

## I realize I look ridiculous with this playoff 'stache



BRANDON DUBINSKY



We were all really excited about the way Game 3 went on Sunday, and what made it even more special was being able to do it at home in front of our own fans with the building as loud as it was. There was only a minute and a half left in the game, so it was even more exciting to make sure we got that goal and won the game.

OK, I know the big question on everyone's mind is: What's with the mustache? It's a tradition to grow playoff beards, but some of the guys on the team who have trouble growing beards, like Brian Boyle, decided to do the playoff mustache thing — which I thought might be funny to do as well. My facial

hair grows in a bit light, so I decided to pick up some Just for Men [with Walt "Clyde" Frazier on the box] to take it to the next level.

Sometimes I forget I have it and go for an extended period of time without looking in the mirror — and once I do, I realize how ridiculous I look. But with the way the two games prior had gone, I wanted to switch it up. And you know what? It ended up working in my favor!

Facial hair aside, our goal going into tonight's game is to make sure we don't get away from our game plan: to stay aggressive and physical and make it difficult on their skill players. We just need to feed off the energy of the fans the way we did Sunday, because we really do have the best fans in the world.

Brandon Dubinsky, 24, plays center for the Rangers. Madison Square Garden, which controls the Rangers, is run by the same ownership as amNewYork's parent company, Cablevision.

## Tortorella stays above feud

BY ARTHUR STAPLE  
Special to amNewYork

John Tortorella didn't bite. The Rangers coach didn't want to get sucked into the he-said, he-said gamesmanship that Bruce Boudreau tried to start Monday, when the Capitals coach called Madison Square Garden "nothing," said the Verizon Center was far louder and claimed that the Rangers played dirty in Game 3.

Tortorella only said he was confident the officials for tonight's Game 4, in which the Rangers will try to even their Eastern Conference quarterfinal series, would not be "influenced by the whining that's going on here."

Tortorella has changed since 2009, when he was just 21 games into his Rangers tenure and in charge of a playoff team about which he still knew very little. His

water-bottle incident with a Caps fan during Game 5, which resulted in a one-game suspension, was a misstep for a Stanley Cup-winning coach (with Tampa Bay in 2004) who was trying to establish himself in a new town.

Two years later, Tortorella seems content to let Boudreau do the popping off. Even trailing 2-1 in the series, Tortorella has the air of someone who knows what he's doing is right, so he doesn't need to distract with words or water-bottle squeezes. He came in with a reputation as a demanding, emotional coach. But this season, the players have seen a coach who understands how far his young team has come in terms of maturity and self-discipline.

"There have been times this year when I've expected him to come in and rip our heads off, and it hasn't happened," Brandon Prust said. "He's stayed real positive for the most part, and I think we've done the same."

Arthur Staple is a Newsday staff writer.



Rangers coach John Tortorella said he has moderated his famous temper "out of respect to my team." (GETTY)

8 Rangers vs. 1 Washington (leads 2-1)

Stanley Cup Playoffs, Eastern Conference quarterfinals

GAME 1: Capitals 2, Rangers 1 (OT)

GAME 2: Capitals 2, Rangers 0

GAME 3: Rangers 3, Capitals 2

GAME 4: Tonight, at Rangers, 7 p.m. MSG and VS

GAME 5: Sat., at Washington, 3 p.m. NBC

GAME 6: Mon., at Rangers, TBD MSG\*

GAME 7: April 27, at Washington, TBD MSG\* \*If necessary

### HEADLINES

#### MARATHON

- Pioneering runner Waitz succumbs to cancer at 57

#### MLB

- Mets designate 2B Emaus, call up Justin Turner from AAA

#### NBA

- Lamar Odom wins league's 6th Man honor; 1st Laker ever

#### NFL

- Week 1 sked for 9/11 anniv.: Giants at 'Skins, Jets vs. 'Boys

#### NHL

- NBC, Versus sign \$2B, 10-yr. deal to retain NHL TV rights

### TV SPORTS TODAY

#### MLB

SNY Houston at Mets, 7 p.m.

YES Yankees at Toronto, 7 p.m.

#### NBA

TNT Denver at Oklahoma City (Thunder leads 1-0), 8 p.m.;

New Orleans at L.A. Lakers (Hornets lead 1-0), 10:30 p.m.

NHL Rangers TV above

VS Detroit at Phoenix (Red Wings lead 3-0), 10:30 p.m.

Last night's Yankees-Blue Jays and Astros-Mets games were too late for this edition.

## Schmidt a 'blend' of A-Rod, Wright

BY KYLE STACK  
Special to amNewYork

The MLB Fan Cave on West Fourth Street and Broadway has become a venue to showcase the league's current stars as well as greats from past eras, such as ex-Phillies third baseman Mike Schmidt. The 1995 Hall of Fame inductee, on hand this week to help debut a Pepsi Max commercial, shared his baseball thoughts with amNewYork.



Mike Schmidt  
Phillies great

Fame inductee, on hand this week to help debut a Pepsi Max commercial, shared his baseball thoughts with amNewYork.

**Does an early-season losing streak have a notable effect on a team's psyche for the rest of the season?** It really depends on where they end up. ... It's hindsight. ... If you get in the postseason, then you don't ever remember having a bad start.

**You had a career .239 average at Shea Stadium. Why was it so difficult to hit there?** Tough place to hit. ... I went through the Seaver-Matlack era ... then ... the Gooden-Cone-Darling-Fernandez era. That doesn't do a lot for stats.

**Is it easier to play third base now compared to when you played, because most parks now have natural grass?** Not at all. I think artificial turf provided a fairly easy way to play defense. ... You didn't have to move your feet as much. You didn't have to worry so much about bad hops. ... I think I got away with murder on artificial turf.

**Which third baseman reminds you more of yourself: David Wright or Alex Rodriguez?** I like to say I had a blend of both of them. The energy and excitement that David plays the game with ... but, offensively, I see some of myself in [A-Rod].



**Should Barry Bonds and other steroid-era stars be allowed into the Hall of Fame?** I really don't have an opinion on that right now. I'm spending some time pondering that question. ... I think I need more facts. I think we need more of an education about the era.



### Knicks in a 2-0 hole

Despite 42 points from Carmelo Anthony, pictured, the Knicks fell to the Boston Celtics 96-93 last night in Game 2 of their best-of-seven series. Game 3 is Friday night at Madison Square Garden. (GETTY)