

# This Has Got to be a First

by

**Kevin Stillwater**

Violence in Sp©rT has become so passé, I don't even want to talk about it. Who would have thought the Tibet@n ©lympics would end in mob violence? These things make no sense to me. Does it really make any difference who the male figure skating champion is? No, it doesn't. It can't. So right there and then I decided, if the ©lympics are going to be decided by riot, I didn't need to cover the sports page ever again. Flat out, the game of the month save screen would never again go to some stupid Sp©rT simulation. But to all things there is an end, and so today marks the end my of my personal boycott of the Sp©rTing world. Mark your calendars.

Tr@k B©LL has a bit of a cult following. Not covered as extensively as f©©tb©ll or H©©Ky, it nonetheless gets respective numbers in both sales and server time, so despite my aversion to SporTPage and all things Sp©rT, the Tr@k B©LL championship shows up on ComPILer's F©cus every year. Not in the top ten or anything, but it's there. And you would not believe the numbers the event got this year. Through the r00f. Normally at 795 (+/- 20s) it jumped all the way to 64-flat. Sixty Four FL@T!!! Unheard of. If I could post that type of improvement, I'd sell my s©ul and retire on the sp©t, just wrap it in a bow and call it quits. So I had to look. I just had to peek, and what do you think I found?

I was expecting, death, dismemberment, maybe a gangland style massacre in the dressing room -- that's always fun. In short, I was expecting what you usually see, but I was wrong. Color me the SINic. I couldn't have been more off base. It was pure SportsM@Nship, like ©LDschool, from like out of nowhere. In case you haven't caught the feed, here's how it played.

bRain g'Liger a nobody, from nowhere, fields the typical H@ck & Sm@ck, down the line -- three intimidators, two enforcers, a goalie packing heavy (and I mean H-Vy) -- and through the luck of the draw, nails home field advantage, both G©@Lies, and stadium packed to the rims with a sellout crowd of angry p-Roles who could do with a bit of the S©M@ -- Sniff! Sniff!

It looked typical. I was wondering why I was wasting my time. What were we going to see? Incendiaries? A crowd going pOst-ALL? Or just a straight out slug fest. I confess my expectations were low. Certainly that's what SpellBOUND the opposition thought, so he takes it slow and easy to see what falls...

It's a waiting game, so the anthem plays. Nothing. The players take the field. Nothing. The whistle blows, the B©LL is launched, and still... Nothing. No one, but no one is making a move. So what the heck, g'Liger's boy's get the sphere, they go into attack formation. You can see it coming, can't you? SpellBOUND's DeFeNders brace for the inevitable frontal @ss@ult and full out Br@wL FesT. It's typical. It's predictable, but g'Liger's BOY's just slide by. Just as graceful as can be, they cut to the inside, jump through the BULLpen and they're gone. They're bYe-bYe. They are past-tense. And then, they are in the clear. So what do you know? ASpen--the goalie H-Vy: He shoots! He scores!!!

Wait? What's that? Back up. He scores? He scores? Somebody scores in Tr@k B©LL, while the timer is on, and men are on the field. Living, breathing men are on the field and he scores?

YES!!! ASpen Sc©reS!! First time in fifteen Fr@cking years! An in game score. Unbelievable. Who would have thought?

Needless to say, while SpellBOUND is recovering from the shock of it all the crowd does goes pOst-ALL, and just R-I-Ps his team apart -- limb from freaking limb, out of sock-it out and out of

sight -- but that's what happens when you lose the home field  
@dv@nt@ge!

Go g'Liger!

An in game score! Who'd have thunk it? I guess there is  
somebody who knows how to play Sp©rT out there.

Kind of makes you wonder what the ratings will sh©©t to  
next year if they actually go a regulation  $\frac{3}{4}$ s and then go plus one  
in overtime. It B©©GLES the Mine'D.

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