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SHE'S BACK & READY TO SET ALL-TIME HIGHS

COOL, BALANCED, RICH

MLB NL PLAYOFFS PREVIEW
METS VS DODGERS

METO VO DUDGERO CUBS VS PIRATES CARDINALS VS ???

BRING BACK THE JILLS!

LHMBUKGHN AVENTADOR LP750-4 ROADSTER IN ONE WORD - FAST

OBSERVATIONS

IPHONE 8S REVIEW

PLUS KANDY GIRLS KIMBERLEY JADE, LUCY MILLER,LINDZAY JAROS Introducing New Kandy Girl Sheniz





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Cover Model LAURIE YOUNG

Fit, Sexy, & Sandy

Poise To Set New All-Time Highs Laurie Young joins the Kandy Cover Model Three-timers club.



Koncierge - Hot Wings

We deliver the ultimate hot wings recipe this week that will leave your friends mouths on fire but craving more.

Plus

We look at the Lamborghini Aventador LC 750-4 Superveloce Roadster ... Plus our sports department previews the upcoming MLB National League Playoff series, have a few observations about the NFL season so far and want the Buffalo Bills to bring back the Jills.





Kandy Krush Nominee Kimberley Jade

Kimberley is back and we're loving these photos.



World of Kandy Her Majesty's Kingdom

Kandy Krush Lucy Miller of Australia creates photo magic with our newest Kandy girl Sheniz of Britain.

Garth Brooks

Cool, Balanced, Rich

He is the MAN in country music and has achieved a quality of life we all should aspire to attain.

The Martian

We look at the man behind the movie in this week's screening room review.



Gamer

Rock Band 4 is here and we take an in-depth look.



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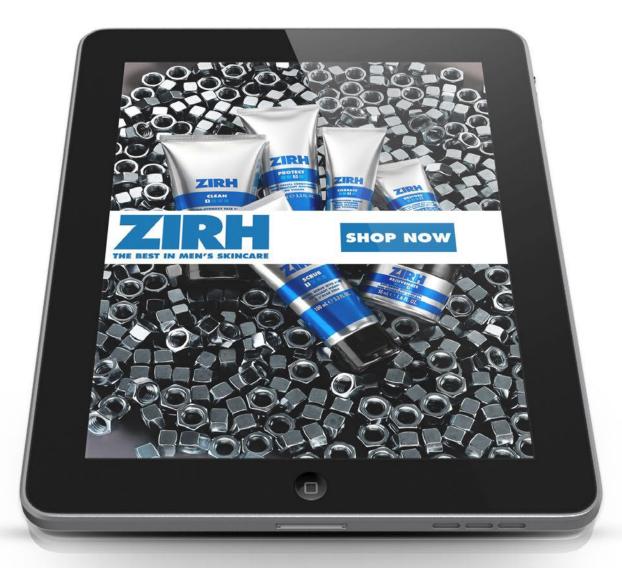
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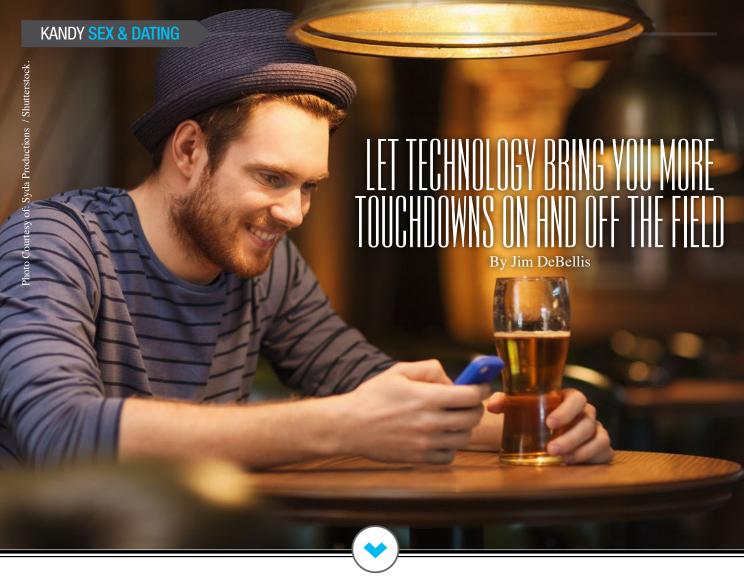
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What's your fantasy? Having Aaron Rodgers along with Adrian Peterson and Foot-Antonio Brown **Fantasy** on your ball team? As sweet as that would be, trust me—it's not even close to her fantasy. Her first-round draft pick is you, brother, and she wants you to be on the field for every play.

So...how can you satisfy your burning need to bond with the guys over beer and football and still satisfy her needs too? Hey, no problem. It's the 21st Century; you can have your cake and eat it too. The solution is simple: All you have to do is be in two places at one time. Fortunately, with modern technology, that is completely do-able.

Okay, so you have to reconcile last week's outcomes and stats with your fantasy league on Tuesday, make your picks for this week's winners on Wednesday, and then watch the games

on Thursday, all day Sunday, and Monday. So that leaves Friday and Saturday for her. At least one of the nights has to be a day she can count on. If you're into college ball too, I guess it will be Friday night for her.

But remember, love is a contact sport, and one "love huddle" a week is not going todo it for her. You'll have to keep in touch several times every day. Texting, Facebook, Instagram, and that old-fashioned but very personal means of communication—talking on the phone—can keep your lives synchronized if you do it right.

You should already be texting her during your coffee break every morning from work, calling her at lunchtime, and then texting again at the end of the workday. It's a great way to let her know you really enjoyed last night, you're thinking about her right now, and you can't wait to make another memory tonight (or soon).

And, with 20 seconds of effort, it gives you a meaningful presence in her life. It keeps your connection from drying up, and it can create a lot of anticipation for both of you with a touch of moderate "sexting" thrown into the mix.

Now, if you want this relationship to keep getting better, keep her attitude positive, and eliminate as much pouting and nagging as possible, then you'll have to maintain that connection during some of your leisure time activities as well—especially now when you know you'll be tied up with gridiron mania. You don't want to be worried about trying toremember to zip off a text once in a while, so get it down to a system:

Text her when you're happy; Text her when you're sad; Text her when you see a girl; Text her when you're mad.

