

RACKET SQUAD

RACKETEERS HEAD THE LIST FOR ALL CRIMES, BUT RACKETEERS IN THEMSELVES ARE MANY AND VARIABLE. CONFIDENCE MEN ARE JUST ONE OF THE HIERARCHY OF CROOKS, BUT ONE OF THE MOST VICIOUS GAMES IN DECEIT IS THE MANIPULATION OF THE SCORES IN SPORTS. HERE IS SUCH A TYPICAL CASE THAT CHEATED THE PUBLIC ---

THE BASKETBALL SCANDALS!

YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE! STOP WHERE YOU ARE!

NUTS, COPPERS! YOU GOTTA HIT US FIRST!

BANG

BANG

BANG

JOE SHUSTER
and
RAY ORRIN

SPORTS IN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT ONLY FOR ENTERTAINMENT, BUT FOR BUSINESS, TOO! THE PUBLIC FLOCKS TO SUCH EVENTS IN DROVES, IT EXPECTS FAIR-PLAY, EQUAL ODDS AND SKILL, BUT WHEN RACKETEERS TAKE OVER, SPORTS BECOMES A CON GAME!

THESE ARE THE TRUE INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED NOT LONG AGO. THE SPORT HAPPENED TO BE BASKETBALL -- ONE OF THE FASTEST, SKILLFUL GAMES IN THE NATION. LET'S SEE HOW THE RACKETEERS BEGAN THEIR WORK ...



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THE SCORE WAS ALMOST EVEN--AND TIME WAS RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT FOR THE TWO COLLEGE TEAMS, THE GALLERIES WERE SCREAMING --AND THE PLAYERS WERE MANEUVERING ABOUT WITH LIGHTNING SKILL ...



--IT'S THE GAME! ADAMS---WITH HIS BRILLIANT SET SHOT--SCORED AT THE LAST SECOND!



WE WON! THREE CHEERS FOR SCOTT ADAMS! YAY!


THANKS! BUT IT WAS TEAMWORK THAT DID IT!




TEAMWORK OR NOT, SCOTT ADAMS WAS THE STAR--AND AS USUAL, CELEBRATED HIS WIN WITH HIS FAMILY...



WELL--ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I HOPE I'M GOOD ENOUGH TO BE PROFESSIONAL! I HOPE I MAKE A MILLION BUCKS! HA, HA ...

THE MARK OF ANY YOUNG COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL PLAYER WAS TO MAKE A MILLION DOLLARS IN HIS CHOSEN SPORT, OF COURSE, AND SCOTT ADAMS WAS NO EXCEPTION. HIS DREAMS AT NIGHT WERE FILLED WITH SUCCESS, FAME AND FORTUNE ...



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FATE, HOWEVER, HAD PICKED ADAMS OUT TO STAR IN A DIFFERENT KIND OF GAME ALTOGETHER--THE CON GAME! A FEW WEEKS LATER, IN THE GYM LOCKER-ROOM...

LOOK--IT'S GREEN STUFF! IT'S GOOD! ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS TAKE IT EASY IN THE BEGINNING!

I DON'T LIKE BRIBES! WHO LET YOU IN HERE, ANYWAY?



I GOT WAIS. REMEMBER WHAT I SAID, KID. THINK IT OVER, THINK OVER YOUR FUTURE. YOU CAN LIVE-- AND GOOD!

GET LOST!



LOCAL RACKETEERS HAD FINALLY MOVED IN ON THE PRINCE OF SPORTS. SCOTT ADAMS, ANGRY THOUGH HE WAS OVER THE BRIBE, STILL COULDN'T HELP THINKING...

"FIVE HUNDRED! THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY FOR JUST ONE GAME!"



AND WHILE HE THOUGHT, HE PLAYED AS HE NEVER PLAYED BEFORE ...

THAT'S IT, BOY! SINK IT! GO! GO!

GOAL! ADAMS HAS SCORED!



SCOTT ADAMS WRESTLED WITH HIS TEMPTATION FOR MANY A DAY. THEN ONE NIGHT JUST THREE WEEKS LATER...

NOW YOU'RE BEING SMART, KID! JUST TAKE IT EASY. THAT'S ALL I ASK!

