

Good morning. Good morning listener. Good morning listener. It's crowded on the 605 and the weather looks balmy. It's bumper to bumper. Well what's it look like up in the copter? We're all going to be here having yourself a great weekend. It's an all new smart list. Jason why do you look like you're skiing? You look like you're skiing clothes. Well because I just dropped the kids off at school. It's cold out. You know we're going to have temperatures below freezing here in Southern California this week. I heard that. That's not below freezing, but it's going to be cold, right? Yeah, below freezing in parts of our great city. Wow. That's what they say. I can't wait for that. The LA Times says, I don't know if you guys read that, you Philistines. You know, first of all, I argue with Scotty all the time. He's like, I like when it gets super cold here because he's like, I hate it. Where's the sun? It's like the sun's going to happen for eight months and it's going to be 110 degrees. So keep me enjoyed like the cool. No, I agree with you. Nothing worse than sweating on Christmas Day here in Los Angeles. Hey, Jay, did you get, you know, plus you get to accessorize and when it's cold, like the little hat you guys just shamed me on. You didn't shame. You were just wondering, you just looked like you were taking a break from the slopes. You just had a good run. Looks like you had a couple good runs and you came in to warm up. Yeah. Hey, Jay, did you know, is Jason's birthday a while ago as we all know back in January? Did you, and I finally sent you my present late. You got my present. So, you know, I often complain and I'm always jealous of how much money Will has and then also how much he spends on himself. And particularly in fashion, he's fond of Laura Piano or Piana, whatever it is. Laura Piano, but that's okay. Does anyone know who that is? Well, it's really expensive. And so he sends over two boxes of this. Oh, it was in those boxes. That's right. And then beautiful brown sort of that. And I think, oh, well, this makes sense because he feels bad about flaking on my birthday dinner that you guys went to. Yeah, back on your birthday because I was sick. Claims to be sick for because he still doesn't look or sound sick. And then he flaked again on a golf yesterday morning with daddy's because he still doesn't look sick or sick. And by the way, it should be noted also, I had a year ago for Christmas, gave you something from Laura Piano. Yeah. So let's just start with the nice part, which is, you know, what was it? Was it sweater? Sweater. Thanks. Yeah. Thanks. Probably returned it. Anyway, so I open up these things and what's in the box, Sean, three tubes of Pringles. Yeah. And one box. And then in the other one, there's just shit from his terrible pantry, which is nothing but Oreos and Fritos. And you know what? And he said to me when he said he was going to send it to you that he goes, and now it's fucking stuck in your house. And now you're going to have to eat. Oh, no, well, it's already out, it's already in the trash. But here's the problem. I trojan-horst it. I trojan-horst it into the house. This is what you didn't factor in, is that you got a grin out of me, but you got rage and fire from my wife, who, you know, is all about, you know, well, listen, if we got a gift for him, he's got, he's got, better get you a nice gift, you know? And then, and so she saw the box, she's like, oh, this is so good, good for him. You know what? He's good for him. And then she saw this. Just rerouted to my house. You pissed off, you poked the bear. But you know what? She sounds like she needs to lighten up first of all. Well, she's talking, you're talking my language. So, you know, right off the bat, she needs to lighten up. I did get you a nice gift. I got her real nice gift for her birthday. Back up to me. Where is my nice gift? It's, it's, dude.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

It was mine. It was mine. It's from both of us. Oh, I'm looking at it. Got it. Oh, thanks.
No, it's the gift of gab. I'm going to give you that.
I don't need gifts actually. I'm just, I'm just, I'm having a run.
You expressly said, you expressly said the gift.
What did I get you, Jay?
You got me a beautiful, beautiful spa day.
Massage. Right.
Yeah. And you know, I like to keep myself well massaged and hydrated.
Does it remind you of being on that school bus, just cruising along LA city streets and giving each other massage, massage bus. That guy's got to be in jail by now. Right. The guy who ran that who ran the kitty massage bus. Yeah. I think that they might've taken a look at him.
The guy who started the experimental school.
What was the first red flag? Yeah.
Hey, by the way, we should be pointing out how excited are you guys about today is the big March day opening. Yes. It is. I think it's called merch day.
Is it called merch day officially? It's called merch day.
We should call it merch madness. Oh, God, that's so good.
Merch madness is great.
Come on. Merch madness is happening at the Wondery shop. Right. What is it?
www.WonderyShop.com/smartlist.
www.WonderyShop.com/smartlist.
I think nowadays you can just, you can just click the address thing.
Just WonderyShop.com/smartlist.
WonderyShop.com/smartlist.
WonderyShop. Wait, wait. Say it one more time. What is it?
www.WonderyShop.com/smartlist.
So that would be W-O-N-D-E-R-Y-S-H-O-P?
Yep.
www.WonderyShop.com/smartlist.
And that's where you get all like, what do you get? You get t-shirts, phone cases, water bottles.
By the way, we have so many. Look at this. We got this.
Look at, look at my new, look at the new phone case.
You can't use it on, we can't use any of this stuff.
You imagine walking around with a smart list phone case.
I wear a smart list t-shirt all the time.
You can't do that.
Why?
Because you're on smart list.
Yeah, but let me tell you something.
Who's going to see him?
He's in the living room and then the TV room.
The guys at Chin Chin will say, hey, cheese bag, get out of here.
And he just, he pulls outside of Chin Chin,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

he doesn't even go in, he honks three times.
He has a special honk.
And then they, the t-shirts here.
And I raise my chair.
I raise my chair so they can see the smart list logo on my t-shirt.
And the license plate friend that says smart list.
I'm listening.
I'll put it on.
I don't care.
Sean puts it on the hood of his car and he put it backwards
so people can see it in the rear views, you know?
Like an angel.
But let me tell you something.
I would buy this stuff.
I've had nothing to do with this.
It's the t-shirts are great.
There's this pretty weird that we've got t-shirts
and sweat water bottles and stickers.
And what, what's going on?
You know, what are the hats too?
Because as a, the hats are very.
The hats are great.
The hats are great.
They're super cool.
But let me tell you something really quick about the blankets.
So when we were talking about it,
they called it a throw blanket.
And I was like, I don't understand a throw blanket.
Like it's a throw blanket is like the size of just one foot.
Like it makes one foot warm.
So it's like, can we do like full blankets?
So we have full size blankets that are Sherpa blankets are super.
They cover your whole body.
You know what I like about that?
Those blankets is that they're quite,
that they've got a little bit of weight to them.
They're not weighted, but they're nice and big.
And they're, they're on one side.
It's that sort of softy like, like.
Softy fleece and the other side.
What is it?
What is that on the other side?
It's like a, I don't know, it's another soft something.
Yeah.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

It's a real soft.