Sharing emotional moments will make her feel included, like she's sharing the experience with you.

Your team completes a long pass and runs it in for a touchdown. You're happy! Send her a message: "Touchdown! Wish I could give you a big hug right now!" Or maybe you just drafted Drew Brees. Share your joy. Send a selfie while you're at it.

Later on, your team gets intercepted in the end zone. You're sad. Share your pain. "Now I need a hug!" (with a crying emoticon). Send a picture of all the stunned faces on your friends.

So, maybe you're at a sports bar and a petite cutie smiles at you. If you've got a minute to smile back, you got a minute to text your girl. You noticed another girl, so say hello to yours. Hey, if you didn't already have a great girl, you'd take the time to go and talk to this one, wouldn't you? So maybe you can mix football and flirting. "I was just thinking about you. Thought I'd say hi. No reason." It's probably best not to reveal the real reason in a case like this.

Now it's the fourth quarter, and the ref just called interference to give the bad guys the ball inside your 20. No way that was interference! He was going for the ball! Or maybe the coach had them run three plays up the middle inside the 5-yard line, and your tight end was wide open in the end zone every time. Now you're mad. Time to get some sympathy and compassion from the one you love. "We was robbed! Kiss me or I'm gonna explode!"

You'll probably be thinking about your girl at these times anyway, so just train yourself to take 20 seconds and connect with her. When you're happy, when you're sad, when you see a girl, and when you're mad—those are the times to let her know you're thinking about her.

Send her a little video and lots of photos along the way, and *make sure* to work in a personal phone call, maybe during halftime. And, if you can stop by after the game, build up a little excitement with some sexy suggestions and promises.

There is one problem you'll want to avoid. She may think that your message is the beginning of a long two-way conversation. To nip this in the bud, end your text with "Gotta go! More later!" or anything to let her know the door is closing on the conversation. She may respond, so answer with one word or "k" the first time, and then no more responses until there's time.

Of course, you'll still have to compromise on some of your time and bring her along sometimes to keep the girl of your dreams happy. But she's probably worth it. And if you keep her feeling like part of your life by using modern technology to your fullest advantage, you can avoid a lot of the pitfalls that have plagued man since the invention of the ball.

Love is a contact sport





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Spicy Smothered Sweet Goodness

It's football season and that means Saturday and Sunday bro gatherings. If you are the unlucky one with DirectTV and the giant 60" television screen that means you are most likely the host. Instead of the same old pizza and beer spread spice it up next time with these wings.



- * 4 pounds of Chicken Wings, preferably not previously frozen
- * 12 ounce bottle of your favorite hot sauce – Frank's, Louisiana, Crystal, or Texas Petes is preferable
- * Garlic Powder
- * Black Pepper
- * Cayenne Pepper
- * Crushed Red Pepper Flakes

- * Paprika
- * Tabasco
- * Worcestershire Sauce
- * Spicy Mustard
- * Apple Cider Vinegar
- * One-half stick of Unsalted Butter
- * Vegetable Oil
- * Honey

In a mixing bowl, combine 1 tablespoon each of garlic powder, black pepper and 1 teaspoon each of paprika and cayenne pepper. Mix the ingredients together.

In a deep pot or fry daddy add the vegetable oil so that it is deep enough to cover the wings to fry. Depending on the size of your pot and its depth you may have to fry the wings over the course of several batches. Pre-heat the oil to 375 degrees.

Clean the wings by rinsing off under warm water. Prepare the wings for frying by cutting off the tips of the wings. Place the wings a couple at a time into the spice mixture in the mixing bowl. Remove the wings from the mixing bowl and drop into the heated oil. Fry for 17 minutes.

While the wings are frying, place a 6 quart to 8 quart cooking pot on the stove. Sprinkle garlic powder across the bottom of the pot until it is fully covered. Sprinkle black pepper next until one-quarter of the garlic powder is covered. Add a few dashes of paprika a nd cayenne pepper. Next tear open a packet of crushed red pepper you have laying around from one of your pizza nights and add to the pot. Add 5 to 6 dashes of Worcestershire sauce and two to three good squeezes of mustard. Pour in the bottle of hot sauce.

Turn on the heat to the stove to low-medium. Stir all the ingredients in the pot together. Let simmer for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes add a few dashes of tabasco sauce and quarter cup of the vinegar. Stir the pot and let simmer for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, add the stick of butter, approximately 4 tablespoons. Let simmer for 5 minutes and then turn off the heat.

As you are turning off the heat to your hot sauce, the wings should be about done frying. Remove the wings from the fryer. Cut the wings in half at the joint.

In a mixing bowl, add 4 to 6 wing pieces, add half a ladle of the hot sauce and drizzle honey over the wings. Toss, plate and serve with a side of carrot and celery sticks accompanied by ranch dressing. Bon appétit!

LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR LP 750-4

SUPERVELOCE ROADSTER

Sharp looking Lamborghini, right? If you happen to see one of these take the opportunity to get up close and personal as it will be a rare sighting. Production is a limited series of 500 units worldwide and at a price point of \$530,000 USD the buyers will be just as rare.

The car offers world-class performance at 750 hp and a dry weight of 3,472 lb, that is 110 lbs lighter compared to the Aventador LP 700-4 Roadster. This leads to an exceptional power-to-weight ratio of just 4.6 lb/hp. When you decide to open her up she'll take you from 0 – 62 mph in 2.9 seconds and

undoubtedly provide your female companion the most exhilarating ride of her life.

If you envision yourself as one of those Hollywood stars through dangerous slicing mountain curves, surrounded by the sweet purr of the engine, you will love the enhancement to the Superveloce coupé experience as the Superveloce Roadster features a power rear window that allows the engine sound to fill the cabin. We prefer to listen to the sweet purr of the voice of the Kandy girl in the passenger seat.

What makes possible the ability to hug those tight

curves? We're talking mountain curves guys, not the curves of our Kandy passenger. Well, for starters, the 7-speed ISR transmission delivers an incomparable gear and transfers shift engine's power to all four wheels through a Haldex Generation IV 4WD system. Of course, as in the SV coupé the car takes advantage of adaptive Magneto Rheological Suspension, a pushrod damping system and Lamborghini Dynamic Steering (LDS) for impressive driving dynamics.

