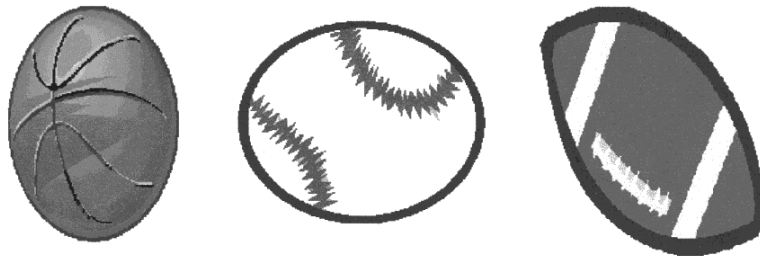


OBNOXIOUS ATHLETE



THE BOARD GAME

Once in an era comes an athlete like you: someone who excels in all three major sports, baseball, football, and basketball. You're set to make millions, bask in glory, and become a role model to a nation. But can you make it through one year of professional competition without your greed and ego ruining your career? This is the game that lets you find out.

1) The game covers one full year as you tackle three major sports. In baseball, you're a star outfielder, in football, a terrific quarterback, and in basketball, a famous forward. The game begins in the spring with baseball season, goes through autumn and winter with football, and into the new calendar year with basketball. The object of the game is to accumulate enough good will with your play to offset the damage done by your constant contract demands, suspensions, and behavioral indiscretions. All you need to do to win the game is get through the year with more pluses than minuses and you're set for life. (Well, maybe not for life.) Play solitaire or go head to head with another narcissistic dope.

2) Each time you enter a new sport, you of course must first stage a holdout to get more money. The Holdout Board is where you begin the game. It's March and time for spring training, but you're not there, sitting out instead while you wangle a "fair" contract. Note on the scoresheet that the game begins in March and ends the next April. You will stage three holdouts during the year, one before you report for each team in your new sport. The rest of the time, you'll actually be playing. Note that you never make it to the playoffs in any sport. This is because your teams never make it that far. Whether this is just because of a lack of talent or that you're constantly bringing your teams down with your antics is open for debate.

3) So now it's March and you're holding out. You will get through this phase by rolling one die several times, each time adding a day to your holdout. For example, if the first die roll gives you a result of 4, place your token on Day Four of the holdout. When you roll again and get, say, a 2, you'll then move your marker to Day Six of the holdout, and so on.

Holding out for a good contract is all about the money, though of course you're always insisting it's not. Every day that you hold out, you boost your contract by \$200,000. Keep track of this on the scoresheet. The more money you hold out for, the more Perception points you can buy when people really start to get sick of you. On the other hand, the longer you hold out, the more Perception points you might lose. Keep track of your money made and Perception points gained or lost on the scoresheet.

Every time your marker comes to rest on a space on the Holdout Board which features a quote from you, you lose the number of Perception points shown in parentheses. This is because, frankly, every time you open your mouth to defend your holdout, the public sees you more and more as a selfish, coddled millionaire. Note that you'll almost certainly begin your year with a negative number of Perception points, and you lose more and more every time you open your mouth! It's up to you to let your play on the field make up for that.

You can voluntarily end your holdout at any time and start playing. Also, note that some spaces on the Holdout Board tell you that your agent has caved and that your holdout is over. And after forty days, it's definitely done.

The Season

1) Ready to finally begin to play ball? You will now progress through the months of the season, rolling the dice and accumulating or losing Perception points. Each month will feature three consecutive dice rolls, after which you'll move on to the next month. Roll the dice and combine them, reading the darker die first, to get your result. For example, a dark 6 and a white 3 results in a 63. Note what happens on the game boards and keep track of your Perception point total on the scoresheet. You gain points when the number in parentheses is a positive, and you lose points when it's a negative. If you ever roll the same result twice during the same month, don't use that result again. Instead, you are said to have once again engaged in a similar action, either good or bad, and you must double the number of Perception points you lose (or gain). If you roll the same result a third time, triple the number of points lost or gained. Either you're playing fabulously well or you're just not learning from your obnoxious mistakes.

2) At the end of your second April in pro sports, you suffer a leg injury during an on-court brawl you have no business getting involved in. You immediately declare yourself done for the year without even waiting for the analysis of team doctors, and it's time to re-evaluate your career. If you end the year with zero or a positive number of Perception points, there's still money out there and something of a career to be had. You'll go to the Bright Future Chart, roll the dice one last time, add them together, and see how you wound up in life. If you finish the year with a negative number of Perception points, bad news. None of the teams in any sports league want you back, having all agreed you're not worth the hassle. Go to the Blown Opportunity Chart, roll the dice, add them together, and prepare yourself for the worst.

Regardless of the result you get on the Bright Future Chart, you are said to have won the game. If you're ending things with the other chart, though, you've lost. And lost big. You loser.

When playing head-to-head, you win the game if you accumulate more Perception points.

Saving Face

If you're getting a bad feeling that you're going to end the year with a negative number of Perception points, it may be time to behave yourself. At any time during the season, but only once per game and *only* immediately upon rolling an 11, 22, 33, 44, 55, or 66 on any chart, you can employ the Shut Up and Play option. You do this by cashing in some or all of the money you've banked during your holdouts in order to buy back some Perception points at a cost of \$500,000 per point. Essentially what you're doing is buying goodwill from your team and the fans by cleaning up your act for a while. This costs you money because by playing less for gaudy stats than for a team concept, you're just not going to earn as much when contract time rolls around. We all know that big numbers make the big money, and this rule reflects that. But sometimes you may not have a choice but to, God forbid, subjugate your ego and hunger for cash for a sustained career in pro sports.

