

FIVE BURNING QUESTIONS

Q:

Are the Pats totally mind-fucked for '08?
Not since 1993 has a beaten team returned to the big game the following season, but don't count them out. "These Pats seem to be immune to everything," notes the NFL Network's Rich Eisen. "Losses to free agency, injury bugs, aging players... Tony Romo runs off to Cabo with Jessica Simpson and gets torched for it; Brady holes up with Gisele before the Super Bowl and nearly wins his fourth ring." Plus, they're virtually guaranteed a playoff spot thanks to a JV division featuring the Jets, Bills, and Dolphins. Let the Pats hating begin...again!



JANELLE STANGL POM SQUAD

Age: 21 • Philadelphia Eagles

What's the biggest misconception about cheerleaders?

People think, Oh, cheerleaders, it's all bubblegum and you're so happy all the time. But it is really a lot of hard work! We have to sit in splits for 10 minutes on each side, and it's really tough.

Is there anything unglamorous about it?

Well, I got bitten by bugs on our calendar shoot in the Dominican Republic. It was the worst itching I've ever felt. But our calendar is amazing! Everything was made out of recycled material. Go green!

Would the Eagles be as eco-friendly if their team color were red?
Probably. It's a big issue. Our practice complex has solar energy.



RB BRANDON JACOBS, GIANTS

When it comes to the thunder-and-lightning running game, this 6'4", 264-pound back brings the noise.



Just once, thought No. 27, I'd like to be on the bottom.

Q
&
A

DOES IT UPSET YOU WHEN PEOPLE SAY LAST YEAR'S SUPER BOWL WAS THE GREATEST UPSET EVER? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GOT THERE BY LOTTERY.

You know how the world works. The Patriots were 18-0, and they deserved all the credit they had going into that game. They still lost.

WHO'S THE BIGGEST JOKESTER ON THE SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS?

Eli Manning, without a doubt. He's always taking people's cell phones and switching them to Spanish, so guys can't understand anything and they can never figure out how to switch them back.

YOU'RE A BIG TALKER ON THE FIELD. HAS ANYONE EVER SAID ANYTHING TO YOU THAT CRACKED YOU UP?

Pacman Jones. One game he was saying things like, "I'm rich. I've got millions. You broke, boy? You want some money?" It was the single most irrelevant thing anyone ever said to me on the field.

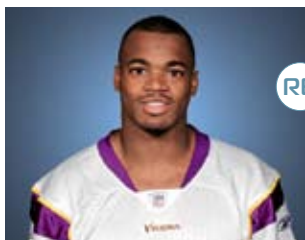
HAD ANY FUN ENDORSEMENT OPPORTUNITIES SINCE THE SUPER BOWL?

I have my own line of ice cream: Louisiana Pecan Crunch. It's got all my favorite flavors in there: pecan, chocolate, caramel. I've eaten quarts of it. But I'll be down to 255 at training camp.



BRAYLON EDWARDS • CLEVELAND BROWNS

A fourth-year receiver, Edwards had a breakout season in '07. Second only to Randy Moss in TD receptions, his 16 scores and 1,289 receiving yards earned him his first Pro Bowl nod and helped the perennially basement-dwelling Browns to a 10-6 record. Perhaps more impressive? His winning wardrobe. "My style is similar to Neon Deion Sanders," he says. "But I don't do the hats."



ADRIAN PETERSON • MINNESOTA VIKINGS

The Raiders, Lions, Browns, Bucs, Cards, and Redskins should be kicking themselves. Why? Each chose not to draft "All Day" in 2007. Last November the Pro Bowl back (who has been compared to Jim Brown) took the single-game rushing mark with 296 yards against the Chargers. "I want to be the best player to ever play this game," Peterson has proclaimed. He's off to a decent start.

JIMMALUCCI (JANELLE)