NASCAR engineering (*page 40*): **"[Driver Steve] Holcomb's win ended a U.S. drought in the event, but it was no fluke. U.S. bobsledding got a jolt in 1992 with the start of the Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project: Former Daytona 500 winner Geoff Bodine, frustrated that U.S. sledders had to raise their own money to buy second-hand German sleds, cofounded a nonprofit company to design and finance American-made sleds with proprietary American technology."**

AERIALS: SI senior writer Austin Murphy (twitter.com/si_austinmurphy) witnessed Jeret (Speedy) Peterson land his signature trick—a five-twist, three-flip maneuver called the Hurricane—en route to a silver medal. It was sweet redemption for Peterson, who was sent home from the 2006 Games for drunken disorderly conduct, lost over half a million dollars in real estate investments and tried to kill himself (*page 44*): **"I've been in a great place in my life for the last year. I still have bouts of depression, but it's much more manageable. I don't do dumb things that make me feel guilty anymore."**

NORDIC COMBINED: SI senior writer Phil Taylor highlights the historic efforts of the U.S. Nordic combined team—in particular Billy Demong (*page 43*): **"Demong's gold in the large hill event was the highlight of the Games for the Nordic team, but it might not be No. 1 on his personal list of Olympic memories. In a 24-hour period he became a gold medalist, was informed he had been chosen to carry the U.S. flag in the closing ceremonies and proposed to his girlfriend, Katie Koczynski."**

THE COMEBACK COUNTRY: Over the course of the Olympics, SI senior writer S.L. Price talked with several key figures from the host country, whose athletes redeemed a Games that seemed headed for disaster with a Winter Olympic record 14 gold medals. Said skeleton racer Mellisa Hollingsworth: **"It's not 'Canadian,' I know, but I love this newfound confidence that we have in our abilities. We always had talent and great athletes, and maybe they didn't shine on the world stage because they lacked support. Now we've had that support; it's exciting. We should not be ashamed of it. I love the attitude that we're going to come in and own the podium."**

A 2010 OLYMPIC DIARY IN 8 VOICES: SI writers Tim Layden, Austin Murphy, Alexander Wolff, Phil Taylor, Michael Farber, Brian Cazeneuve, Luke Winn and David Epstein each left Vancouver with a unique set of memories. From a rain-drenched Great One and a redeemed downhill maven to a bronze medal-winning cross country skier with five broken ribs and a collapsed lung, the Olympic spirit was alive and well at the 2010 Games. In this eight-part diary, each of these writers recalls exactly what they saw and how it moved them (*page 32*).

SIGOLF+: JUNIOR EXAM

To get a snapshot of tomorrow's golfers, SI surveyed the entire field at an American Junior Golf Association tournament, soliciting the teenagers' opinions on golf topics, school matters, politics, the use of performance-enhancing drugs and more. The questions asked included (*page G14*):

In recent years, what's the longest you've gone without touching a club?

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Less than a week...37% | One month...14% |
| One week...29% | Two months...7% |
| Two weeks...13% | |

Are you aware of any golfers using recreational drugs?

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Yes...11% | No...89% |
|-----------|----------|

Is your home course a private club or a public facility?

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Private...71% | Public...29% |
|---------------|--------------|

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