Anyway, the merch, it's merch madness.

It's merch madness.

It's www.wonderishop.com slash smartly.

You should find some great stuff.

Please enjoy.

Shall we, let's, let's, let's do it guys.

Because you're going to want to talk to this fella for,
this could be a double session.

Tuck in.

Okay.

Now we've had some pretty fancy folks on here as well.

And even a few that are the undisputed best at what they do.

Goats.

Sean, do you know what that acronym stands for?

Yeah, it's, it's good all time around fun time.

Pretty close.

Greatest of all time.

Our next guest is the goat of his field.

And if you love sports, Sean, I know you do.

This is going to be a treat.

And if you don't love sports, sit tight

because you're going to love this man anyways.

Got a voice you've heard your whole life, a friendly face
that's been on your TV, your whole life, and a golf swing
you don't need to see your whole life.

He has eight Emmy awards.

He's in the pro football hall of fame, the television hall of fame,
the sports casters hall of fame.

He's the only sports caster to have called play by play
for the championship series of all four major professional
six Super Bowls, eight world series, two NBA finals,
three Stanley cups.

He's born in Brooklyn, started in Hawaii.

And now joins us here on smart list.

Folks, please welcome one of my favorite people,
our national treasure, Mr. Will.

Al Michaels.

No way. Let's bring him in.

No way.

I knew it was him.

Yeah.

This man, he just brings a smile to my face.

Same here.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

Hi, Al.

Even my face.

You know, hi, Sean.

You know, this is on one hand a tremendous honor.

I know it.

When I go back and I look at the fact
that you guys have done Spielberg, you've done Bono,
you've done the president of the United States,
you've done Clooney, you've done Bradley Cooper,
you've done my buddy Joe Buck.

I mean, the truth has to be told, guys.

What took so long?

So who got sick last night
and who am I coming out of the bullpen for?

Couldn't make you deal, Al.

We could not make you deal.

Yeah.

So, listener, so we do, we do play some golf together.

And I've been-

Oh, you and Al do?

Oh, yeah.

Oh, that's great.

I've been threatening to pull him on this show for a while
and finally our schedules collided
because you are a little busy, Al.

And let's talk a little bit about that.

How do you, I mean, you must not mind travel that much.

Now, I know you're not humping it on a steamer.

36 J.

Yeah, you're not in the back of the plane often,
but still time zones and packing bags
and leaving family and all that stuff.

How do you do that all these years?

Early on, I was so intent on getting to the top of this business
that I traveled a ton, didn't really think about the burden of traveling.

At a certain point, I think when you're young
and you're going to new places, you're excited.

And I'm not saying I'm not excited to go to Pittsburgh,
but the first or second time I've been to Pittsburgh
or was in Pittsburgh, it was fun

because I like to get into what the city's all about
and learn about the city and meet some people there.

And then the 80th time is a little bit different.

The 80th time is make sure that you get night turn down service.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

That's the important thing on the 80th trip.
This is part of, if this is the worst part of the business,
and I've been doing this for, well, 55 years now,
I'm starting in minor league baseball in Hawaii back in 1968.
And we're going to get into that.
If this is the worst thing,
this is one of the great jobs of all time and believing.
I don't want to come back in the next life
because if God wants to get even with me in my next life,
I'll be working in a sulfur mine in Mongolia on the night shift.
Yeah, yeah, yeah.
Well, Al, one of the things that's so striking about you,
and it's so great to see you, man, and obviously,
you've called so many iconic games over the years,
maybe none more than the Miracle and Ice,
do you believe in Miracle's call, which is so famous.
And Al, I don't know if you remember last year
when we played together, I gave you shit about it.
And I said, as a Canadian, I feel like a lot of our pros,
Gretzky at the time, they weren't playing on that team.
And you're like, just let us have this.
Why do you have to?
And you're just basically in my face.
You're like, shut up.
But one of the things I love, Al, is that you obviously,
because I want to get into how you started doing this,
you obviously have a love of sport.
And the way that I confirmed your real love of it
was the first time I went to,
I used my buddy Louis K's tickets for a King's game.
And I go and I sit with my buddy,
and who's sitting behind me, but Al and his son.
And I'm like, on his off nights.
Just take him in the game.
He's taking it in a game.
He's at a King's game.
And he's not calling the game.
You're there as a fan.
I'm like, this is a sports fan.
What if you turned around and he was calling the game from that?
Just in his son's ear, just whispering.
Well, Will and I both know that hockey is fantastic.
And I'm sorry we had to take the gold medal,
and even though Canada may have had better players at that time.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

No, I don't want to.
But Will, sooner or later, your ship's going to come in.
The Toronto Maple Leafs will, in our lifetime,
win a Stanley Cup.
Yes.
Could be this year.
That's been a, you're in a desert right now,
but I'm feeling the oasis, Will.
Maybe this year.
Now that you've had a hands up in charge.
Our buddy, Shani, who we've had on the program,
he's trying as hard as he can.
Let's hope.
But it is, and thank you, Al.
I mean, to Leaf Nation, thanks you.
Gosh, maybe we need Al to come up and call some of the games.
Intend them with our great guys who do it.
And that will be the magic touch.
You know, like, do you believe in miracles for the Leafs?
Would be incredible.
But now I do want to get back to you.
You're just, your fandom is so deep
that there are no offnates,
because you're always watching sports, right?
It's your, is that your true love?
I mean, I don't want to put words in.
Well, I've always loved sports.
And my father, look, I grew up in Brooklyn.
And how many kids can grow up
within walking distance of major league baseball?
The Brooklyn Dodgers are playing
about a 10 minute walk from my apartment.
So my father walked me over there when I was a kid.
It's the first thing I remember in life.
I walked into Evansfield on a Saturday afternoon.
The colors just blew me away.
I mean, the green grass and the dodgy uniforms,
which Vince Scully always described as wedding cake white
and the signage on the outfield fence
and the organist playing and all of this.
And Jackie Robinson is in the game
and Duke Schneider and people like that.
So right off the bat, I mean,
I can imagine my tongue was out of my mouth.