Remember, you can only buy back Perception points once per game, and only immediately after rolling an 11, 22, 33, 44, 55, or 66 on any chart during the season. If you roll one of these numbers and decide not to shut up and play, you won't have the opportunity to do it until you roll one of those numbers again.

You may not want to spend all your money on Perception points, however. There are a few results on the playing boards which allow you to buy your way out of trouble. The cost of making the trouble go away, meaning you will lose no Perception points because of the described incident, is shown in parentheses. If you can afford to make the problem disappear, by all means do it. If you can't afford to solve the problem financially, or you just don't want to, then you lose that number of Perception points shown. Ouch!

Good luck, obnoxious athlete! Have fun getting ensnared in the same troubles that have befallen many of today's top stars of pro sports. Most of what happens to you is based on actual events and comments from the sporting world. Thanks, guys, for providing such ace material!

Obnoxious Athlete: The Board Game

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March: The Baseball Spring Training Holdout

You'll play this portion of the game using the Holdout Board.

April: Baseball Season

11-12	You have a three homerun game! (+2)
13-14	You clout a walk-off homerun in the bottom of the fifteenth inning! (+2)
15-16	You embark on a sweet little twelve game hitting streak! (+2)
21-22	You collect seven hits in a doubleheader! (+2)
23-24	You're given player of the week honors! (+2)
25-26	You notch a five hit game! (+2)
31-32	You become mired in an 0 for 22 streak! (-1)
33-34	You drop two foul balls in the same inning! (-1)
35-36	You whiff on three pitches with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth! (-1)
41-42	Here's you on your manager's decision to have you lay down a bunt in the eighth inning to get a runner into scoring position: "The people don't come to see some dude get to second base. They come to see me knock the ball over the fence. It was kind of a waste of time." (You bunted foul three times and struck out.) (-1)
43-44	You sue to have a collectible baseball card withdrawn because you think the photo on it suggests you've only hit a single, when you wish to be known as a homerun hitter. (-1)
45-46	Your first commercial is for a local car insurance firm of dubious reputation. Your delivery of your two lines is so wooden and embarrassing they have to overdub your voice with that of a little-known Belgian porn star. (-1)
51-52	Upon hitting a homerun, you take a bow before you even begin to run the bases. The crowd is, shall we say, displeased. (-1)
53-54	You jump into the stands to fight a fan who you think threw beer on you. In reality, it was only a few drops of rain. You are suspended for ten games and forced into both anger management classes and a six-step program designed to teach you the difference between beer and rain. (-1)
55-56	When your team's starting pitcher throws a perfect game, you catch the final out and immediately refuse to give up the ball unless you are guaranteed half the profits from its sale. (-1)
61-62	A fly ball bounces off your head and into the stands for a grand slam. You later tell the media that you were dizzy from an undiagnosed concussion you suffered during a charity golf outing the day before. (-1)
63-64	So intimidated by a power pitcher's tendency to come in high and tight, you bail out of the batter's box on every pitch, striking out harmlessly. The hometown crowd boos you so harshly that you have no choice but to give them the finger, accepting a five game suspension. (-4)
65-66	Upon finding yourself pencilled into the lineup for both games of a doubleheader, you quickly call the general manager and remind him that your contract states you never have to play both games of a doubleheader. Other players hear of this and soon everyone is trying to negotiate for this privilege. (-1)

May: Baseball Season

11-12	You pound two grand slams in a game! (+2)
13-14	You go on an incredible 20 for 40 streak! (+2)
15-16	You knock in eight runs in a single game! (+2)
21-22	Your daring steal of home wins a game! (+2)
23-24	You collect three stolen bases in a game! (+2)
25-26	Your steroid-fueled tape measure homerun breaks a stadium record! (+2)
31-32	A power outage for you! The homeruns just aren't coming! (-1)
33-34	An 0 for 5 night for you features five strikeouts! (-1)
35-36	Your bizarre baserunning error costs your team the game! (-1)
41-42	Celebrating at home plate after a fairly meaningless homerun, you wiggle your butt a little, inventing the "home run dance", which immediately spreads to other moronic players who also can't get enough glory. (-4)
43-44	In response to being dropped two places in the batting order, you say to the media, "This could mean a few less at-bats for me....I have a bonus tied to getting 500 at-bats, so this is basically stealing money out of my pocket." (-1)
45-46	In a baseball first, you lodge an official protest against an official scorer's ruling of a fielding error against you. You then lodge official protests against every single error you commit, demanding the league review every one you make in the hopes of helping your fielding percentage. Finally the league refuses to acknowledge any more of your protests and won't even return your calls. (-1)
51-52	You are so fond of your obnoxious self-given nickname, "The Lord", you try to sue to have it sewn onto your jersey instead of your real last name. Your manager informs you that you will never play a single inning again if you go through with the lawsuit and you retract it, claiming in the press that your right to free speech has been violated but that you will "rise above it". (-1)
53-54	You were pretty sure you only fathered one child with a vapid blonde groupie, but nope, it turns out that redhead in Detroit is also carrying. Nice going. (\$1 million or -2)
55-56	You begin dating a celebrity, a rock-stupid actress on a low-rated sitcom. When she breaks your heart, you have to miss two games to recover. You wind up marrying her three weeks later and then divorcing her five weeks after that. (-1)
61-62	You punch a bouncer in a Miami nightclub forty times or so while your friends hold him down and are arrested. You pay the bouncer off with four free tickets to a game and a promise to leave a Happy Birthday message on his girlfriend's answering machine, and all charges are dropped. (-1)
63-64	While paying a very rare visit to your brother, you notice your nephew is playing a baseball board game from the mid-eighties. He proudly points out to you that the game company is still making player card sets for it and has done a card representing you. You immediately get on the phone with your lawyer to investigate if you have the right to be compensated for the tiny game company's use of your name. It turns out that you do, and because the company cannot possibly afford to pay you, your card must be re-issued with a fake name that sort of sounds like yours. Way to break a kid's heart. (-1)
65-66	Fielding a pop-up two rows into the third base stands, you take the opportunity to cop a feel from an attractive fan. It's caught on video but you claim you were merely trying to keep your balance. A sexual harassment suit is in the offing. (\$1 million or -2)

