

Weathering a wild day at the races

Crazy Sunday:

What a strange, strange Sunday it was at Arlington Park.

It went a little something like this:

First race run in a downpour.

Delay until storm eases.

Second race run with remnants of storm — including lightning — still lingering.

Some jockeys not thrilled.

Rest of card canceled.

Weather improves dramatically.

Fans sent home confused and unhappy.

Bottom line: Not good.

Oh, Jim Tressel:

That sweater vest fooled me. Very clever.

Shaq Prius:

Sure it was difficult to watch the once-mighty Shaquille O'Neal struggle the past few seasons, but there's no denying that in his prime he was a dominant force and always one of the most interesting and charismatic guys the NBA has seen — on and off the court.

He'll be missed.

Question:

What exotic places did the BP Cup visit over the winter?



SPELLMAN'S SCORECARD

And a follow-up:

Who actually won the BP Cup last year?

Reaching new heights:

With his win last week over Lee Westwood in a playoff, Northwestern grad Luke Donald became the No. 1-ranked golfer in the world.

Side note: The only pro-am I ever played in was with Donald at Cog Hill. Can almost guarantee it was the only time he ever had a tee shot disrupted by an idiot, ahem, walking headfirst into a tent pole during his downswing.

Just asking:

If Carlos Zambrano was in the lineup every day, would he be your second- or third-best hitter?

Saluting the General:

In a nice touch Monday, Red Rabbit Racing's General Charley, one of the most popular horses in recent years at Arlington Park, was given a little retirement party.

The 9-year-old was brought to the winner's circle, where he was presented with a special trophy consisting of carrots and celery as replays of his five-race winning streak last season at AP were shown on the infield screen.

Enough already:

If I see that guy singing into a spatula about free flooring one more time I'm gonna lose it.

Safety first?

One of the most amazing things about watching highlights of Indianapolis 500's of yore is seeing the flagman actually ON the track waving the checkered flag as cars zoom past, missing him by just a few feet.

That was just plain crazy.

Straight up:

Alfonso Soriano for Adam Dunn.

Are you kidding?

Of all guys, did it have to be Raffi Torres who scored the game-winner for Vancouver in the Canucks' 1-0 win in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Finals on Wednesday night?

Oops:

Late in Sunday's running of the Coca Cola 600, Jimmie Johnson's engine blew and FOX immediately switched to the audio between Johnson and crew chief Chad Knaus.

That turned out to be a mistake because what they got was Knaus yelling, "You've got to be (bleeping) kidding me!"

Ah, live TV.

Tit for tat:

Would slots at the track mean a lower admission price?

Perfect pitch:

I've heard a gazillion versions of the national anthem over the years, and for pure spine-tingling inspiration, nothing tops Jim Cornelson belting it out at a Blackhawks game.

But the award for best duo or group performance goes to the Punch Brothers for their



COURTESY OF FOUR FOOTED FOTOS

General Charley was a popular figure at Arlington Park over the years and made a lot of friends.

rendition before Saturday's Cubs game.

And that was the *only* redeeming thing about the entire day. The Cubs lost 10-0.

Wrong, but amusing:

"The Indy 500 is so boring, I'd rather watch Tim Duncan's Fundamentals instruction video,"

— Tweet by Darren Rovell, CNBC reporter