ALL RIGHT-- JUST THIS ONCE!

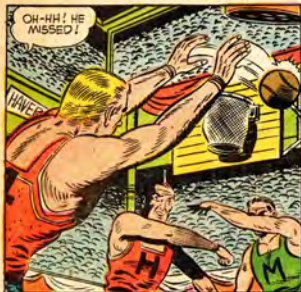


THE NEXT SCHEDULED GAME WAS WITH A TOUGH RIVAL TEAM. SCOTT ADAMS DIDN'T SEEM TO BE UP TO HIS USUAL STANDARD...

I CAN'T STALL MUCH LONGER. GUESS IT'S TIME TO MAKE A SHOW.



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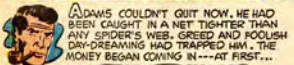
OH-HH! HE MISSED!



BUT IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE GAME, SCOTT ADAMS, STAR BASKETBALL PLAYER, REVERTED TO HIS USUAL FLASHING, BRILLIANT-SELF!

IT'S ANOTHER GOAL! ADAMS IS SIZZLING FINALLY!

YAAAAAY!



ADAMS COULDN'T QUIT NOW. HE HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN A NET TIGHTER THAN ANY SPIDER'S WEB. GREED AND FOOLISH DAY-DREAMING HAD TRAPPED HIM. THE MONEY BEGAN COMING IN---AT FIRST...



TWO GRAND! THAT'S PRETTY GOOD FOR A COLLEGE KID! HA, HA...

ADAMS WENT ON A BUYING SPREE TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF HIS GIRLFRIEND...



I'LL TAKE THIS ONE--AND THE OTHER TWO ALSO!

BUT HONEY---WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE MONEY?



DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR LITTLE HEAD, PEGGY! I JUST HIT A STROKE OF LUCK ON A GOOD INVESTMENT! YUP--IT'S A DURN GOOD INVESTMENT!

OH, SCOTT!



JUST STICK WITH ME A LITTLE LONGER, HONEY. WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH DOUGH TO BUY US ANYTHING WE WANT!

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MEANWHILE, REPORTS FROM LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WERE PILING IN TO ALL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS---
REPORTS OF CROOKS AND GAMBLERS...

CHECK ON THESE, WILL YOU? DAN--
HAUL THE GUYS ON THIS LIST IN FOR QUESTIONING! THERE'S TOO MANY OF 'EM IN TOWN ALL OF A SUDDEN!



MY OWN OFFICE HAS TRACED A FEW OF THEM TO THE SPORTS ARENAS. THEIR ALIBIS ARE TOO FAT, OUTWARDLY--THEY SEEM TO BE RESPECTING THE LAW, BUT I'LL CHECK IMMEDIATELY!



SCOTT ADAMS' SCHOOL WAS SET TO PLAY THE GAME OF THE SEASON IN THE BIG CITY GARDEN. IN A SMALL HOTEL AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...

THIS IS THE BIG ONE, KID, YOU'RE GONNA THROW IT, KID--AND THROW IT GOOD! WE GOT TOO MUCH STAKED OUT ON IT FOR CHANCE. STALLING!

BUT I CAN'T THROW THE GAME. I'VE NEVER THROWN A GAME!



THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME, KID--OR ELSE!

SMACKK



SCOTT WAS TOLD TO PLAY WITHOUT LETTING ON TO THE OTHERS WHAT HE HAD TOLD US. ADAMS PLAYED FEROCIOUSLY---SINKING SHOT AFTER SHOT...

AND THERE'S ANOTHER! WOW! THIS SCOTT ADAMS IS SENSATIONAL!



ADAMS BEGAN TO SEE HOW WRONG HE WAS, AFTER THAT BLOW. HE ALSO HAD SOME SENSE POUNDED INTO HIS HEAD. TWO HOURS AFTERWARDS, HE WAS FACING ME...

THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, SIR! I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY TO THINK I COULD DO IT!

YOU'LL HAVE TO STAND TRIAL, SCOTT. BUT WE CAN NAB OUR MEN AT LAST!



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BUT THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WEREN'T VERY ENTHUSIASTIC, AND DIRECTLY AFTER THE GAME ...