June: Baseball Season

11-12	You leave the outfield to actually pitch two shutout innings in a blowout! (+2)
13-14	You're leading the league in batting average! (+2)
15-16	You have back-to-back game winning RBI! (+2)
21-22	Your amazing diving catch in the ninth seals a victory! (+2)
23-24	Your miracle catch at the wall steals a homerun and seals a victory! (+2)
25-26	You shine in a great three game series against the most hated team in baseball! (How'd you guess it was the Yankees?) (+2)
31-32	Throwing to the wrong base costs your team the game! (-1)
33-34	You pinch hit into a triple play in extra innings to end a game! (-1)
35-36	You drop three fly balls in a single game! (-1)
41-42	You decide to have your agent sue to keep any highlight footage that puts your play in a negative light off the sports networks forever, claiming "defamation of character". The suit goes nowhere and you are relentlessly mocked. (-1)
43-44	Your bat explodes in a spray of cork in the first inning of a game. Your excuse? "I have a lot of enemies because I'm not afraid to be brave and speak my mind about things, so any one of them could have slipped that bat into my collection." (-4)
45-46	You refuse to stay in the same hotel as your team, claiming your contract promises a certain level of "private comfort". The team fines you again and again and you elect to simply pay the fine for the privilege of staying where you like, until the threat of suspension makes you change your mind. (-1)
51-52	After striking out four times in a game, you trot out an early life hardship to the media, saying, "Really it's a testament to me that I'm even able to be here playing today....a lot of kids who have their comic book collections stolen would never have been able to bounce back from it." (-1)
53-54	During an interview, you're not able to place the name "Roberto Clemente". You seem to think he was the husband on <i>I Love Lucy</i> . This comes about fifteen seconds after you've gone on and on about how "old school" you are. (-1)
55-56	Fitting in any tacky personal appearance you can, you score five hundred dollars for appearing for fifteen minutes at the opening of an Office Depot, during which you are caught trying to steal an overhead projector. (\$500,000 or -1)
61-62	A rain delay goes on far too long for your taste so you ask to leave the stadium and go home, promising to show up fifteen minutes early for batting practice the next day to even things out. It doesn't fly. (-1)
63-64	You suffer carpal tunnel syndrome from excessively playing video games in the clubhouse and miss three games. (-1)
65-66	Generous player that you are, you field a pop fly during a game and trot over to the bleachers to a handicapped boy in the first row, offering to sell the ball to him for just three dollars. (-1)

July: Baseball Season

11-12	You take over the league homerun lead! (+2)
13-14	Your spectacular dive over the catcher to touch home plate wins a game! (+2)
15-16	You hit homeruns in five straight games! (+2)
21-22	You collect ten hits in ten at-bats! (+2)
23-24	Your heroic grand slam wins a game in the bottom of the ninth! (+2)
25-26	Your key double in the ninth puts your team into first place! (+2)
31-32	You become mired in your worst hitting slump of the season! (-1)
33-34	Failing to run out a ground ball earns you jeers! (-1)
35-36	Your dropped foul ball with two out in the ninth leads to a game winning triple! This is promptly followed by a DUI arrest. (-1)
41-42	You decide to lend your name to a series of cheesy baseball mysteries which feature you as the "author". When asked if you ever actually wrote any part of these lousy books, you say, "The important thing is, I could write if I wanted to, and that really comes through on the page." (-1)
43-44	You bust up the dugout and the clubhouse when you are pinch-hit for in the late innings of a game. In doing so, you break your pinkie finger and miss a week of play. In private, your manager calls you "the stupidest human alive". (-4)
45-46	Your self-serving web site is hijacked by hackers, and for three weeks, while you remain completely oblivious, it becomes the number one Internet destination for news, links, and downloads for practitioners of bestiality. (-1)
51-52	You make a completely pointless guarantee of victory for one game out of 162, and then, when your team actually does win it, you won't shut up for a week about how brilliant a prognosticator you are. (-1)
53-54	Refusing to ride the team plane anymore after a particularly bumpy landing, you hire a private plane to take you where you need to go, claiming the team's pilots don't know what they're doing and your life is at risk. Within two weeks of your new arrangement, the plane you're on loses a wing as it taxis down the runway and you are forced back onto the team plane. Your teammates have taken the liberty of removing your usual seat. (-1)
55-56	You're caught using steroids and are immediately suspended, but you might be able to get your suspension reversed on a legal technicality. (\$2 million or -4)
61-62	You get caught taking a call on your cell phone on the bench during a game. In your defense, you claim that it was your girlfriend and that the two of you are in a very difficult patch in your relationship and you just couldn't ignore the call. (-1)
63-64	You forget how many outs there are twice in one game, costing your team two runs. You complain that the scoreboard should be much more visible to players in the outfield. (-1)
65-66	When a pitcher hits you in the leg with a pitch, you furiously charge the mound, but trip on the way there and go down face first into the grass, injuring your jaw. You miss two games as a precautionary measure. (-1)