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And I just wanted to be there every night.
And that was the Genesis.
That's where it started.
I knew I wanted to do this forever.
And, you know, you can dream about something as a kid
when you're six or seven.
And then, you know, I was always confident
that I'd be able to do it.
And so I set my sights on doing this,
getting to that point and got there.
But I will tell you this though,
it's one thing to look at it from a kid's eyes
and say, I can do this.
And then when it happens, I look back and I go,
holy mackerel, are you kidding me?
Do you realize?
Right.
And I have Tay was a great thing
because you're so naive.
You think you can do it.
And then I went, oh, boy,
don't I need about 400 breaks along the way?
But why was it about,
why wasn't it the dream to play the game?
Why was the dream to call the game?
Well, it was both actually.
So I wound up playing.
Remember in Brooklyn,
there's not a lot of green grass to play.
So our games were the street games,
punch ball, stick ball, ring,
alluvial, stoop ball, all that stuff. Ring, alluvial.
I didn't have access to real baseball.
Ring, alluvial is a game.
That's what Will has right now.
It's a game where you have to.
It's a grief for that, I think.
You put people in jail,
like in the basement of an apartment building,
by bear-hunging them,
holding them for three seconds,
count out, cork, cork, ring, alluvial, one, two, three.
They go into jail.
And then everybody else has to extricate you from jail.

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So one day I extricated like all four guys on my team.
I was the big hero.
But I turned out to be the bump.
He said, cost us the game in the end.
You should have joined the Navy SEALs
or the Green Berets, it sounds like.
Oh, but of course.
That was my second dream, trust me.
So then is it safe to say that Vince Scully
was the first voice that really kind of sparked your passion for it?
Without a doubt.
Yeah.
So I listened.
Vinny was 21 or 22 when he took over.
Yeah, that was right when Vince Scully started.
He did.
How long did he, what was he doing the Dodgers stuff?
67 years?
67 years.
67 years.
And one of the great thrills and honors for me in my career
was when they asked me, Vinny was going to do his last season in 2016.
And they called me to MC at Dodger Stadium
before a packed house on opening day, the tribute to Vinny.
56,000.
And all of the old Dodgers,
the guys that I'd grown up watching play were there.
And of course, Vinny came out of the crowd, went crazy.
And a great thrill obviously for me was not only to hear Vinny early on,
to listen to him as a kid, to hear him all the way through.
When I first got into, got to do Major League Baseball,
but knowing him, knowing him for so many years,
and he was, he was special.
He was one of a kind.
He was the greatest that ever lived and nobody will ever exceed that.
And when you think about it, how many guys have 67 year careers in anything?
And to think about Vinny too, to the very end of his life.
I mean, I used to drive around in 2014, 15, 16,
when he's coming down the stretch of his career.
And I'd be listening to the game and the game,
it really wouldn't be that interesting,
but Vinny would make it 10 times more interesting.
And if he was telling a story and I pulled into the driveway
before I opened up the garage door,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

I had to sit in the car, letting it idle,
and let me hear Vin finish that story.
He was phenomenal.
Nobody liked him.
And it occurs to me, you must have played a ton of golf with him, right?
Because you were all up at the same golf course.
Was he much of a golfer?
I played, I hacked it around with Vinny.
When I first joined the club in 93,
Vinny was still playing a lot at that time.
And one time on number 10,
and you guys know you have to hit it across the ravine,
about 120 yards, and so many balls wind up not going over.
And I hit a terrible shot, went about 40 yards,
and right down into the gully, and Vinny shit.
They write songs about that swing.
They're usually sad country songs.
Right, right.
He was a wonderful man to play golf with,
wonderful man to know, wonderful man to have a meal with,
and I'm so thrilled and honored to have been a part of an industry
that he really sits at the top of.
Yeah, he'll always be my favorite dodger.
We'll be right back.
SmartLess is brought to you by FanDuel.
Hey guys, the midway point of the NBA season is here,
and now is the perfect time to download FanDuel America's number one sports book,
because new customers get a no sweat first bet up to \$1,000.
That's bonus bets back if your first bet doesn't win.
Just download the FanDuel sports book app.
It's safe, secure, and super easy to use.
Then you can bet on everything from the money line to point scores,
and threes drained.
You know, I love betting.
I love gambling.
I love Vegas.
I love all of it, like probably a little too much,
but that's for another podcast and maybe even a therapist.
But listen, I, look, if they had like a musical thing,
we'd bet on musicals like, hey, who's going to win set design and costumes?
You know, best song.
I don't know.
I could do that, and I'd win.
And just like, I could win at it.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

Like I'd probably win at FanDuel.

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21 plus exclusions.

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Hey, smartlist listener.

We get support literally from Helix.

So I don't know if you know.

I think I mentioned it before on the show that Scotty and I sleep in separate rooms because of a snoring issue.

But here's what's great about my Helix Dusk Lux mattress.

I can starfish it.

I'm spread out in all directions like a starfish.

And I sleep incredibly on my Helix Dusk Lux.

I don't get up.

If I get up to pee, I go right back to sleep.

And it's like, it envelopes me.

It's the warmest, greatest mattress.

The Helix lineup includes 14 unique mattresses, including a collection of luxury models, a mattress for big and tall sleepers, and even a mattress made just for kids.

There are models with memory foam layers to provide optimal pressure relief if you sleep on your side,

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Life is just better when you can personalize your experiences, like choosing that just right mix of shows in your podcast feed, or picking the best workout playlist for your current vibes.

You know what I mean?

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

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All right, back to the show.

So you're a kid from Brooklyn playing all these games, playing extractor or whatever, like ringleader extract and ringleaveo.

But then, so you're there and you're doing all this stuff, and you have a love for sports and a love for calling sports, and you know, how do you make that leap?

How does a kid from Brooklyn become Al Michaels?

What's the first thing that you go, I got to take this step?

Yeah, what got you out to Hawaii?

You started in Hawaii, right?

Calling minor league baseball out there?

Before that, I went to Hamilton High School here in Los Angeles.

Oh, wow.

I met a girl named Linda in the 10th grade.

Loved Linda.

Okay, that's, yep, you love Linda.

You know Linda.

No, we all knew Linda.

Love of my life.

Right.

And we...

Oh, Linda from Hamilton.

Linda Hamilton.

Right, remember, son?

Right, we were Tysons 10th grade.

And then my father loves sports as well.

And so when I was ready to go to college, we looked up some schools that...

Remember, this is in the 60s.

Every school right now has a radio and TV program, and you can major in it.