Deliveries of this supercar are schedule to begin in early 2016.



MSRP: USD \$530,075 USD MPG: Are you really asking?

O-60: 2.9 seconds

HP: 750 CV (552 kW) @ 8,400 RPM **Top Speed:** Greater than 217 MPH

Available: Early 2016



UNDER THE HOOD

Engine: 6.5-liter V12 **Power/Torque:** 690 Nm (509 lb-ft) of torque at 5,500 rpm

Displacement: 6,498 cm³

(396.5 cu.in.)

Transmission: 4WD with Haldex generation IV

CHASSIS AND BODY

Frame: Carbon fiber monocoque with Aluminum front and rear frames

Body: Carbon fiber engine bonnet, rear spoiler and side air inlets; Aluminum front bonnet, front fenders and doors; SMC superlight rear fender and rocker covers; High pressure RTM carbon fiber Hard Top painted

Mirrors: External mirrors heated, electrically adjustable and foldable

Carbon fiber engine Rear spoiler: Fixed spoiler in carbon fiber, manually adjust-luminum front bonnet, ders and doors; SMC sumid-low downforce)

Rear spoiler: Fixed spoiler in carbon fiber, manually adjust-low downforce mid-low downforce)

SUSPENSION

Front and rear horizontal magneto-rheological dampers with push-rod system





DIMENSIONS

Wheelbase: 2,700 mm (106.30 in)
Overall length: 4,835 mm (190.35 in)
Overall width (excluding mirrors): 2,030 mm (79.92 in)

Overall height: 1,136 mm (44.72 in) Front track: 1,720 mm (67.72 in) Rear track: 1,680 mm (66.14 in) Dry weight: 1,575 kg (3,472 lb)

Weight/Power ratio: 2.10 kg/CV (4.63 lb/CV



iPhone 6S Review



Do you upgrade or not, that is the question. Well, it all depends what category of iPhone owner you fall into. Are you one who has to have the latest and greatest gadget from Apple? Or are you the owner of the 4S, 5, 5C, or 5s model? Perhaps you upgraded to the 6 last year. Let us attempt to make your decision easier, no matter what camp you fall into.



First, if you are one of those who has to own the latest and greatest gadget from Apple your decision is already made. Next!

If you upgraded last year to the 6 and are considering the 6S but uncertain if the additional features are worth the cost let us help you decide. First, the value of the new features introduced in the 6S will vary from owner to owner. We all value and use the various features of the iPhone differently. Let's take a look at some of these features.

Multi-Touch Interface

The new iPhones introduce 3D Touch, which senses force to enable intuitive new ways to access features and interact with content. Many apps are developing intuitive interfaces to utilize this feature to unlock hidden layers of content. Game publishers should have a field day with this ability.

3D Touch

iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus introduce new ways to navigate by sensing pressure to enable new gestures Peek and Pop[™] – so you can dip in and out of content without losing your place. Press lightly to Peek at a photo, email, web page or other content, and press a little deeper to Pop into the content itself. Stupid term if you ask us but someone in marketing must have thought of it catchy as they filed a trademark on it. Also with Quick Actions, 3D Touch provides shortcuts to the things users do most such as send a message or take a selfie with just a simple press from the Home screen.

New Finish

iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s add rose gold as body finish. Not likely very appealing to the average Kandy reader but your girlfriend or wife might enjoy the new color.

Live Photos

This feature is actually pretty cool. However, we are trying to figure out how these are not just short video clips. Live Photos are 12-megapixel photos that, with just a press, reveal the moments immediately before and after the shot was taken, capturing the sounds and motion before and after your intended snapshot. Someone please email us and tell us why this is not a video clip.

Video Enhancements

High-definition video improves with support for 4K — with a resolution of 3840 x 2160, delivering over 8 million pixels — and the expansion of optical image stabilization to video on iPhone 6s Plus, for taking beautiful videos in lower light. After capturing 4K video, you can edit on your Mac®, PC, iPad® and with the latest version of iMovie® on iPhone, you can even edit two simultaneous streams.

Camera Advancements

State-of-the-art 12-megapixel sensor with advanced pixel technology

New 5-megapixel FaceTime® HD camera and Retina Flash, which momentarily makes the display three times brighter with True Tone® lighting great for bright selfies in low light.

So, now that we have given a handful of details, do you upgrade? If you are all about capturing better photos and videos we say go for it. If photos and videos are not so important to your daily life we say hold onto that 6 you currently own until it begins to bog down from use. The only

question we have is how long until Instagram integrates our ability to view the Live Photos our Kandy girls will be uploading.

Hey, what about us, the owners of the 4S and various 5 models? Yes, yes, yes – upgrade. You are communicating with a dinosaur. Get with the times. Your world is about to change once you experience life with an iPhone 6 or greater in the palm of your hands.