August: The Football Camp Holdout

You'll play this portion of the game using the Holdout Board.

September: Football Season

11-12	You have a four touchdown performance! (+2)
13-14	You throw for 350 yards in a victory! (+2)
15-16	You scramble for a winning touchdown with under a minute to go! (+2)
21-22	Your amazing pass in overtime wins a game! (+2)
23-24	Your 22 for 24 passing performance clinches a victory! (+2)
25-26	You engineer an overwhelming win over the top team in the league! (+2)
31-32	Your boneheaded interception in overtime loses a game! (-1)
33-34	You post an almost zero QB passer rating during a game! (-1)
35-36	You pull a handgun on a hotel clerk who tells you need to pay for the porn you watched in your room the night before. A possible felony assault charge is dropped after a plea bargain and a rather large check written to the clerk. (-1)
41-42	You cut an important practice short to go on "Sports Shriek", a radio talk show whose host can't even get your name right. The hardball questions you face, like "Do you think your team can win it all?" and "Do you like your teammates?" come at you too fast and you sound like a moron. (-1)
43-44	You fire three agents in eight days, telling the press, "I need someone who will devote his life to me, because I deserve that." Finally you decide to have two of your old high school friends represent you. They begin to steal from you within eight seconds of signing the deal. (-1)
45-46	You devise an end zone dance that is so confusing, many people think you're miming the Hindenburg disaster. Most of your teammates back away in shame, though one offensive lineman is genuinely moved. (-1)
51-52	You are charged with driving under the influence. You quickly find out his address of who pulled you over and send him an autographed jersey, after which the case is mysteriously dropped. (-1)
53-54	Because you don't like your team's new emphasis on the running game, you spend a few days putting pressure on management to fire the head coach, going so far as to claim he's betting large sums of money on the team to lose games. When he hears about your charge, he benches you. You demand a trade and get it, casting yourself as a victim in your coach's "delusional scheme to bring down a once-proud team". (-1)
55-56	Seeing a chance to break the league record for most consecutive first down throws for ten yards or more, you shrug off a handoff call on first down and call an audible. You drop back to pass and throw an interception that's returned for a touchdown, sealing the opponent's eight point victory. (-1)
61-62	At a post-game press conference, the media easily gets you to insult several other athletes, including two on your own team. Unable to say you were misquoted, you later claim you were speaking under the influence of a rare eye medication that makes the user disoriented and prone to "slipping into other personalities." (-1)
63-64	Angry with an intentional grounding call, you tell a receiver to cross behind the referee on the next play. You then throw a dart directly at the referee's head and claim he was in the way. There is nothing he can legally do to you, so you merely wind up never getting a positive call from him again. (-1)
65-66	About to get hit hard by a linebacker, you throw a ball straight up into the air and hope for the best. Naturally it's intercepted and returned all the way for a touchdown. Football pundits will always point to this silly throw as evidence that you are the most gutless quarterback the game has ever known. (-4)