Not in those years.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

No, there were only a couple of schools that had had that type of program.
And we had moved from New York to Los Angeles in 1958,
when I was in the 10th grade.
So that's what got me here.
And so we looked at all of the schools,
and I liked it out of west.
I didn't want to go back east, love the weather.
So there were only two schools that had that sort of a program at that time.
One was USC, and one was Arizona State.
And USC was going to be a commute for me.
Live at home, go to school, you know, 10 miles away.
No, I wanted to have the full experience.
So we went down to ASU in Tempe, met with some people.
I said, I want to broadcast sports.
They said, well, you come down here.
We have a campus radio station, and we broadcast the games with students.
So if you come down, maybe by your third year, we can get you into that mix.
I go down there, and within six days, within six days, guys, I'm on the air.
I'm doing Arizona State, Colorado State,
because somebody dropped out on a campus radio station.
It was known as a carrier current in those days,
which meant you could pick up the signal in the women's boiler rooms, perhaps,
and maybe a block and a half away.
That's as far as it went.
But I wound up doing games.
And of all things, I wound up going to school
with a national championship baseball team, a guy named Sal Bando,
who 10 years later I announced in a World Series when I'm with the Reds, and he's with Oaken.
Rick Monday comes in.
Rick is still on the Dodger broadcast.
And when I'm a junior, we have a freshman by the name of Reggie Jackson.
So Reggie comes in.
That's crazy.
We had great football teams, Charlie Taylor, Curly Culper in the Hall of Fame,
and I wound up doing football, basketball, baseball.
I probably announced 200 baseball games going nowhere on the campus station at Arizona State.
And that helped me get my first professional job, which was in Hawaii,
because I at least had a tape to give to the general manager, a man named Jack Quinn,
to whom I own everything, for giving me the opportunity to come over to Hawaii in 1968,
do minor league baseball.
And by the time that was all said and done,
I was doing everything over there.
Basketball, baseball, volleyball, you name it.
I'm on television twice a day.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

What is the audience size of minor league Hawaii baseball?
I mean, is that more than 100 people or less?
No, they were in the Pacific Coast League.
So we were playing in teams like Phoenix and Tucson and traveling.
And Seattle did not have a major league team at that time.
Neither did San Diego.
Denver's in that league.
So the Pacific Coast League teams would come over and play Hawaii.
So our big rival was the Spokane Indians.
And Spokane in those years was the Dodger Farm Club.
The president was Peter O'Malley.
They were managed by Tommy Lasorda.
The players included Steve Garvey, Davey Lopes, Bill Russell, Bobby Valentine,
Bill Buckner.
And I'll just give you one quick story from Lasorda.
Lasorda always took credit for my career.
So our big rival is Spokane.
So in 1970, we're over there.
And because of travel expenses and restrictions,
teams would come over not for three days or four days, but for seven days.
They spend the whole week there.
So I got to know these teams very well.
So in the third game of a seven game series between Hawaii and Spokane,
Lasorda gets thrown out of the game in the third inning.
You know Tommy, Tommy's all over the place.
Now in Hawaii, there's no dugout access to a clubhouse.
You walk 480 feet throughout through this out the center field fence.
And the clubhouse is 100 feet beyond that.
So you can't sneak back into the game like a lot of managers used to do.
So Lasorda is gone.
He's out in the clubhouse.
You can't be seen the next night.
He's so angry that he comes out and as he exchanges lineup cards
with all people, Bruce Frimming,
who would go on to like a 37 year career as a major league umpire,
he gets thrown out of the game with the exchange of lineup cards.
Before the game starts.
Before the game starts.
So there he is. He makes that walk again.
The crowd is singing to him.
He'd last one more game.
Now the sixth game, he gets thrown out again in about the sixth.
In six nights.
He always tells the story about how he calls Al Campanus,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

who's the general manager after every game to report Campanus, the GM of the LA Dodgers at that point, to tell him how the guys did. Valentine went two for four. Buckner did this, so-and-so pitched six innings, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. So Lasorda tells, according to Lasorda, tells Campanus in one of those calls, hey, you know, hey Al, I know you got Vince Gully, Vinny's great, he's gonna be there a long time, but there's this kid over here. There's this kid, he's announcing baseball, and this kid is, this kid's really good. His name is Michael's, it's Al Michael's. You should keep an eye on this kid. The conversation goes on. They're ready to end the conversation. Campanus says to Lasorda, hey, Tommy, this guy, Michael, is this kid you're talking about? How do you know he's any good? Tommy said, I've been thrown out of the last four games, I'm sitting down in the clubhouse listening to him. So Lasorda dined that on that story. It's a little bit of an embellishment, but a lot of truth to it. I love that he got thrown out with the lineup cards. I don't wonder if that's ever happened again. Unbelievable. Speaking of being thrown out, and you just mentioned Bobby Valentine, one of the all-time great throwouts. Bobby Valentine, Sean, I don't know if you know this. When he was the manager of the Mets, he got thrown out of the game, and he came back in in disguise. He wore a fake mustache and glasses. True story in Major League Baseball, like in the 90s, right Al? For sure. I remember that very well. It's so funny because on that Dodger team, which was so good, this is the team of Garvey and Russell and Buckner and Lopes, and they'd go on to, you know, in championships when they all got called up. I thought, and I think Tommy did, and I think a lot of the Dodger organization people felt, Valentine was the best of the players. Really? But Bobby kept getting hurt. Bobby's whole career was injury-prone.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

So Bobby had, you know, five or six very significant injuries, and so he never quite lived up to what was expected of him as a player. He was a great athlete, though. And then he becomes a great manager. So Al, so you're there, and you're in Hawaii. You're calling all these games. You've had all this experience. Kind of goes to that idea of like the 10,000 hours. You're calling, you're talking into a vacuum in Arizona State. There's nobody listening. But you're getting those hours under you, and then you're calling minor league games, and you're getting more experience. So then what is the big break moment where you start going on a national stage? What's that first gig? Three years in Hawaii. So it's the end of the 1970 season. We had had a very successful year. We launched the Spokane and the championship series, but we drew over 400,000 people in Hawaii. So we were putting a lot of people in that stadium every night, and it was a big, big deal in the sporting news that a big story on Hawaii baseball. And the Cincinnati Reds were looking for a new announcer. I don't know what happened to the guy who was there before, but somebody in Cincinnati, a man's name was Dick Wagner, who was in charge of trying to find somebody to come in and be the broadcaster. And he had called somebody at NBC who knew about me and said you should look at this kid. So I get a call from the Reds in November of 1970. It's a weekend when I'm doing five football games. I'm doing four high school games in the University of Hawaii. I'm doing five games in a weekend. They put me on a red eye after the fifth game on that Saturday night. They fly me to Cincinnati to be interviewed for the Reds job. Now, this is the Reds coming into the 1971 season. They had just been in the World Series. They lost to Baltimore. That's the Brooks Robinson series where Robinson is fantastic. So all of a sudden I'm in Cincinnati. I'm 26 years old, and I'm going to get the Cincinnati Reds number one job. I'm going to a team with Pete Rose and his prime, Donnie Bench coming into his prime, Tony Perez in his prime, Davey Concepcion, Joe Morgan getting traded over the next year, and Sparky Anderson, Hall of Fame manager. I'm coming to that team. Wow.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