CAMERA SPECS

Price: Starting at \$27 - \$31 monthly on a

24-month Term

Capacity: 16 GB, 64 GB, 128 GB

Colors: Silver, Gold, Space Gray, Rose Gold

OS: iOS 9

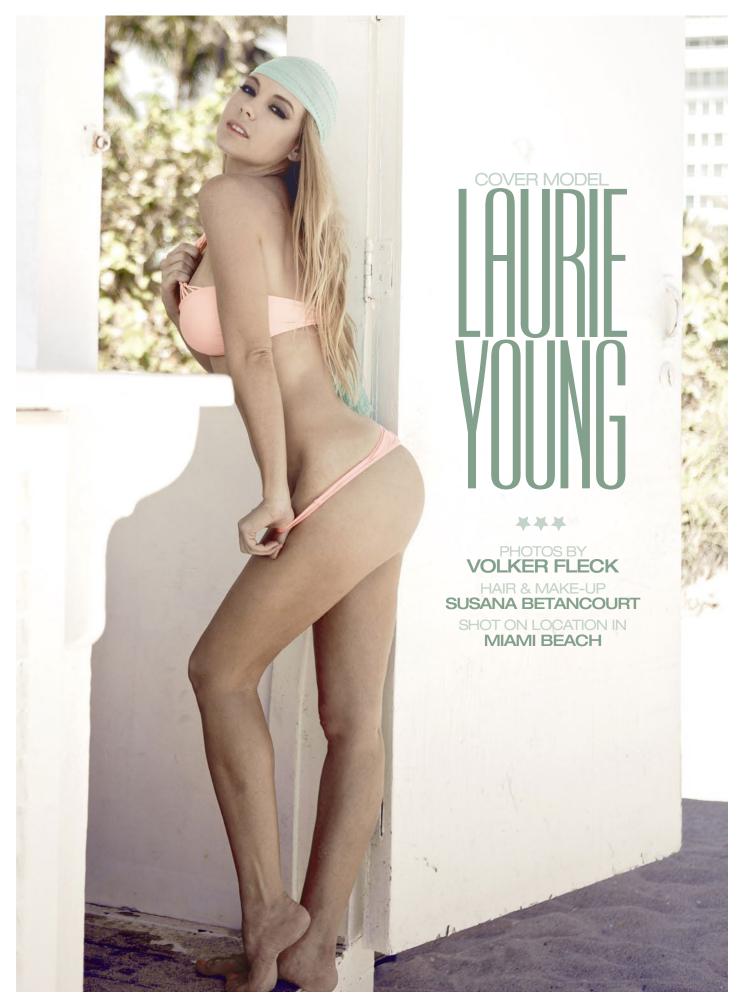
Camera: 12-megapixel iSight Camera and

5-megapixel FaceTime HD cameras

Processor: 64-bit A9 chip, Embedded M9

motion coprocessor

Body: 7000 series aluminum **Face:** ion-strengthened glass

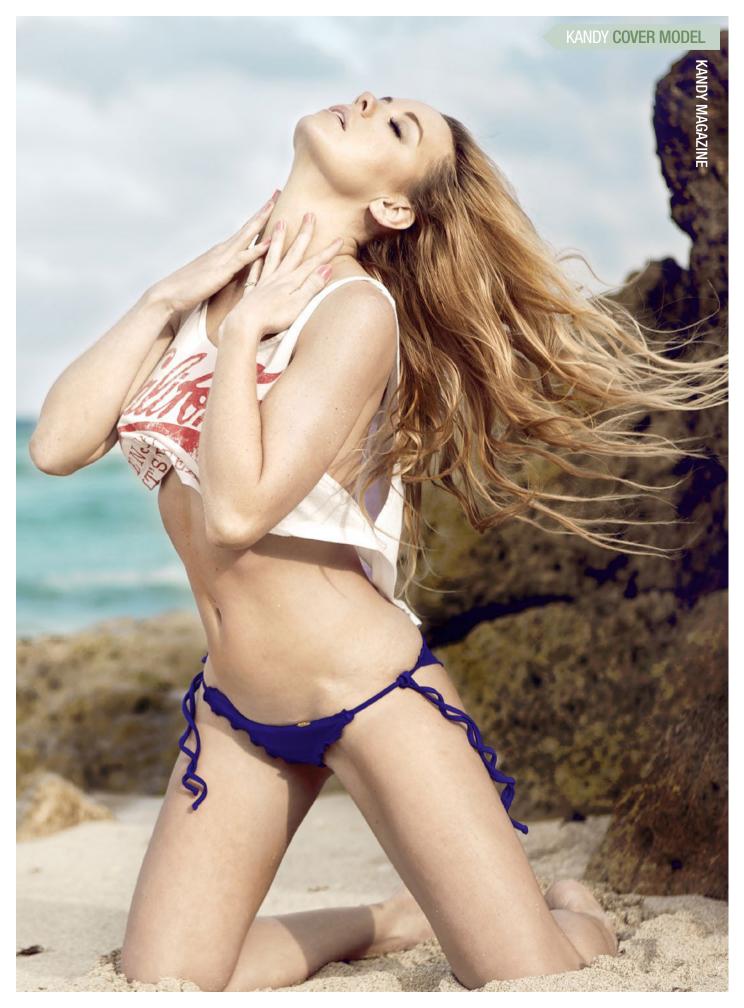




ake no doubt about it she is no 'Mean Girl'. Cover girl Laurie Young was the sweetheart of NHRA competitors, pit crews and fans in 2014. With her silver and pink pom-poms glistening the pro class pits and starting lines of drag strips around the country, fans came out in droves hoping to catch a blown kiss or wave from the Kandy girl adorned in the skintight silver and pink outfit.

Laurie parlayed that goodwill between her and NHRA fans into big magazine sales when her Kandy magazine February 2015 cover was released. While Laurie has since retired her pom-poms, with the assistance of celebrity photographer Volker Fleck she is sailing off into the sunset with one last Kandy pictorial.















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ARTIST OF THE WEEK GARTH BROOKS

Country Music with Muscle

Do you want to know what cool looks like? See Garth Brooks. Do you want to know what it's like to have balance in life? See Garth Brooks. Do you want to know what it's like to be rich? See Garth Brooks.

If there are three traits in life every man should strive to achieve they are coolness, balance and rich. Garth embodies all three traits. He's cool because he lives his life, his way, his rules and if you don't like it then this single line from one of his biggest hits, *Friends in Low Places*, appears to be his attitude ... "You can kiss my ass."

The man has achieved 'balance'. As Garth fans know he took a sabbatical from touring so he could spend time with his family and watch his kids grow up. He would take an occasional break from his sabbatical with a performance every now and then in Las Vegas. Recently he resumed touring but he is not diluting the music scene with an overabundance of shows. He tours but he

doesn't subject himself to the stress of touring. He doesn't go hopping from one city to the next, night after night. He's a nester, like a woman with the television remote. He finds a city and spends a few nights there before taking a few nights off and heading onto the next market.

Finally, he's rich but we're not talking about rich in the monetary sense. We are talking rich in the terms of life. He's cool. He knows it but doesn't flaunt it. His life is balanced, the perfect mixture of personal and business responsibilities. He is surrounded by a loving family and he puts his family first. He is Garth Brooks. He has achieved Xanadu.

Whether you enjoy country music or not you have to respect what Garth Brooks has done for the genre. The man is the consummate entertainer and puts on one of the best live shows, regardless of your taste in music, at a price that is a steal when compared to today's other big names.