October: Football Season

11-12	You throw for three touchdowns, rush for another! (+2)
13-14	Your amazing fifty yard scramble makes the highlight reels for a week! (+2)
15-16	You go 25 for 30 with 375 yards and 3 TDs in a game! (+2)
21-22	You outduel the top QB in the league! (+2)
23-24	Your amazing dive across the goal line on a bootleg seals a win! (+2)
25-26	Your perfect 8 for 8 passing stats on a two minute drive secure a victory! (+2)
31-32	Your poor performance causes a loss to the worst team in the league! (-1)
33-34	In direct violation of your contract, you go skydiving and break a finger when you land on a cow. It was all caught on video, so you're screwed. (-1)
35-36	You throw five picks in a game, and an argument with your coach on the sideline leads to you grabbing him by the epiglottis! Suspension time! (-4)
41-42	Fined by the league for an absurdly unnecessary and violent late hit, you begin the next week's game by running out to the middle of the field, placing a \$2000 bag of quarters on the fifty yard line, and holding your handcuffed hands aloft to the crowd. Benched for the game for this little stunt, you later tell the media, "I just wanted to show everyone what prisoners we are of this league....and yes, I'll be paying all my fines in quarters." (-1)
43-44	After scoring a touchdown against blown coverage, you look up into the stands and shout, "Nothin' but eggs, Corky!" This mystifying catch phrase sticks to you for weeks, especially when you're completely unable to explain its meaning or origin. (-1)
45-46	In one of the great off-the-field injuries of all time, you strain your back in a night club while trying to impress a hot blonde by re-enacting Clint Eastwood's slow motion dive to save the President in <i>In the Line of Fire</i> . You miss two games. (-1)
51-52	Your first sports video game is released, and is poorly reviewed for its boring game play, statistical inaccuracies, and lousy graphics which make you look like Gene Wilder. (-1)
53-54	Unhappy with your contract, you wear another team's jersey into a team meeting to demonstrate your desire to play for them instead. A fellow player tells you to get it off your body in five seconds or you will be forced to eat your chair. (-1)
55-56	As you run off the field for halftime, you credit God with helping you to a 24-3 lead. When the game ends and you've lost 37-27, you blame your defense for breaking down. (-1)
61-62	Completely in love with the sound of your own voice and seeing yourself on TV, you appear on nineteen sports talk shows in three days. The most intelligent observation you're able to make in all that time on the air is, "The kind of Oreos with twice as much filling are the kind I like." (-1)
63-64	You express an interest in being paid in cash from now on for your services, explaining you can't be wasting time writing check after check to all the people who work for you. (-1)
65-66	Taking two steps back to intentionally spike the ball into the ground to stop the clock, you throw the ball right into your foot and break a toe, missing two games. (-1)

November: Football Season

11-12	You lead a flawless two minute drill for a victory! (+2)
13-14	Your clutch TD pass with under thirty seconds to go wins a game! (+2)
15-16	You overcome seven sacks to win a game! (+2)
21-22	Knocked out with an injury in the first quarter, you come back in the 4th to win it! (+2)
23-24	You go 33 for 41 with 415 yards and 4 TDs! (+2)
25-26	You make a beautiful catch on a TD pass thrown by a halfback! (+2)
31-32	A big Thanksgiving day game sees you sacked nine times! (-1)
33-34	Your awful fumble with under a minute to play blows a game! (-1)
35-36	You have an 11 for 29, 118 yards, 2 pickoff day. (-1)
41-42	Your first album is released. <i>Spin</i> magazine calls it "enjoyable for those who like their ear drums scraped repeatedly by tiny tiny knives." (-1)
43-44	The first ever defensive back of Japanese descent is signed by the team. You immediately mock his accent, then, in your apology, you thank the Japanese people for their help in winning World War II. (-1)
45-46	It comes out that you won't even talk to the backup quarterback when you're on the sidelines, or even acknowledge his presence. "Why would I want to talk to somebody who's trying to take my job from me?" you say. (-1)
51-52	With precision logic, you blame a single questionable call by a referee on a play near the end of the game for costing your team a victory. When a reporter points out to you that your team had well over one hundred other plays in which to make the difference between winning and losing, you refuse to talk to him ever again. (-1)
53-54	You make a deal with a milk conglomerate to drink nothing but milk on the sidelines instead of water and energy drinks. The results are predictable. (-1)
55-56	Criticized by the coaching staff for not knowing your playbook well enough, you respond with this: "When we played football in the street, we had maybe three different plays, and they all worked. I don't see why we have to complicate things." (-1)
61-62	Upset by your offensive line's inability to protect you, you protest by taking a snap and instantly hurling the ball over the sidelines and into the stands, stating later that it was the only way to make sure you wouldn't be sacked. You're benched for a game for this. (-4)
63-64	During an interview for <i>Sports Illustrated</i> , you manage in a single sentence to slur gays, Catholics, the French, pregnant women, your head coach's great aunt, and the original Broadway cast of <i>Carousel</i> . (-1)
65-66	Worried that an incomplete pass on a two-point conversion might drop your passer rating for the game below 100, you ask that a running play be sent in. Your furious coach informs you that statistics don't count on two point conversions and that if you ever place such a request again, he'll use you as a Q-Tip. (-1)