So it was kind of crazy because it was really weird though.
In Cincinnati, it's like November the 16th,
and I meet the brass in an office downtown of the Central Trust Tower,
and I walk outside, and it's like 38 degrees, and it's sleeting,
and I'm walking back to Stoffers Hotel, which is about three blocks.
I love their pizza.
And Linda's in Hawaii, and we have our son, our baby,
as a year or two old at that time.
And I walk by standing on the corner waiting for the light to change.
I'm freezing to death.
And the colors in Cincinnati at that time of year are two colors.
They're brown and gray.
That's it.
And I'm thinking of Hawaii where it's all blue and green and beautiful
and flowery.
And I look into the window of a travel agency,
and I can see my apartment at Diamond Head in the poster.
And I'm looking now.
I look across the street.
I look back at this.
I'm going, huh?
I'm making a leap.
Of course, I'm lying in bed that night.
They're going to announce the thing the next day.
Joe Nuxol is going to be my partner.
I can't sleep at all, at all.
But I'm thinking to myself at about five in the morning,
you know what?
I'll get up.
I'll do this press conference.
I'll get on the plane.
They'll never see me again.
I'm going back to Hawaii.
And I'm not coming back.
But of course, it all worked out.
Well, I got on the plane.
And then they get off in Hawaii.
And I go by one of those racks.
Seven or eight hours later, I land in Honolulu.
And one of the newspaper racks is there.
And there's the Honolulu store at Bolton.
And there I am on the front page.
Highlanders losing their voice to Reds.
And I'm going, I've got to go.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

I can't stop now.
Anyway, you can't go now.
No, I could not.
That would have been the end of my career.
But talk about two opposites.
Yeah.
From Hawaii to Cincinnati.
That was now.
Did you notice Jason?
Did you notice something there before you said it?
Did you notice something great that Al just did in that story?
He remembered the month you remembered the day.
Who does that sound like?
That sounds like Mary Lou Hinner.
Al, I do the same thing.
I can remember dates and I can remember the actual day of the month.
I do the same thing.
He's a one-trick pony, guys.
So Al, my next question.
Hey, wait a minute.
Wait, before we get off Mary Lou Hinner,
this reminds me, I've never met her.
Jimmy Burroughs is a great friend of all of ours.
Another guy you've had on the podcast.
The great Jimmy Burroughs.
The great, the good, the great, the fantastic,
the over-the-moon Jimmy Burroughs.
We all love Jimmy.
Been a long time friend of mine.
You guys know him well.
So his book party.
And you guys sent him on to promote his book.
Fantastic book.
And he wanted me, he always wanted me to meet Mary Lou Hinner,
who was there.
But I had to be back in New York for a wedding that weekend.
So I couldn't do that.
But it reminded me of, you know, Mary,
one day I've got to meet Mary Lou.
I think she, she's deeper into this thing than me
because she, she seems to remember like everything she was doing
every minute of the day.
I'm only good for about three hours each day.
Just tell my sister Tracy, Mary Lou Hinner,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

and now Will Arnett are famous for this kind of.
Date recall.
Recalling days and dates and all that.
I can't do it on the same level.
Obviously the Mary Lou Canon.
I don't even know if I can do it the way Al did.
Like Al, Al just said the date November 16th,
Stofer Hotel, 38 degrees.
Walking three blocks to the thing.
And I know that detail is important.
I love the way Al paints the picture.
And when he puts those details in,
they make it more complete rather than you two schmoes
who go like, yeah, I was there the other day, whatever.
And that's why nobody's interested when you talk
because you guys are just these boring
and you're so self-involved that you don't paint a picture.
If you're a real schmoe though,
you've got an incredible talent
and you haven't figured out how to monetize it, you know?
I mean, Al's making money with it.
You're just wasting it.
That's true.
That's true. That's fair.
That's fair.
Well, I messed up.
I looked it up.
It was 37 degrees that day.
Oh, that's all out the window.
The whole thing falls apart.
Anyway, so Mary Lou reminded me of Jimmy Burroughs.
And I wanted to talk about Jimmy
because I talked to Jimmy yesterday
and I told him I'm coming on the show.
Oh, that's great.
And he described you guys as my three sons is what he said.
He said, those guys, yeah, meanwhile, you know,
Sean, you're...
He really is like a father to me.
Well, I said to him,
and Sean was excited about this,
but I said, you know, I said, are they in your will?
And the phone line went dead.
Yeah.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

No.

There's enough room for us in that will.

I always tease them.

By the way, you know what Jimmy was doing yesterday?

He was out.

He was putting in a new mailbox because the old one, there was some such spillover from the residuals and the royalties that they were dropping into the street.

Right now.

All right.

Now, this is going to be one in a series of questions that you're so tired of answering.

I apologize, but I...

There are probably questions I have too.

What do you want for dinner?

Well, so, you know, how about your favorite sport to call or the hardest sport to call?

Your choice there.

I'll bet the hardest is hockey, just because of all the shift changes.

Absolutely.

See, because in every other sport, somebody has the ball and the other team's on defense.

Yeah.

And that is the case, obviously, in baseball.

That's the case in football.

For the most part, it's the case in basketball.

There are takeaways and turnovers.

But in hockey, you could have a change of possession six, seven, eight times in a minute.

Yeah.

So to do hockey on radio to me is like impossible because your brain can't work around, wait, wait, who has the puck?

Right.

And then in all the shift changes, too.

Yeah, your team may play Carolina once a year in Florida.

You don't really know those players.

Wait, who has the puck?

Where is the puck?

So hockey on radio, on radio is by far the toughest.

TV's hard, but better.

The reason it's harder on radio is because you have to say where the puck is and who's got it all the time.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

Exactly.

With television, you can assume they can see it.

Right.

And in basketball, it's only 94 feet, hockey's 200 feet.

In baseball, there's a pitch and something happens after the pitch and football is a play.

They are easy to describe in terms of where they are relative to the field of play.

In hockey, neutral zone, just across the blue line, behind the net, you're trying to describe who has the puck.

