

Ling 194 – Language and Sports

Assignment 5

Due March 10

Use an archival database (such as Pro-Quest NY Times) to find nicknames in sports journalism from before the television era (for our purposes, 1939 and earlier). Find at least 10.

For each nickname, (a) note whether it co-occurs with or replaces the referent's forename and/or surname; (b) discuss its properties of word-play, derivation, truncation, and phraseality; (c) describe the context of its usage, and date the citation.

If you can, describe other aspects of the journalistic sources that seem dated to you, and explain.

Tips: This assignment will not clearly be a matter of using {nickname} as a search term in a database. Instead, you will likely need to look generally for sports narratives, and read them closely, combing for nicknames.