December: Football Season

11-12	In the snow, you manage three times as much passing yardage as your opponent! (+2)
13-14	You lead a four touchdown comeback for a win! (+2)
15-16	You're given offensive player of the week honors! (+2)
21-22	You audible for a 98 yard TD bomb to win a game! (+2)
23-24	In addition to 250 passing yards, you have 125 rushing yards in a game! (+2)
25-26	You go a perfect 15 for 15 in a game! (+2)
31-32	Your day goes like this: 7 for 16, 57 yards, 2 picks, and you're benched! (-1)
33-34	You're benched at the end of the first quarter! Then, what's supposed to be a twenty-second interview with you as you run off the field at the end of the half turns into a four minute monologue about how unhappy you are with your team's efforts to re-sign you.(-1)
35-36	Your stupid taunting penalty kills a big drive at the end of a game! (-1)
41-42	You cleverly create a mystique over your latest injury, making it seem like the ability to overcome it is well beyond any human but yourself. The team doctor says you should rest your foot for a few games; you tell the press that "it looks very bad, but I'm going to dedicate every second to rehab so I can get back on the field for my teammates." Magically you're back in the lineup three days later and everyone thinks you're a god. (-1)
43-44	When asked on the evening news why you skipped a team meeting to shoot a commercial for a local establishment called Aunt Thiddie's Cake and Pie Supply, you reply, "Well, I don't get paid to go to meetings, but I do get paid to do a commercial, so they were my employer that day, not the team, and I was raised to respect my employer." (-1)
45-46	Overwhelmed by day to day pressures, you insist that the team pay for a personal assistant who will do your errands for you. In a handwritten note, the general manager tells you to quietly lay down in a field and die. (-1)
51-52	Arrested for marijuana possession, you threaten to quit sports entirely and move to Canada, where, you say, "You can do whatever you like and nobody bothers you. You can even marry your cat if you want." (\$1 million or -2)
53-54	To force a trade, you drop back to pass at one point and merely lie down on the ground. The sound of the jeers in the stands is so loud that it actually registers on seismographs as a very low-grade earthquake. (-4)
55-56	Your tell-all book about the trials and tribulations of being a fabulous athlete is recalled and put out of print when it's realized that you claim in it to have slept with eleven thousand women by the time you were sixteen. (-1)
61-62	Realizing you're probably going to wind up about fourteen passing yards shy of getting an incentive bonus, you begin to file the paperwork for a lawsuit against the team, claiming unfairly strict observance of a contract. (-1)
63-64	In an effort to soften your image, you donate a block of seats to a local orphanage. Eighteen orphans show up at the next game and commence to boo you for three straight hours. (-1)
65-66	Enraged at being taken out of a game in the fourth quarter, you tell the press that "My dog could do a better job of coaching than him, whatever his name is. He belongs coaching junior varsity at some school in Omaha. But I'm a professional and I'm not going to say anything bad about anybody." (-1)

January: The Basketball Camp Holdout

You'll play this portion of the game using the Holdout Board.

February: Basketball Season

11-12	You notch three straight triple doubles! (+2)
13-14	You throw up a game winning shot at the buzzer in double OT! (+2)
15-16	You set a team record for three pointers in a game! (+2)
21-22	You have a sweet 42 points, 15 rebounds, 11 assists in a game! (+2)
23-24	Your daring steal seals a win in the final seconds! (+2)
25-26	You have a 55 point game! (+2)
31-32	You foul out in the first quarter of a game. Nice. (-1)
33-34	Two of your last minute shots won't go. (-1)
35-36	Your crappy free throw shooting dooms your team. (-1)
41-42	Now that you've made the big time, a multi-million dollar shoe deal gets you your first national TV spot, which, unfortunately, becomes universally despised for its irritating music, embarrassing catch phrase, and unwise use of Hiroshima imagery. (-1)
43-44	In an unprecedented display of hubris, you demand that your name be featured above the name of the team on the sign that greets fans upon pulling into the stadium parking lots. The demand is greeted with such blank stares that you withdraw it quietly. (-1)
45-46	You're suspended for a few games for calling the league commissioner "worse than a thousand Draculas, sucking the life out of the players with big scary sharp teeth while we're just a bunch of Frankensteins he created to dribble a basketball." No one has any idea what the hell you're talking about. (-1)
51-52	After a call doesn't go your way, you shove a referee ten feet backwards, where he falls onto the scoring table. You then put on a baffled expression when you're ejected from the game. In the video replay, you can clearly be heard saying, "What did I do?" (-4)
53-54	In anticipation of someday going into the Hall of Fame, you decide to sell your image there to the highest bidder, saying your statue will wear that team's jersey, even if you never play for them. (-1)
55-56	You punch out a photographer behind the baseline and destroy his camera because he shook his head in disgust when you fouled out. You ask the team to ban him from all future games, but no dice, dude. (-1)
61-62	You bravely face a sexual assault rap, of which you say you're "totally, completely innocent" by hiring the best seven attorneys in America. (\$2 million or -4)
63-64	Missing 14 of 16 shots in a game, you blame the poor performance on your coach's decision to bench you for the first five minutes of the game as punishment for missing the team shoot-around. This, you say, caused an inability to "get into your rhythm". (-1)
65-66	Down by one point, you miss a wide open slam dunk with 12 seconds left in the game, leading to a loss. You refuse to talk to the media afterwards, claiming that they've been out to get you all year and that all they want is to see you fail. Then you mutter something about faults in the coach's "system". (-1)