UPCOMING TOUR DATES:

Cleveland, Ohio - Oct 9th & 10th (2 shows both nights)
Phoenix, Arizona - Oct 16th - 24th (6 shows over two weekends)
Salt Lake City, Utah - Oct 29th - 31st (4 shows over three nights)
San Diego, California - Nov 5th - 8th (5 shows over 4 nights)

KNOW YOUR GARTH

Hometown: Owasso, OK, USA Newest Album: Man Against

Machine

Record Label: Sony Music

Nashville

Number of Albums: 10 Number of #1 Singles on Country Charts: 25 Country Music's Entertainer

of The Year: 10X

Record breaker: Regardless of music genre, he is the only solo artist to have 6 albums top the 10



spiring screenwriters take note, not all is lost. We may soon be looking at a new category at the OSCARS – Screenplay adapted from an eBook. I am not saying that The Martian is OSCAR worthy but what I am telling you is that the screenplay for this movie can trace its' heritage back to an eBook that only existed in series form on Amazon at one time. Random House did eventually publish a hardcover version of the eBook – last year! And here we are with The Martian on the big screen starring Matt Damon a year later.

Genre: Fantasy/Science fiction

In researching this movie the story behind its creator is very fascinating. The writer is Andy Weir, a computer programmer-turned-writer who resides in Northern California and has no prior connection with the entertainment industry. Andy is no spry chicken; he had been a computer programmer for 25 years. Weir posted new chapters every six to eight weeks for a growing word-of-mouth audience, completing the story in three years, at which point he put the book up for sale – for 99 cents – on Amazon, and was contacted by an agent. This led to communication with Genre Films and the beginning of what Weir calls "every writer's fantasy come true."

His book is technical masterpiece, heavy on research and what-ifs and director Ridley Scott dynamically brings that to the big screen in believable fashion. The long and short of the plot is Matt Damon's character, Astronaut Mark Watney, is left deserted on the surface of Mars presumed dead. When his crew, who has departed for their return voyage to Earth and NASA, realize that he is alive they put in motion plans to return to Mars to rescue Watney. In the meantime, with limited supplies, Watney must figure out how to grow food on a lifeless planet.



Features We Like - Freestyle Guitar Solos, Sing for the moment, Work the crowd, Shows mode. With the Freestyle Guitar Solo feature you can break into your best Eddie Van Halen, Zakk Wylde or Jimi Hendrix guitar solo. For all you aspiring rock guitar players out there it is a welcome addition. For your fellow band-mates, maybe not so much. The karaoke kings and queens out there have a new feature as well – Sing for the moment. Launch into your favorite Sammy Hagar, Bruno Mars or Jack White impression and belt out those high notes as high and as long as you want. Bring in your fellow band-mates in the new Work the crowd feature where your remaining band-mates can help you collectively reach Xanadu as you work the crowd into a frenzy; this is not the time for one of your band-mates to do his best Ed Sheeran imitation – high energy is required. Finally, the Shows mode players can drop in or out on the fly or even change the difficulty levels without interrupting the performance.

<u>Features They Could Have Left Out</u> - *Improved Drum Fills.* Not really required. We guess they didn't want the drummers to feel left out.

Of course, with a new game release comes new hardware. Rock Band 4 players can upgrade their tools of the trade to an all-new set of wireless controllers – Wireless Guitar Controller, Wireless Drum Controller, USB Microphone. For all the details on these items, head over to their web site.



Genre: Music

Release Date: October 6
Developer: Harmonix
Platforms: Xbox One, PS 4
Price: MSRP \$79.99

