

Witches brew a win for Tom Brady

By Gayle Fee And Laura Raposa With Megan Johnson / Inside Track | Friday, January 13, 2012 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | The Inside Track



Photo by Angela Rowlings

It worked for Charlie Sheen, so can a dose of good ol' Salem witchcraft help Tom Brady [stats] exorcize Tim Tebow tomorrow night?

Lorelei and fellow Salem sorceress Lori Bruno will conjure up some pigskin hocus pocus at noon today — which BTW, is Friday the 13th — to neutralize the Sports Illustrated cover curse for Brady and send some Pats-ical magic to Foxboro.

“I’m going to raise the energy of the universe and send out all the good mojo,” said Lorelei (nee Lori Stathopoulos). “Lori will call in the Angels.”

Sadly, the ladies won’t put any hexes on the God-fearin’ Broncos QB at today’s Circle — because that’s not their way — but they do believe Tebow has spent waaay too many Sundays down on one knee!

At the 10-minute ceremony at Crow Haven Corner, the city’s first witch shop, there will be an altar set up with a Brady puppet — sewn for the occasion by another local sorceress — and mojo bags filled with herbs and stones for every Patriots [team stats] player.

Lorelei said she will Tebow and chant the following: “Tom Brady will see what he needs to see, be where he needs to be and will take the Patriots to another victory.”

Catchy.

“You know, when we had our spiritual intervention for Charlie Sheen last year, we had a hard time getting all the girls (fellow witches) to come,” laughed Lorelei. “But when we told them this Circle was for Tom Brady, oh, everybody will be there!”

Well, Sheen was disrespectin’ warlocks and Vatican assassins before his belated spiritual cleaning, and Tom is, of course, very appealing to the ladies. Even, apparently, witches.

“We want the true champion to come out on Saturday night,” Bruno told the Track. “But since we live in Patriot Land, it’s red, white and blue and make the dream come true!”

File Under: Spell-ing Lesson.

Tom won’t Tebow

Mayor Tom Menino will NOT be at Gillette Stadium tomorrow night, and he won’t Tebow if the Pats lose. So there ...

First off, Hizzoner will be “sitting by the fire” at kickoff, which is no surprise at all, considering the fact that the mayor and Bob Kraft are facing off (again) over the casino. Kraft wants it on his land in Foxboro, Menino wants it at Suffolk Downs in Eastie.

And you know, the two haven’t really gotten along all that well since Menino kept the football stadium out of Boston, oh so many years ago. So it’s like deja vu all over again ...

Which brings us to the bet. If Denver wins this weekend, the Paul Revere statue in the North End will wear a Tebow jersey for an entire day. However, unlike Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Menino refused to don the shirt and Tebow for the camera if the hometown team loses.

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, however, has agreed to wear a Brady shirt if the Pats prevail. The loser will also buy the winner an appropriately themed dinner.

“The Patriots have all the tools an NFL team needs to go all the way,” Menino said. “I am confident in our team.”

Hail to a hero

And speaking of The Game: the Patriots will be honoring fallen Peabody firefighter — and longtime fan and season ticket holder — James Rice at tomorrow's game by making his three kids, Alyssa, 12, Katelyn, 9, and Ryan, 7, honorary captains for the Tom-Tebow matchup.

Rice, 46, died just before Christmas battling a blaze on Peabody's Hancock Street. A passionate Pats fan, Rice was buried with his season ticket.

The team honored Rice and Worcester firefighter Jon Davies, who died in action two weeks earlier, with a moment of silence before the game against Miami. But when the Pats brass learned of Rice's special connection to the team they wanted to do something more, spokesperson Stacey James said.

"I reached out to his wife, Amy, and offered to make the three children honorary captains and they were beyond excited and thrilled," he said. "I asked her, 'Who is the first person you are going to call?' And she said 'It would have been Jim.' "

In other Big Game news, word from the interwebs is that Irish Tenor (and former Yankees crooner) Ronan Tynan will sing the national anthem, and there will be some sort of pyrotechnic display on the field pregame. So do get in those seats early!