

WHERE SPORTS AND FAITH COLLIDE

WWW.SPORTSSPECTRUM.COM

DAVID TYREE



The Catch Isn't the Ultimate

page 46

SPORTS[®] Spectrum

SPORTS MOM
Gwen Diaz:

5

Ways to Grow a Godly Athlete

page 30

“If he were a vehicle, he'd be a Hummer Hybrid...”

Tim Tebow

“I DON'T WANT TO ARRIVE IN HEAVEN AND HAVE GOD ASK ME WHY I DIDN'T DO MORE”

page 34

SPORTS SPECTRUM FALL 2008

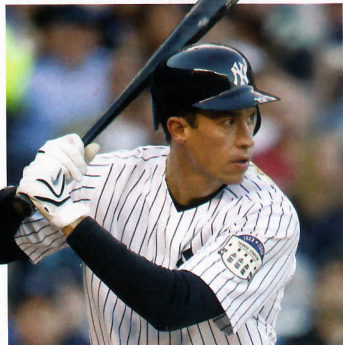


\$6.95 (\$8.95 CANADA)

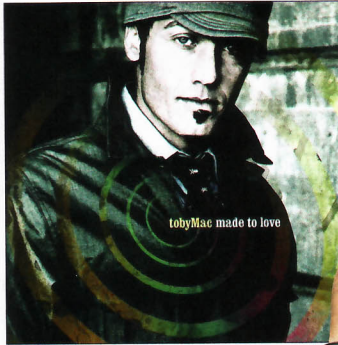
CHECKING OUT HOW ATHLETES INTERACT WITH TODAY'S CULTURE • BY JENNA SAMPSON

What's in Your Playlist?

Music is a huge part of our culture. It's everywhere: radio, television, movies, restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, and elevators. Let's face it—hearing a great beat combined with the right set of lyrics can take your day from okay to amazing! I can't think of a better time to reach out for just the right song than when you're a professional athlete at the top of your game—ready to step up to the plate in front of 40,000 screaming fans or looking for a little encouragement on the road during a grueling travel season. And you may think you've got great taste in music—until you read what the pros have on their iPods. I'm already making a list!



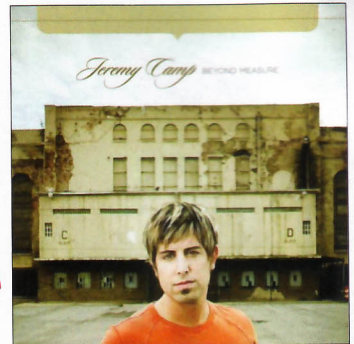
NICK LAHAM / GETTY IMAGES



tobyMac made to love



SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES



AROUND THE HORN

■ When the New York Yankees' **Chad Moeller** leaves the on-deck circle and struts toward home plate, *Toby Mac's* "Burn for You" blasts throughout the stadium. Talk about intimidation! Moeller also regularly listens to the *David Crowder Band* and calls *Third Day's* Mac Powell a friend.

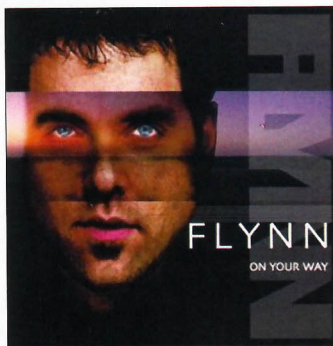


SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

■ And what can be better than having a famous musician as a friend? Having your friend write a song just for you! Detroit Tigers pitcher **Todd Jones** is tight with *MercyMe*. They penned the song "Last One Standing" on their album *Coming Up to Breathe* just for the Tigers' all-time saves leader!

That's definitely a reminder that hitters don't enjoy hearing before standing in against Jonesie.

■ **Albert Pujols** of the St. Louis Cardinals keeps it fast with Christian rapper *Flynn* when he steps up to the plate. He regularly keeps in touch with musician friends Mark Hall (*Casting Crowns*), Eddie Carswell



FLYNN
ON YOUR WAY



PAUL WASTENSKI / GETTY IMAGES



STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN
THIS MOMENT



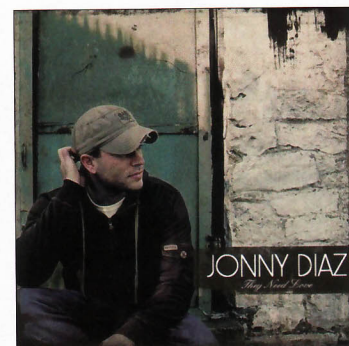
JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

MercyMe bandmates Bart Millard and Robby Shaffer are such huge baseball fans they even have a box at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington to cheer on the Texas Rangers. Look for a Faith Night in your area. Go to (www.thirdcoastsports.com).

(*NewSong*), and Robby Shaffer (*MercyMe*). Shaffer even attends games to cheer on the All-Star first baseman when he's in town!

■ **Third Coast Sports** Faith Nights are helping major league teams across the country fill seats with sellout crowds. At the Houston Astros' "Faith and Family Night" in 2007, over 41,000 people turned out to join *Jeremy Camp* in worship before the game started. All-Star first baseman **Lance Berkman** (also a big fan of the *Newsboys*) shared his testimony with the crowd.