The puck is forever going to somebody else's stick.

You have so many shots on goal that are blocked by 18 guys.

Right.

Well, only 10 guys, obviously, with two goals.

Don't you want to just tell the audience?

Just turn your TV on.

Turn your television on.

Now, is it easier for you to keep track of it

by actually looking at the ice

or are you looking at the television like we are?

What gives you the best view of tracking the puck?

Well, I've only called probably 25 hockey games in my life,

most of them in the Olympics in 80, 84 and 88

and a couple of NHL games.

Including the most famous hockey game.

And a couple of Stanley Holtz.

Well, yeah.

I mean, that should have been the one and done.

I mean, believe me, that was...

You're talking about I have 18 rabbits feet dangling from my pants during that game.

That was the one game to call.

But with hockey, you pretty much have to call it with your naked eye.

Yeah.

Where football...

I set it up so that the monitor is right in front of me

and I can look over the top of the monitor

so I want to see as much as I can with the naked eye.

But every time there is a shot change

on television and that's what the viewer is seeing,

I want to know, what is he seeing in that shot change?

So I've trained myself.

I've been doing this for so many years that I know how to do it.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

It comes to me as second nature.
Baseball is so vastly different
because there's so much dead time
that enables you to tell all these great stories.
You can get so many stories.
Yeah, that's what I want to know about the stories.
Koshwin.
No, no, I have a question, Al, because I have a question
about the art of what you do.
Believe it or not, I love watching football.
I think it's like a super entertaining, fast paced...
It is a great show.
...on what to watch.
It is.
And so, what's that?
Sorry, you said believe it or not.
So I just said or not.
Sorry, but go ahead.
No, I do believe it.
No, but the art of what you do is...
I assume this is why there's not a lot of Al Michaels
and there's only one because the way your brain functions
to your point, what you just said,
which is to fill the space like in baseball,
if there's a lot of space,
or even in football, if there's like a long, you know,
delay and whatever,
it's kind of mind blowing that you can endlessly
have this information in your head to fill the space
for the audience at home.
I mean, that's got to be like a skill not a lot of people have.
It's a ton.
I mean, I liken it really to taking a final exam every week.
And in the old days, old days,
30 years ago or whatever,
you had maybe 15% of the information
that's available to you now.
What's happened now with analytics and all the rest,
there are too many pieces of information.
So, you know, it's wonderful to start, you know,
go the average depth of target and all that.
Whoa, whoa, whoa.
I think you have to back off.
I don't think too many people in an audience of 20 million

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

are sitting there concerned about the average depth of target.
I mean, that is, that's deep, deep, deep insight.
Has there ever been a time where you couldn't,
you didn't fill the space and you're just like,
I have nothing left.
Like it's so long.
Like it's five minutes.
I have nothing else.
I have nothing else.
I'm out.
Right now?
Yeah.
But Al, I'm interested that you said that
because I was watching the game the other day,
one of the playoff games and NFL playoff games.
And, you know, I watch a lot of hockey and I watch a lot of European.
I watch a lot of soccer.
And one of the differences I know,
and I was thinking like,
is this because of the Madden football games
or, you know, the video games, et cetera?
The way that, not just in the game,
but in the breakdown in between,
at halftime when they go back to the studio
for all the networks and all the different stuff,
the way they break down,
they talk about the nickel defense
or what these guys are doing.
And they break it down in this way that I'm like,
at a certain point, I'm like, hey, man,
I just want to watch the game.
Why are you telling me about the package
and the guys coming into the scene?
The sausage is made.
Yeah, I don't care.
Who gives a shit?
I mean, it's good.
It's cool, but I don't need to know.
That's why I didn't become a football coach
because I didn't want to have to listen to that.
Oh.
Well, you're preaching to the choir.
I mean, to me, I believe in the less is more theory,
especially on television.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

You're seeing it.
You don't have to scream the game at people.
You don't have to yell the game at people.
You don't have to holler.
You don't have to do it.
To me, I always try to, if I can,
speak in captions and ellipses.
You don't need full sentences to describe
what people are seeing.
You don't do a radio, a completely different animal.
You have to describe everything
because nobody can see it.
On television, you can see it.
And so I've always been of that mindset
to try to call a game that way.
Something fantastic happens.
Say what you have to say with an economy of words
and get out of there.
I mean, in Lake Placid, you know,
I look into the greatest moment in American sports history.
So the game ends and I had six words.
Do you believe in miracles?
Yes.
And I'm the hell out of there for the next minute
because the pictures were so good.
All you do is you just, it's like throwing junk at the wall
to try to overwhelm or to be even in concert
with those pictures.
You can't let it play, let people exalt,
let people enjoy what they're seeing.
I think that that's why, first of all,
I mean, obviously for years on Sunday night,
when you started doing Sunday night football years ago,
it was just the perfect way to end the week
because you called it, it was the classiest game of the week,
always without calling it.
And now you're on Thursday night, so it's the same deal.
You finally make Thursday night at night, I really like.
Yeah, and you just got this, like you said,
this economy of words and you don't,
and when an incredible play happens,
you're not like freaking out.
You're like, what an unbelievable catch.
And then that's it, because it's an unbelievable catch.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

Now, which, so there's two months
that are the great, great sport months every year, right?
Isn't it October?
And then I want to say February, maybe where?
Well, January, February, it's a mix
because the Super Bowl is normally in February,
but all the games that lead up are in January.
But there's also other sports that are either starting
or ending in both of those two months there,
that October and February, I think, right?
Right, basketball and hockey started in October, right?
Baseball finishes, football is in, you know,
the fourth or fifth or sixth week, right?
And college football is going full blast.
I know the baseball months
because of the musical damn Yankees.
April, May, June, July, August, September.
Right?
Six months.
We'll be right back.
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Getting to know yourself can be a lifelong process,
especially because we're always growing and changing.
For me, I remember this one time, I was in my 20s,
and I had this job with this really horrible boss.
And I knew, he kept pushing me around,
pushing me around, kind of abusing me.
And I knew that it was at that time I had to grow.
I had to practice self-care,
and in order to do that, I had to become self-aware, right?
So I knew enough to make myself feel better in the moment,
and I pushed back, and I created boundaries for myself.
And that was a huge turning point for myself.
I grew, and I changed from that moment.
When I actually confronted him, and I said,
I can't take this anymore, I need to create boundaries.
It's me or the job, I told myself.
So I chose me, and it changed my life.
I grew immensely from that moment.
And when I got into therapy, it gave me the tools
to even create more boundaries
and realize that communicating those boundaries
was just as important.
So therapy is all about deepening your self-awareness

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

and understanding, because sometimes,
we don't know what we want or why we react the way we do
until we talk through things, right?