Xbox One, \$59.99 PS4 **Price:** Rock Band 4 Band
In-A-Box Bundle \$249.99



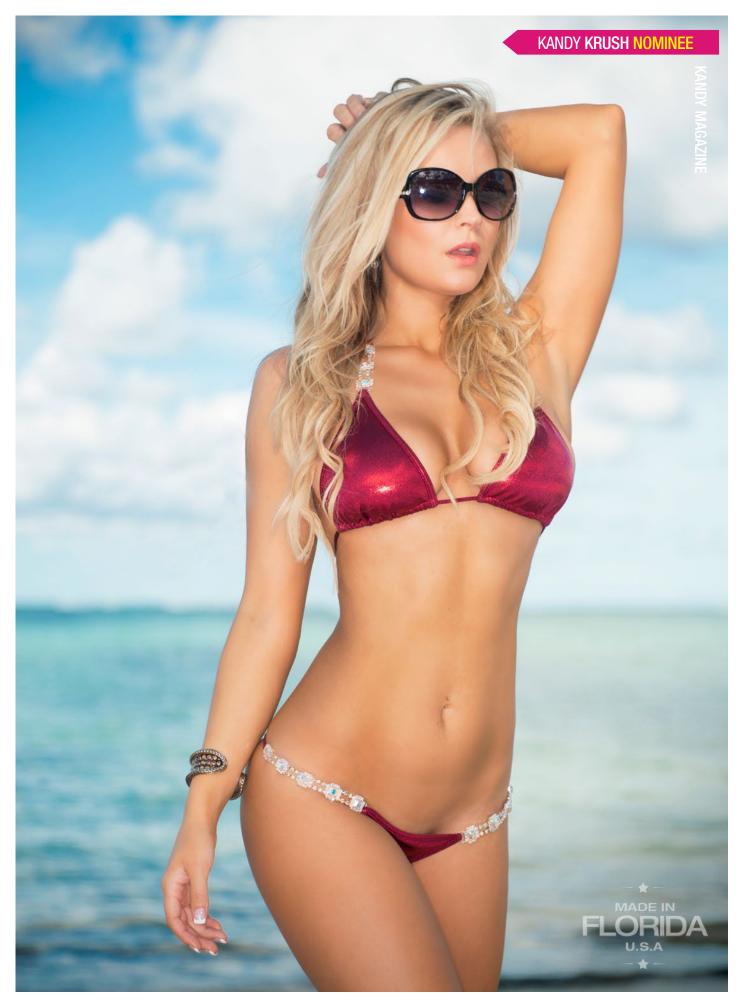














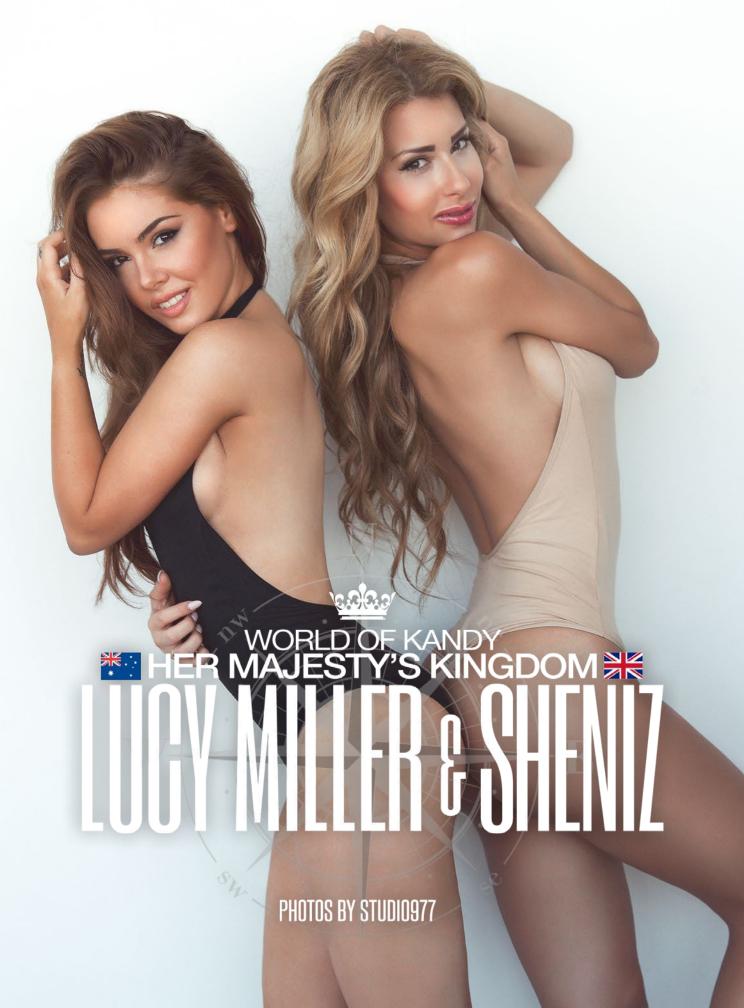


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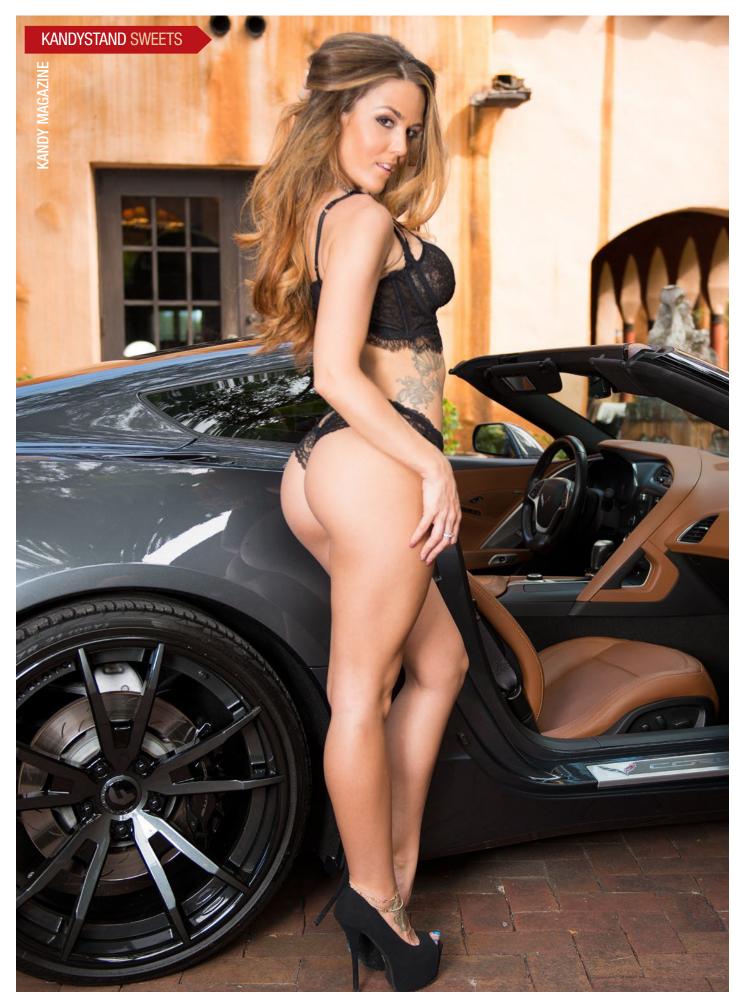
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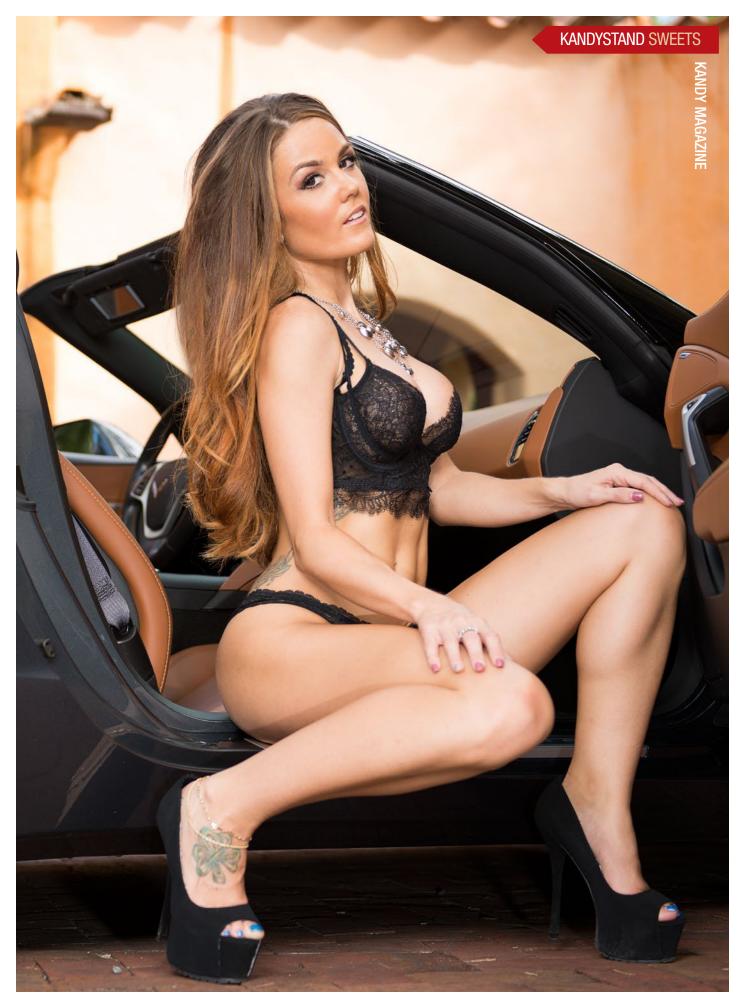
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Seen Above: Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders entertaining the crowd