Atlanta Braves hurler **John Smoltz** and teammate **Matt Diaz**, along with **Josh Hamilton** of the Texas Rangers, and Pujols have all given their testimonies during Faith Nights at their respective home fields, preceded by killer concerts from Christian music favorites *MercyMe*, *Jeremy Camp*, *Hawk Nelson*, and *Steven Curtis Chapman*. Matt's brother, musician *Jonny Diaz*, opened for Chapman at the August 2 Faith Night for the Braves.



JONNY DIAZ

SEEKING GOLD

■ On the other side of the globe, US Olympic athletes had a busy summer in China, giving Americans a lot to cheer about. They're fans themselves—of some of today's hottest Christian artists, that is. Platform diver **Laura Wilkinson** not only raves about *Amy Grant*, but she also appeared



MATTHEW STOCKMAN / GETTY IMAGES



on the Revolve tour with her for three straight tours as a guest speaker!

■ Olympic gold medalist decathlete **Bryan Clay's** theme song for 2008 is *Casting Crowns'* "Voice of Truth," something he knows about all too well. As a student at Azusa Pacific University in Southern California, the 28-year-old committed his life to Christ and hasn't looked back.

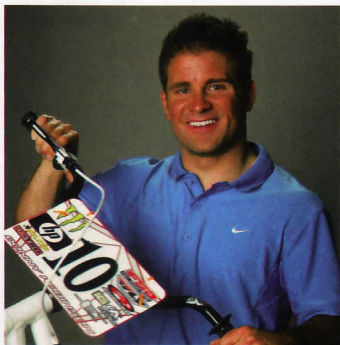
Bryan uses his celebrity status to reach out to youth through the Bryan Clay Foundation that maintains the motto: "Building Champions, Changing Lives."

■ At 23 years old, **Sanya Richards** won gold and bronze in Beijing. She draws inspiration from musicians like *Kirk Franklin*—and also *Yolanda Adams*. The Jamaican native also has a pretty cool Web site. Watch her "Beat the Bullet" (www.sanyarichards.net).



WILLIAM WEST / AFP / GETTY IMAGES

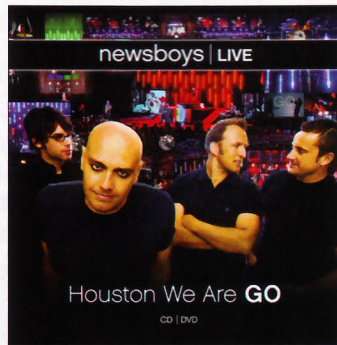
■ BMX racer **Donny Robinson**, who captured bronze in Beijing this summer (it's the first time BMX has been an Olympic sport), considers *Keith Green* a huge inspiration. "I've listened to his CDs for over 12 years," he says. Of course, he has some modern favorites as well, including *John Waller* and *Casting Crowns*. He also listens to *WOW Worship* CDs when he travels as a way to squeeze in some worship, even at 30,000 feet! The 5'5" biker is considered the David in a field of Goliaths, and he's certainly living up to the metaphor on the track!



MATTHEW STOCKMAN / GETTY IMAGES

LADIES' CHOICE

■ When world-class road cyclist **Amber Neben** begins her hill climbs during training sessions, she loves to pump to *Toby Mac*, *Hawk Nelson*, and the *Newsboys*. Nothing like some upbeat tempos to push you up a hill! Neben is a two-time winner of the Tour de l'Aude, the women's version of the Tour



JAVIER SORIANO / AFP / GETTY IMAGES

de France. She competed for the US in road cycling at the Beijing Olympics.

■ For **Tanisha Wright** of the WNBA's Seattle Storm, the music of *Vicky Yohe* has been a long-time favorite. "Because of Who You Are," a song off her 2003 album, never ceases to inspire Wright. Other artists on this hoopster's iPod include *MercyMe*, *Yolanda Adams*, and *Don McClurkin*.

■ Out on the links, popular musicians like *Jeremy Camp*, the *David Crowder Band*, and *Sonic Flood* are favorites for the LPGA's Aussie sensation **Katherine Hull**. She also likes to listen to *WOW* CDs. Hull captured the CN Canadian Open—her first LPGA win—in late August.

STRAIGHT FROM THE GRIDIRON



G. NEWMAN LOWRANCE / GETTY IMAGES



COURTESY: CROSS MOVEMENT RECORDS

■ Green Bay Packers defensive end **Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila's** favorite artist is Christian rapper *Lecrae Moore*. KGB recently sponsored a concert for Moore, a 2007 GMA Dove Award Nominee, even though Gbaja-Biamila couldn't attend the event because of a team commitment. His lyrics offer a great message—and a beat that all Cheeseheads need to hear!

So wherever you are, and whatever you're doing, realize that sometimes when you're listening to your favorite Christian song, some of your favorite Christian athletes are doing the exact same thing! Now start downloading some of these artists on your iPod—it'll turn your day from okay to amazing. 🎧