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You know what?

If I was to start a new business,
out of all the businesses I could think of,
the one that would make most sense for me
is a lemonade stand but tuna fish sandwiches.

Like you drive by, I'll put my little cup out.

Put, you know, a donation of your choice,
and you get a fresh tuna sandwich.

And if you like it the way I like it,
with lots and lots and lots and lots of mayo in it.

And I want to do it in the summer months when it's hot.

Who's in?

Whether you're starting a new business,
like a tuna stand, or growing one,
if you want it to be successful,
you need the most talented people on your team.

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Zippercutter's powerful matching technology
finds highly qualified candidates
for a wide range of roles.

Got your eye on one or two people who'd be perfect for your job?

Zippercutter lets you send them a personal invite
so they're more likely to apply.

Zippercutter also offers attention-grabbing labels

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

that speak to job flexibility,
like remote, training-provided, urgent, and more,
to really help your job stand out.
And speaking of standing out,
who's that I spy little Jessica and Ronald across the street
handing out tuna sandwiches?
Way to go, guys!
Way to go!
Let Zippercutter fill all your roles with the right candidates.
Four out of five employers who post on Zippercutter
get a quality candidate within the first day.
See for yourself!
Go to this exclusive web address to try Zippercutter for free.
Zippercutter.com slash smartlist.
Again, that's zippercutter.com slash smartls.
Zippercutter is the smartest way to hire.
Smartlist is supported by Benjamin Moore.
Everything has their own style and flavor for things,
and luckily, Benjamin Moore's got over 3,500 premium colors
that make it easier to express yourself.
Maybe Brown Wenge, or some people say Brown Wenge,
is a great match for your room where 1,800's austerity is key.
Perfectly Pesto Green works wonderfully with your office
that has approximately 92% plants.
Maybe it comes down to how your life is going
in long-term mood and outlook.
Benjamin Moore makes it easy to switch things around
to match up with your life.
Speaking of life, isn't life golden?
Like Benjamin Moore's Golden Straw,
number 2152-50.
It's not called Benjamin Less, it's called Benjamin Moore,
because Benjamin Moore paints higher quality
because you've done well for yourself.
Many things in your life are of higher quality,
like your house, your car, your personal belongings.
Of course, the paint you use falls into this, too.
Benjamin Moore paint is only sold at locally-owned stores.
Save 15% off your next paint on sample purchase
at Benjaminmoore.com using code SMARTLESS.
That's Benjaminmoore.com code SMARTLESS.
Back to the show.
Now, what stadium do you love visiting the most,
and what city do you love visiting the most?

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

Well, as a homebody, there's no greater game for me to do than a raider or a charger game.

Right.

Because I can go down to the 405.

Or any rams.

You said raiders, rams.

Well, the raiders at the rams.

That's what I meant to say.

Raiders at rams.

There goes my memory.

Already it's shot.

You see, it's the off-season.

Off-season.

You're going to Vegas soon.

Right.

I'm going to think about that.

Of course I am.

Are the A's going to move to Vegas?

They probably should.

That has been going on for 30 years.

Oh, really?

30 years.

It's a horrible ballpark.

It's the worst ever.

Yeah.

The worst ever.

One of the oldest.

And they've been talking about this for years.

Yeah.

And it's kind of funny how the Giants, and remember, I left the Reds to do the Giants in 74, 5, and 6.

And that ballpark was the worst ever, Candlestick Park, just a complete garbage dump.

And the Giants threatened twice to move out.

Once, Will might remember, to Toronto.

They were going to go to Toronto in 1976.

Oh, my God.

LaBasse was going to buy the Team the Brewery before the Blue Jays got the expansion franchise.

Wow.

I did not know that.

There's something Will didn't know.

So they almost did.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

They were saved by a guy named Bob Lurie.
And then in 93, St. Petersburg came in
before the Tampa Bay Rays got their team.
And they almost bought the team.
And it was saved by a guy named Peter McGowan
from Safeway Stores.
Wow.
Then they went ahead and they built this stadium
in downtown San Francisco, which is beautiful.
Fantastic.
You have a view of the Bay Bridge.
It changed everything.
They went from the worst stadium,
where you couldn't draw flies,
to the best stadium where they sold out every night.
This was Pac Bell and now Levi's, right?
Well, whatever it is.
They changed it.
They changed it.
I can't keep track of it.
Right.
So would that be, is that your,
do you think that's the best stadium currently right now?
It's all a matter of choice and you can argue it.
But yeah, I mean, it's in the conversation.
It's in the conversation as a place you love
to watch a baseball game.
Right.
Let's put it that way.
You love it.
Oh, yeah, whatever it is.
Keesh.
Now, what the newest one is what SoFi, right?
And I feel like there's another one being built too.
Oh, anyone?
What do you think of the,
like the Sofis in these stadiums,
these incredible sort of like shopping malls
that host sporting events?
I think SoFi is terrific.
I think they did a fantastic job there.
And of course, you know,
living in the city as we do,
we had old and decrepit facilities.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

The Coliseum has been around a hundred years.
Yeah.
The Rose Bowl has been around for more than a hundred years.
Dodger Stadium has held up.
But Dodger Stadium is almost 60 years old.
Third oldest.
We needed a facility.
And Stan Crocky built it.
And this is how all of these stadiums
are now being built these days
because they try to take all of the land around it
and then build up, you know,
either retail or housing or other, you know,
or other entertainment venues.
I mean, you go down to Anglewood right now,
it's kind of crazy.
You got SoFi,
and they can do not only concerts in SoFi,
they have a smaller addition to that building
where you can do them.
The form still exists across the parking lot.
Steve Bommer is building a place for the Clippers
across Century Boulevard.
They're going to have concerts.
So I mean, that's going to become like,
you know, the entertainment,
I don't want to say the entertainment capital of the world,
but boy, oh boy,
there's going to be something going on there every night.
Looking forward to the traffic.
Now, what happens when you're...
Spoken like a true Angelino.
Now, what happens when you are,
when you're calling a game for a team that you love,
who's your favorite sports team?
I mean, is it the Reds
because you started back with them?
No.
No.
I have an affinity with, remember,
the Dodgers were my team as a kid.
Right.
And were until I got the Reds job.
I had the Reds for three years.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