I'll start with I've been a Bills fan for a long time. I've been going to games ever since Rich (I mean Ralph Wilson) stadium has been standing. Back in the late 70s and early 80s (like I said I've been a fan for a long time), we had season tickets. Some of my fondest late teen memories are watching OJ run for thousands of yards (yeah that OJ before he was running from the law) and watching the Buffalo Jills jump and cheer. Our seats were just a few rows back on the 20; my dad and I always had a very nice view of the

Jills. Yes, football should be the main attraction at a NFL game and it was. But it was still nice to have a peppy side attraction to give your eyes a break from looking at big, meaty guys mauling each other. Kind of like having something soft and curvy to offset the hard hitting. It's the contrasts that make life interesting.

Back in those simpler days the Jills, while not highly paid, were at least run by the Bills organization. Sadly, in 1986 the Bills must have decided it was more cost-efficient (no idea why since they certainly never paid them a lot) to outsource their cheerleaders and contracted them out to a third party. Things seemed to spiral down-hill for the Jills from there. From all accounts, life as a Jill wasn't as glamorous on the inside as it might appear on the outside. They had very little, if any, control of their uniforms, dance routines and many of their public appearances were done with no compensation and lots of grabbing hands and leering eyes. The Jills had to pay for their uniforms, shoes and, in some cases, their travel. They also didn't receive any compensation for merchandise featuring them. In 2014, five former Jills filed a lawsuit claiming the cheerleaders were not paid for hours they worked. Two days later operations of the Jills were suspended, leaving the Bills without cheerleaders for the first time since the 60's. I love the Bills, they are upstate NY's team but I thought this was a lame move.

I went to the Bills - Dolphins game last year, and it was weird being in Rich, I mean Ralph Wilson, and having no cheerleaders there. I do believe it was the first time I've ever been to a football game - high school, college or pro without cheerleaders. Yeah, they replaced or supplemented the Jills with a drum line but it's not the same. Ideally, I would like to have both. I can't imagine being at a home Dallas Cowboy's game and not seeing their cheerleaders. Heck, for me, the cheerleaders have a much bigger appeal than the Cowboys. Of course, the Cowboys actually pay their cheerleaders for games cheered, personal appearances and they don't make their cheerleaders buy their own gear.

Here's what I propose. The Bills, a team the generates a couple hundred million dollars of revenue each year, do the right thing and bring back the Jills as paid employees of the Bills. After all, in many ways, they are the faces of the franchise, at least the faces not covered with helmets. I'm not saying pay them anything close to what they pay a taxi squad member, but pay them a fair wage. Also, don't make them purchase their own uniforms and pay for their travel; come on, that's bush league. Hell, maybe even pay them a percentage from Jills' merchandising sales. Sales the Bills no longer have now that they don't have the Jills. Yeah, the cheerleaders by being exposed to the public can potentially generate media exposure that could lead to other opportunities. Still, they deserve a fair wage for a days' jumps, sweat and cheers. They really do produce positive public relations. My god man, if the Cowboys can do it certainly the Bills can too!



Mets OF Yoenis Cespedes torrid hitting is one of the main reasons the Mets are appearing in the post-season for the first time since 2006

NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

By Ron Kuchler

As I sit here and write this one week in advance of the end of MLB's regular season there is one certainty we know the National League representative in the World Series could be one of any of the five teams that made the post-season. Yes, that's right, depending on match-ups, game times and home field any of the five National League playoff teams could advance to the World Series. In the American League, at press time, we still do not know who the remaining two playoff teams will be, but we are certain that it will be the Blue Jays vs Royals in the American League Championship Series. Sorry Yankees, Angels, Twins, Astros, Rangers fans. On a side note regarding the American League wild card teams, a nightmare scenario is taking shape that may involve a playoff between 3 and possibly 4 teams to capture one of the two wild card spots. The Yankees appear to have run out of gas and may very well wilt and lose their lead over the other teams and the Twins, Astros, and Angels were separated only by a single game in the lost column. Could you imagine a four team playoff to capture the two wild card spots? What potential drama. Of course, by the time you read this you will have already known the answer.

Over in the National League, the field is set – Cubs vs Pirates in the Wild Card game (barring a final week collapse by the Cardinals), Dodgers

vs Mets in one NLDS and Cardinals vs the winners of the wild card game in the other NLDS.

So, taking out our crystal ball, we predict a rematch of the 2006 National League Championship series between the Mets and Cardinals, the last time the Mets and David Wright made the playoffs. In an eerie coincidence, in 2006 the Mets defeated the Dodgers as well in the NLDS. As far as who advances to the World Series, we'll have to wait and see if our picks advance first.

National League Wild Card Game Chicago Cubs vs Pittsburgh Pirates (1-game Playoff)

The question we all are asking is who Cubs manager Joe Maddon will choose to give the ball to in this one and done game. Will he go with the veteran Jon Lester or put his faith in the likely NL Cy Young award Winner Jake Arrieta? Based on his recent performance against the Pirates we predict Maddon puts the ball in the hands of Arrieta. We expect Pirates manager Clint Hurdle to counter with Gerrit Cole.

