

A sportswriter's life can be pretty good, yuh know

There are certain things about being a sportswriter that are most distressing. Oh sure, it has its advantages. Passes to the big game of the season. Free lunch in the press box. A lot of times you find yourself strutting the red carpet at events. The treatment is fit for a king.

But not everything comes up roses. One of the most difficult things about the job is the post-game interview. Some writers thrive on them, but chances are the athlete in question is not always responsive or colorful.

Edwin Newman of NBC News said he once heard an athlete respond to a ques-

tion in an interview in the following way. "You know, how do you know, you know?"

That is not really a totally surprising response. The phrase "you know" is the greatest black mark on the English language. It permeates the post-game interview. If the sportswriter were to quote sources verbatim, entire forests would have to be felled to come up with enough paper to include all the "you knows".

Great caution also must be taken to avoid the question that can be answered "yes" or "no."

"Coach, do you think you can win the big game against State U.?"

"Yes," says Coach without blinking. The air hangs thick between you for the next 10 seconds (it seems like 10 hours) as you stare blankly across his desk at each other.

You finally recover enough to say, "Why?"

He zings right back at you with the appropriate and patterned response.

"Well, we're well balanced and playing pretty good defense and pretty good offense."

tween awful and good, but to what degree we'll never know.

"How do you think your team played tonight, Coach?"

Pretty good. We hit the boards pretty good, but our defense was poor. But our shot selection was pretty good. . . . And so on and so on.

The athletes have their own responses ingrained as well. Here's a sampling:

"I was just trying to do my best." That's opposed to "I was just trying to do my worst." Anyone who said that surely would be kicked off the team, but it would make great copy.

"I don't care if I don't make all-conference as long as we win the national championship." Now come on. What athlete would not like to make all-conference and cut all the clippings out of the local paper extolling his prowess?

"This was a big win for us." And the rest of those wins were little ones, right?

Oh well. I suppose it make the job a challenge. It tests your imagination and ability to make your copy colorful.

"Spice it up," scream the editors. "This stuff is dull, dull, dull."

Actually, we think we do a pretty good job. Yuh know.

jim kay / mike mccarthy

Great stuff, Coach. What you were really hoping for Coach to respond with was, "Because I hate their guts and I told my boys to get out there and kill 'em."

But these answers are few and far between.

The second great black mark on our language is the phrase "pretty good." What does that mean? It must be somewhere be-

As a consumer, everyone has the right to consumer education, according to President Gerald Ford in 1975.

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puzzle crossword

Edited by EUGENE T. MALESKA

ACROSS

- 1 An arm or a leg
- 5 In shape, as a boxer
- 10 Sun oneself
- 14 Verbal
- 15 Bridge card above nine
- 16 Italian wine town
- 17 Jab
- 18 Defeated, in a way
- 20 Largest city in N.J.
- 22 Printing measures
- 23 Crie. of pain
- 24 Last of the count
- 25 Item for a dinghy
- 27 Oriental nurses
- 30 Boxer-manager agreements
- 36 Kind of wolf
- 37 Away from weather
- 38 Pugnacious child
- 39 Did business at the box office
- 40 Radar terms
- 41 Crimson Tide, for short
- 42 Baseball brothers' name
- 43 — Ridge (famed race horse)
- 44 Kaffir warriors
- 45 Retreat in the ring
- 47 Words from the pit
- 48 Victorian or vulgar
- 49 Founder of Dadaism
- 50 On the double
- 53 Pittsburgh catcher and wrestling expert

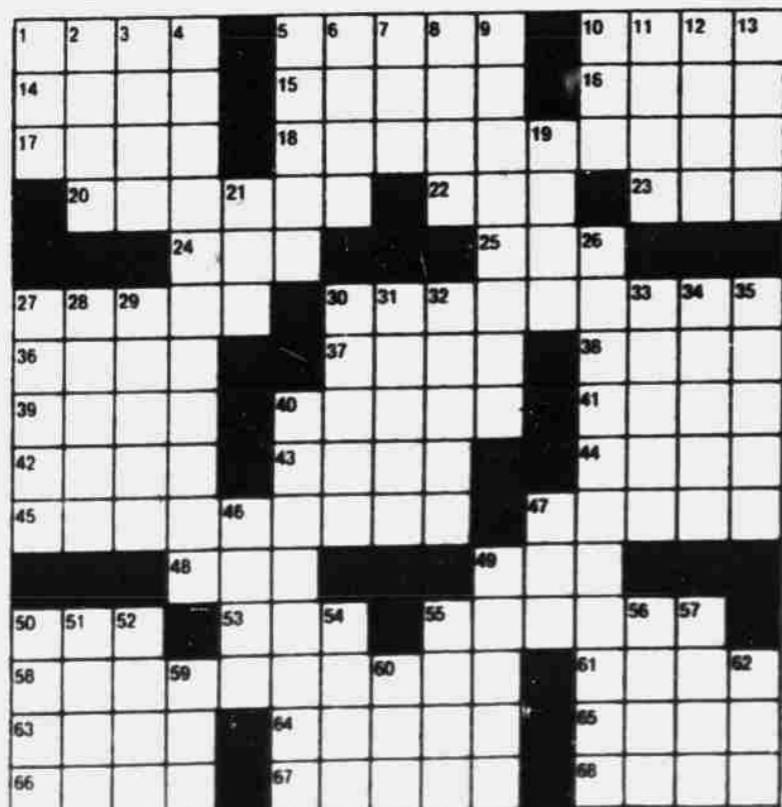
- 55 Good news on Wall St.
- 58 Potential haymaker
- 61 Part of speech
- 63 Sills's forte
- 64 Climb into the ring
- 65 Kind of root
- 66 Labyrinth
- 67 Isn't illiterate
- 68 Command, old style

DOWN

- 1 Truncate
- 2 Word with fisted or handed
- 3 Manufacture
- 4 Lost a fight: Slang
- 5 Clipped
- 6 Former Yankee manager

- 7 Picnic attendee
- 8 Ring appurtenance
- 9 Stages, as fights
- 10 Taboo
- 11 Anent
- 12 Mulligan, e.g.
- 13 Chocolate and Gaviilan
- 19 River to the Danube
- 21 He lost to D.D.E.
- 26 Illegal blow
- 27 Great horse of 1942
- 28 Dough or bread
- 29 Vietnam city devastated in 1972
- 30 Old word for warm
- 31 Three-time A.L. batting champ
- 32 One of India's neighbors

- 33 Muscular contraction
- 34 Home of the Buccaneers
- 35 Step
- 40 Easy fight
- 46 Urge along
- 47 Manly — of self-defense
- 49 Mimes
- 50 Hyde Park vehicle
- 51 Tennyson poem
- 52 Short test
- 54 Normal muscle tension
- 55 No longer new
- 56 Rake
- 57 Central points
- 59 Scotch negative
- 60 Hagen of theater
- 62 After deductions



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