March: Basketball Season

11-12	You have two huge blocked shots to seal a big victory! (+2)
13-14	Your 24 points in the 4th quarter secure a victory! (+2)
15-16	You set a team record for assists in a game! (+2)
21-22	You guarantee victory over the best team in the league, and you dominate and win! (+2)
23-24	Your slam dunk leap from the free throw line is replayed again and again! (+2)
25-26	You have 39 points, 16 boards, 10 assists in a runaway victory! (+2)
31-32	You're booted for two flagrant first quarter fouls in a loss. (-1)
33-34	You have an awful 1 for 14 shooting night, and the one shot you're given credit for was on a goaltending call. (-1)
35-36	Your team's losing skid sees your scoring average cut in half. (-1)
41-42	You get caught trying to pass a drug test by using an odd combination of fake urine, a plastic prosthesis, a pound of red licorice and a Pez dispenser. (-1)
43-44	With your team down 104-96 with two minutes left to play, you walk back to the locker room to shower, getting immediately suspended for a week. When asked why you abandoned the team, you say, "No one's ever come back from that far down before with two minutes left, so the game was over." (-1)
45-46	Always upset with the referees, you finally lash out in the press and blame a 118-77 loss entirely on them. "We'd easily be in first place by now if it wasn't for their lousy charging calls," you say. (-1)
51-52	Tired of not getting the ball enough, you demand a trade. You get it. You don't like your new team's focus on defense so you demand another trade. Management caves because they don't want an unhappy player so you get it. The third team signs you on a Monday and by Thursday, when you see that the team you started with is rising quickly in the standings, you demand to be sent back there, and you are. The fans' insistence that your absence was the entire reason for the team's recent improvement falls on deaf ears. (-1)
53-54	With five seconds left in a game and your team down by one point, you get a pass on the perimeter, dribble around until there's only one second left, and then pass it to someone else, who only has time to throw up an off-balance, desperation three-pointer which misses badly. When your coach demands to know why you didn't take the last shot, you answer, "With everything that's going on in my life right now, I just don't need that added pressure." (-4)
55-56	To satisfy the requirements of an endorsement deal, you must put on heavy hiking boots during whatever time you spend on the bench. Putting them on and taking them off again so quickly causes a toe injury which sidelines you for four games. (-1)
61-62	You do a cameo in a bad teen comedy, and despite the fact that you have only one line, you come off completely unbelievable as yourself. (-1)
63-64	You're offered your own show on a fledgling basketball network, a half hour block in which you will chat with fellow athletes, review video games, and talk about what bars and clubs you like to hit. You ask the team for two weeks off to tape the first few shows, and when your request is refused, you vow to insult the team during the season premiere. (-1)
65-66	After missing eight straight foul shots, you are asked about your work habits. You never practice free throws, you explain, because "they don't even really count". (-1)

April: Basketball Season

11-12	You score 58 points in a game! As if that's not enough, an atrocity you commit at a strip club 45 minutes after the game goes unseen by anyone! (+2)
13-14	You go head to head against the most dominating player in the league and blow him away! (+2)
15-16	Your 22-foot buzzer beater wins a big game! (+2)
21-22	Your dazzling half court shot sends a game into OT and then you win! (+2)
23-24	You make 14 straight shots in a game! (+2)
25-26	With an ankle injury you still score 40! (+2)
31-32	You are made a fool of when the top player in the game scores 63 off you. (-1)
33-34	Your time out call when you have no time outs left blows a game. (-1)
35-36	Despite playing 4 quarters and 2 overtime periods, you only manage 1 point. That's not good. (-1)
41-42	Superstar that you are, you sign a deal through some shady company to sell your DNA. There are no takers. (-1)
43-44	Exhausted by everything and hampered by chronic injuries, you tearfully announce your retirement. You then come back to play three weeks later. (-1)
45-46	You violate the league's uniform policy by wearing a cowboy hat onto the floor. When the referees won't let you play in it, you complain that if you knew you were going to have to become a "slave", you would never have gotten into this league to begin with. (-1)
51-52	You refuse to enter a game with ten seconds left because you are asked to set a screen rather than shoot the ball. (-1)
53-54	You make a slam dunk, then hang on the rim for a good five seconds to demonstrate your point that you are the greatest player who ever lived. Meanwhile, the other team inbound the ball quickly to the player you're supposed to cover. By the time your feet hit the floor again, he's at half-court on his way to driving all the way to the basket for an easy layup. Good move on your part! (-1)
55-56	Offended that the player you work so well with on the court is getting as much acclaim than you are, you start referring to him as your "assistant" and remind people that you're the "boss" and that if he doesn't start getting you the ball more, he may find that he has only "temp" status. Smooth. (-1)
61-62	While all the other players on the team are content to sit on folding chairs on the sideline, this is no longer good enough for you, and you ask for a specially padded chair with your number on it. The head coach denies your request and tells you that you'll sit on the floor and suck on your thumb if you open your mouth one more time. (-1)
63-64	After entering a deal with a local hospital to donate ten dollars for every assist you make, you decide that you're losing too much money and try to kill the deal. You are promptly sued. (-4)
65-66	After making a key jumper, you rip your jersey off your chest and pose dramatically, earning a technical foul. Then it is found that there is no replacement jersey immediately available to you, and the only ones the team has are much too small. For the rest of the game you wear a ridiculously tight jersey and look like a total idiot. (-1)

