

Pay T.V. just can't hang with Shaq

Not long after cable television became all but a necessity of the average American household, cable companies came up with a new and innovative idea that promised to revolutionize the entertainment industry.

This was, of course, the brilliant introduction of pay-per-view television — a phenomenon that brought motion pictures, sporting events and special happenings to the fingertips of any and every couch potato without enough initiative or ambition to get out of their recliners and actually go see a movie or once-a-year event.

Pay-per-view — along with its sidekicks microwave popcorn and Jolt Cola — brought profits to those marketing it, while also bringing

seemingly affordable and accessible entertainment to millions of waiting Americans.

What a brilliant idea. Customers were guaranteed amusement at any time they wanted it. Entertainment was just a phone call or remote control feature away. How could cable companies go wrong by catering to America's laziness?

By entering the world of sports, that's how.

Because when it comes to sporting events, the armchair entertainment source has done nothing but fall flat on its face. Cable companies have repeatedly offered short-lived, outrageous sporting events that end up having to do very little with sports and a whole lot with dollars.

Granted, in a boxing match, you as a couch-side spectator, get just what ring-side-folk get — either a spectacular fight pitting two world-class opponents against each other, or Mike Tyson fighting the fat kid that used to sit next to you in 6th-grade gym class — at a relatively lower cost. Even if you order a 45-second Tyson fight, you get what you pay for... and you don't have to dress up.

But beyond boxing, pay-per-view sports are by far the biggest entertainment sham that the American public has ever bought into.

The first pay T.V. flop that really ripped viewers off was NBC's Olympic telecast. Traditionally, the Olympics has offered sports fans and non-sports fans alike the chance to see some of the best athletes — nay some of the best competitors on this planet — showcase their talent.

But all the Olympic telecast really did was take some Olympic events away from network television, scatter them over several different pay channels and alienate people who didn't have cable at all.

Gee, thanks a lot.

Possibly the most preposterous idea of them all, however, is paying to watch college football games — a joint idea generated by ABC and ESPN.

Great. This means that if cable companies get their way and my favorite college football team is playing its archival, I will actually have to pay to sit on my crappy brown couch with a cheep beer in one hand and a bowl of popcorn in my lap just to watch the Ducks beat the Beavers senseless.

Unless, that is, my cable operator doesn't carry that game.

For example, when the Ducks played

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Watch out buddy



Members of the Club lacrosse team, Skyler Harrison and Jeff Erickson, push each other around in a drill during their practice on Wednesday. The team's first game is Nov. 11 at Chico State.

Tribe, Yankees take 2-0 lead in playoffs

■ **AL PLAYOFFS:** Eddie Murray's triple and home run wins game for Indians

CLEVELAND (AP) — Orel Hershisier and the playoffs are still a perfect mix.

Making his first postseason appearance since he won the clinching game of the 1988 World Series, Hershisier gave up three hits in 7 1-3 scoreless innings as the Cleveland Indians beat Boston 4-0 Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in the AL playoffs.

Eddie Murray homered and Omar Vizquel doubled home two runs for the Indians, who need only one more win in the best-of-five series. It continues Friday in Boston, with the Red Sox sending knuckleball pitcher Tim Wakefield against Cleveland's Charles Nagy.

The 37-year-old Hershisier boosted his record to 5-0 with a save and a 1.52 ERA in nine career postseason appearances, eight of them starts. He was the MVP of both the NL playoffs and the World Series for Los Angeles in 1988.

The Red Sox lost their 12th consecutive postseason game dating back to Bill Buckner's infamous error in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series, a string that was extended by a heartbreaking 5-4, 13-inning loss in Tuesday night's series opener.

Mo Vaughn and Jose Canseco, the third and fourth hitters in Boston's lineup, have gone a combined 0-for-20 with seven strikeouts in the two games.

Hershisier, signed by the Indians as a free agent in April partly because of his big-game experience, gave up three singles, walked two and set a Cleveland postseason

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American League Playoffs

Red Sox vs Indians

- **Series:** Cleveland Indians lead 2-0
- **Last night:** 4-0 shutout of the Boston Red Sox in Cleveland
- **Highlight:** Cleveland pitchers combine on three-hitter; Boston's Erik Hanson hurls four-hit complete game taking the loss.
- **Next game:** Friday

Mariners vs Yankees

- **Series:** New York Yankees lead 2-0
- **Last night:** 7-5 Yankee victory in New York
- **Highlight:** Jim Leyritz belted a two-run home run in the bottom of the 15th inning to beat the Mariners in the longest postseason game in baseball history.
- **Next game:** Friday

■ **AL PLAYOFFS:** Yankees, Mariners set new record for longest postseason game in history

NEW YORK (AP) — Jim Leyritz got his revenge against the Seattle Mariners.

Leyritz hit a two-run homer in the 15th inning Wednesday night, ending the longest game in AL playoff history and giving the New York Yankees a 7-5 victory and a 2-0 lead in the best-of-5 series.

"It's my first playoff game and it felt great watching that ball go over the fence," said Leyritz, who sat out Game 1 in favor of Mike Stanley. "I've been here five years and it's the first time I've seen the fans like this."

Leyritz, who vowed retaliation after he was hit in the face by Seattle's Randy Johnson on May 31, was hit again in this game after Ruben Sierra and Don Mattingly connected for consecutive home runs in the

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