Our prediction: In what we expect to be a classic game, possibly extra innings, the Pirates win in walk-off fashion when they get into the Cubs bullpen.

National League Divisional Series Match-up New York Mets vs Los Angeles Dodgers (Best-of-5)

As unlikely as it was at the beginning of the year for the Mets to win the National League East crown, even more unlikely that they would be the first National League team to clinch their division crown, it is equally unlikely that they would overtake the Dodgers in the last month of the season to capture home field advantage in this matchup. But, as we go to press, they are indeed ahead of the Dodgers for home field.

The Mets might very well be the worst possible matchup for the Dodgers in a five game series. Even though the Dodgers have Kershaw and Greinke at the top of their rotation, both of whom are Cy Young candidates this year, the Mets counter with their own dynamic duo or triplets – DeGrom, Harvey, and Snydergaard. In addition, the Mets have been a torrid road team of late, having won 11 straight road games as we go to press. The Dodgers have the second best home record in the National League, only behind the St. Louis Cardinals. The Dodgers best shot at winning this series is to gain home field advantage and throw their aces Kershaw and Greinke in the first two games of the series during the twilight inside Dodger stadium. Otherwise, that \$300 million payroll will fall far short of a reasonable return on investment.

Our prediction: Mets in 5, Mattingly shown the door as manager of the Dodgers.

National League Divisional Series Match-up Pittsburgh Pirates vs St. Louis Cardinals (Best-of-5)

As we mentioned earlier, barring a complete collapse by the Cardinals in the final week of the season, they will be the National League Central Division champions and will have home field advantage in this best of 5 series. We predict the Pirates to outduel the Cubs in the wild card game.

Despite owning the best record in major league baseball the Cardinals do not receive the proper respect afforded to such a team. Their starting pitchers might be missing the Broadway lights names but they get it done – Garcia 2.36 ERA, Lackey 2.69 ERA, Martinez 3.01 ERA, Wacha 3.15 ERA, Lynn 3.16 ERA. And their bullpen is just filthy – lefty specialist Choate 1.26 ERA, 8th inning specialist Siegrist 1.16 ERA, and closer Rosenthal 1.26 ERA along with 47 saves in 50 opportunities.

The Pirates have a tall order going up against that staff. Cole, Liriano and Burnett will have to dig deep to keep the Pirates in games. The Pirates loss of Jung Ho Kang was huge. In a series where baserunners and runs will be precious, losing Kang's bat weakens the entire batting order. The bats of McCuthchen, Alvarez and Marte may not be enough against Cardinals pitching.

Our Prediction: Cardinals in 4.



- The New England Patriots offense has not skipped a beat. But their defense is as porous as they come in the NFL. All this media talk of them going undefeated is absurd. They do not possess a defense to go undefeated, let alone win the Super Bowl.
- 2. The Dallas Cowboys offense was expected to slow down without Tony Romo and Dez Bryant but in their first game without both it was not the offense that let them down, it was their defense. All the talk coming out of Dallas this year has been how they have a championship caliber defense. Someone forgot to tell the Atlanta Falcons.
- We are seriously reconsidering our Super Bowl 50 winner prediction. The Indianapolis Colts are not the team we thought they were. They have looked atrocious the first three weeks of the season. Playing against a Titans team they should have blown out, the Colts were lucky to sneak away with the win.
- 4. Speaking of the Titans, Marcus Mariota is the real deal. We'll admit that we did not think he would amount to much of a NFL quarterback but in his first three games in the league he has proven us wrong and made us believers.

- The Green Bay Packers and Arizona Cardinals are on a collision course for the NFC title. Both teams have been impressive in the opening weeks of the season. Let's hope both teams continue their torrid scoring pace and meet in that title game.
- What is going on in Chicago? Never to our recollection do we recall a team throwing in the towel after just three weeks of the season. Yet, that appears to be what is going on in Chicago with trades of Jared Allen and Jon Bostic. Poor Bears fans, there are rumors of more big names on their way out. You should demand a refund of your money for tickets to remaining home games. Whoever has the Bears on their remaining schedule this year has to be smiling.
- 7. Panic in Miami? The Dolphins are surprisingly 1 2 and staring at 1 3 as they travel to London to take on a resurgent Jets team. By losing to in-state rival the Jacksonville Jaguars in week two the Dolphins have greatly damaged any playoff hopes. The Bills demolished them in week 3. If this weekend's game against the Jets does not go well we would not be surprised to see immediate changes in the coaching staff as the Dolphins have a bye coming up.
- The Denver Broncos will not represent the AFC in the Super Bowl, sez Kandy. There continues to be conflict between Manning and Kubiak on the best approach to the offense. Kubiak reflects on his days on the Broncos staff when he was the offensive coordinator under Mike Shanahan and John Elway was the quarterback. The Broncos won back to back Super Bowls due to Elway's leadership skills and the running prowess of Terrell Davis. That Broncos team had a stout offensive line. This Broncos team has a sieve for an offensive line. Enough said.
- The Carolina Panthers may be for real. They made an aggressive move and went out and picked up a still very useful Jared Allen from the Bears. Already it is shaping up as a battle between the Panthers and Falcons for NFC South crown.
- The NFL has an officials and injuries epidemic. Too many flags are being thrown on players not relevant to the outcome of the play. And too many players are getting hurt despite the NFL attempting to improve player safety. The officials epidemic is an easy one to fix. VP of Officials Dean Blandino needs to send out a memo to all officials reminding them to focus on penalties that affect the outcome of the game, unless it is an unsportsmanlike penalty for roughing or similar dangerous acts. The injuries epidemic is a tougher one to address. In this day and age of players getting bigger, stronger and faster there is greater G force when players collide. Instead of increasing the equipment protection afforded players perhaps the NFL should consider reducing the protection. Leave the helmets technological improvements in place but reduce the padding the players wear, smaller and softer should pads would be a good start. In addition, the spike in injuries appears to coincide with the NFL's direction to reduce the strike zone on tackles, as players are being instructed to tackle lower. This has resulted in more accidental helmet to helmet collisions, thereby increasing the frequency of concussions, and increased the number of lower body injuries to knees and ankles. The NFL's intention is good but so far the results have been disastrous.





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