The Holdout Board

<p>DAY 1</p> <p>"It's not about the money." (-1)</p>	<p>DAY 11</p>	<p>DAY 21</p> <p>"I want to be with the team. But ownership clearly won't let me be there." (-2)</p>	<p>DAY 31</p>
<p>DAY 2</p>	<p>DAY 12</p> <p>"Sure, I make a lot of money, but I spend a lot of money too." (-1)</p>	<p>DAY 22</p>	<p>DAY 32</p> <p>"I see these houses the owners live in, and I want one too." (-4)</p>
<p>DAY 3</p>	<p>DAY 13</p>	<p>DAY 23</p>	<p>DAY 33</p>
<p>DAY 4</p> <p><i>Your Wii is busted! How are you going to spend your time?</i></p>	<p>DAY 14</p> <p><i>Um, were you even going to try to remain in shape?</i></p>	<p>DAY 24</p> <p>"Hey, if they want me, it's entirely up to them." (-3)</p>	<p>DAY 34</p> <p><i>You're fifteen pounds overweight. Excellent!</i></p>
<p>DAY 5</p>	<p>DAY 15</p>	<p>DAY 25</p>	<p>DAY 35</p>
<p>DAY 6</p> <p><i>Not even returning calls from your coach....niiiiice.</i></p>	<p>DAY 16</p> <p>Your agent caves! Damn! Holdout over!</p>	<p>DAY 26</p> <p>Your agent caves! Damn! Holdout over!</p>	<p>DAY 36</p> <p>Your agent caves! Damn! Holdout over!</p>
<p>DAY 7</p>	<p>DAY 17</p> <p>"I have to feed my family." (-2)</p>	<p>DAY 27</p>	<p>DAY 37</p>
<p>DAY 8</p> <p>"I have a right to be paid well for my services." (-1)</p>	<p>DAY 18</p>	<p>DAY 28</p>	<p>DAY 38</p> <p>"Twenty, thirty million, it sounds like a lot, but it's really not." (-5)</p>
<p>DAY 9</p>	<p>DAY 19</p> <p>"My career could end at any time. I need to be taken care of." (-2)</p>	<p>DAY 29</p> <p>"I look around and I see guys getting paid as much as me, and it's not fair." (-3)</p>	<p>DAY 39</p> <p>"If they think they're going to the playoffs without me, they must be nuts." (-5)</p>
<p>DAY 10</p> <p><i>Hey, all right, you made it to the MTV Music Awards!</i></p>	<p>DAY 20</p>	<p>DAY 30</p>	<p>DAY 40</p> <p><i>Your holdout must end here. Nice going!</i></p>

The Bright Future Chart

To be consulted if you wind up with a positive number of Perception points. Congratulations, you've won the game!

2	You eke out another year in the pros before your skills decline to nothing, and then decide to become a pro golfer. After twenty intense years of playing six days a week, you have to retire from that too, never becoming any better than a 10 handicap.
3	Your career lasts just two more years, and then you get another decade of shilling for local mortgage companies, used car lots, and hardware stores. Bravo!
4	Your playing career is done after four years, ended by a freak injury when you're tapped on the head by a falling goalpost. During the offseason.
5	After six years in the pros, you retire to write your autobiography, in which you claim to have overcome polio, racism, religious intolerance, crossed eyes, six divorces, and scurvy to get where you are today.
6	A great ten year career lands you just shy of the Hall of Fame, leading you to blast the media for ruining your chances.
7	Congratulations, you eventually make it into the Hall of Fame, taking your place as one of the most accomplished and least liked pro athletes of all time!
8	You spend a nice eight years bouncing around the pros before a gambling scandal sends you packing.
9	You muddle through a five year career and retire with a lot of money and a part-time career as a sports commentator, fired after numerous complaints from viewers that you just don't seem all that bright.
10	Hampered by injuries and a lousy attitude, you get through three years of a playing career and then retire into some sort of boring sports memorabilia scam that a monkey could run successfully.
11	After another year in the pros, you're too banged up to go on, so you decide to become a coach instead, catapulting your way up the ranks until you achieve what you claim was your dream all along: becoming equipment manager for a double-A farm team in Maine.
12	During the offseason, you realize that there is nothing more important in life than money. You retire from sports, become one of the most respected peddlers of low grade hallucinogenics in the east, and marry well.

The Blown Opportunity Chart

To be consulted if you wind up with a negative number of Perception points. Sorry, you've lost the game. What was *wrong* with you?

2	Six months after leaving the pros, you're found dead in a hotel room in Manitoba. Does it even matter what the cause was?
3	You open up a sports instructional camp for children and it goes bankrupt within six weeks. This is followed by a strangely unfulfilling career as a clerk in a mattress store.
4	Time to become an actor! You spend six years in Los Angeles, the pinnacle of which is your uncredited cameo as 'Man in Pants' on an episode of a cable sci-fi show. The little money you make goes toward child support payments.
5	You luck out when it's discovered that your younger sister is the truly talented one in the family, and you eke out a modest living managing her four-year pro basketball career. Then you move in with her, "just temporarily".
6	After playing football in Europe for three years, your steroid-racked body breaks down and you decide to live in Italy where nobody knows you, working for the post office and watching American sports on satellite TV.
7	Booted from the pros, you manage to latch on to a minor league basketball team where you play two stellar seasons before blowing out your knee. After a failed tryout with the Harlem Globetrotters, you settle into a life of coaching youth league soccer and being occasionally arrested for domestic assault. Could've been worse!
8	Embarking on a career as a sports commentator, you last for a year or so with the networks before settling in as the second man on a local daily radio show in Providence. You get fired after five years because of poor punctuality and decide that being a bartender is the thing for you.
9	After bouncing around between drug rehab centers for a few years, you become a born again Christian and spend the remainder of your days working at Radio Shack and singing in your church choir.
10	You sit around getting woefully out of shape for five years, and then attempt a comeback. Footage of your embarrassing tryout with a single-A team is broadcast everywhere for its humor value. After that, you become a real estate agent.
11	Fed up with the media's treatment of you, you change your name and move to Thailand, where you teach English to local businessmen and put on a great deal of weight.
12	Convicted of tax evasion, you spend ten years in prison. When you're released, you write your autobiography but forget where you put it. Oh well.