I had the Giants for three years.
You know, I'm really kind of an impassive observer,
maybe in my heart of hearts,
I want to see one win over the other,
but I'm really not a fan fan,
except as Will knows,
and since I have nothing to do with it, the Kings.
When I go to a hockey game,
I am all in on the Kings,
and when the Kings won the cup in 12 and 14.
And Will, it's an amazing thing
when your team gets to lift the cup,
just in case you're wondering.
I know.
I was...
Surprisingly heavy.
By the way, I was there when the Kings won.
You know, I'm such a fan in general, so I was there.
I wanted to burn it into my memory
so that I can get ready for what was to come.
But you don't have to give extra thought
to hiding your bias when you're calling a game, right?
You're too much of a pro for that.
You must have.
Yeah, I mean...
The only thing I'm rooting for when I go out to do a game
is drama.
I want drama.
I want a game to go to the end of the game.
I want there to be a lot of excitement.
I want there to be...
I love how unapologetic you are, too, when there isn't drama.
Because you know the audience knows
that there's no drama going on right now,
and you're not insulting their intelligence
by pressing and forcing some drama
in that you're just like, well, this game sucks.
And it makes it worth watching.
Yeah.
No, no, no.
You're selling a bad bill of goods
if you're trying to do that.
Fans know.
They know when the game is good.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

They know when the game is great.
They know when the game is average.
They know when the game is terrible.
And I know, you know, I got...
There was a lot of talk about the way
I did the Denver Indianapolis game,
which was a very bad football game
in week four last year.
Terrible, terrible.
I mean, every part of the game was awful.
Tons of penalties, no scoring.
And, you know, I just...
I couldn't help myself at the end of the game
when Fred Godelli, our producer,
punched up a shot of,
the crowd is leaving before overtime.
And then there was a shot from outside
of the stadium in Denver.
And you saw another 1,000 people
streaming into the parking lot.
And my partner Kirk Herbstreet,
who had only worked with a few weeks,
Kirk was still learning my sense of humor,
said, I can't believe, you know, they're leaving.
It's overtime.
I said, they'd seen enough.
Sometimes you just got to beat the traffic.
I mean, which I think reflected the view of the fans
at that point.
What are you going to say?
That's why we love you.
Al, you've called games with so many of the great...
You've had so many great co-conspirators
with you in the booth over the years.
I mean, the greatest.
And I don't want to ask you to pick favorites,
but if you have any highlight,
highlight guys or moments over the years
that just, you know, I don't know.
I mean, you've had the greatest.
Well, you've had them all.
They've all learned something from you.
I mean, who's had more partners broadcasting than you?
Probably no one.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

Well, I've probably had over a hundred
because I've done things like motorcycles on ice
and all that other stuff that are done
or done with different people.
But I never got to do a game with Vince Scully,
but I, you know, heard Vinny thousands of times.
I loved Kurt Gowdy, who was back in the 70s,
and I got to do the World Series with Kurt on NBCB
when the Reds won the pennant.
And I'm there in those years,
the local team's number one announcer,
which I was, got to work with Kurt on the World Series.
So here I am, a kid,
and I'm doing the World Series with Kurt Gowdy.
Wow.
And we're coming on the air, you know,
in October of 1972, Saturday afternoon,
it's the Reds and the A's in the World Series.
And guys, when the camera came on,
and I'm sitting there with Kurt,
and it's a one shot of Kurt,
and they got to pan out and bring me in.
And all I could think in my brain was,
please God, please God,
when I opened my mouth, let air come out.
That's how nervous, that's how nervous I was.
But sure enough, and then once he introduced me,
and away we went, and then there's like,
wow, this is the greatest thing of all time,
God, you can take me now,
but at least wait till the week from Wednesday,
which, you know, oh man.
Out of all of those people that you've announced with,
they're called games with,
is there one moment that stands out
is either like the funniest, like mishap,
or just the funniest person that you've called a game with?
Well, yeah, I mean, I just wanted to go
to a couple of partners that want to mention that,
and then I got that funny story for you,
but Ken Dryden, who of course was an iconic hockey figure,
the great Ken.
Ken and I did three Olympics together.
He was with the miracle, and ice was great.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

By the way, Al, Al, do you want to know one thing quickly about Ken Dryden? Here's a stat. Went to Cornell, was drafted by the Canadians, by the Habs. So he joined the Habs in the spring after Cornell's hockey season, goes to the playoffs, wins the Stanley Cup, and wins the Kahn-Smith MVP of this playoffs before he's played a regular season game, and then wins the Calder next year for rookie of the year. The Reservoir Montreal during that period, I saw Ken Dryden with my own eyes as a rookie at the forum. Yes, I did. So there he was, eight years later, we'd be together. I did baseball with Jim Palmer and Tim McCarver, loved it. Wow. I had football with Frank Gifford and Dan Diordor for years. Yeah. Then I had football with John Madden for seven years. Sure. I had Chris Collins for 30 years. I mean, I have had some fantastic partners, but Sean has the question about funny. Bob Uker. Bob Uker may have been the second funniest man of all time, topped only by Don Rickles. Oh. And Don was a great friend and loved Don. Never did a game with Don, but we loved him. Mr. Belvedere. Anyway, so Bob Uker. I did an episode with Belvedere, by the way. With him? Here we go. Oh, my God, he was fantastic. So Uker and I are doing a game in Houston with Howard Cosell, another one I forgot to mention, the one and only. And we're trying to talk Howard out of what Howard was talking about, because Howard always thought baseball was such a simple game. They make it so complicated, but Howard really never understood the game. And Howard, in this game, is calling for a but. In a situation where nobody in the world,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

the manager, if he called for a but in that situation, would get fired.

Bases loaded, no outs.

And whatever it was, it was just a ridiculous situation.

And Uker and I are trying to kind of ease it down a little bit from where Howard's going and Uke says, well, Howard, I understand what you're saying.

He really didn't.

But you got this thing and that thing, and he's in the bullpen and blah, blah, blah.

He writes about eight examples.

So Howard, you can picture Howard.

Howard says, he's going to play with Uker now.

He goes, okay, Uke, I get your point.

You don't have to be so truculent.

You do know what truculent means, don't you?

And without hesitation, Uker says, Howard, of course, if you had a truck and I borrowed it, it would be a truculent.

Right?

That was Bob Uker.

And then the other one was, remember baseballs or horse hides, right?

Or there used to be none of the cow hides with their horse hides in those years.

And we're talking about Charlie Finley wanted to have the alert orange baseball.

Fans could see it easier, much like the tennis ball.

And this became a topic of conversation.

So one night, Uker and I are doing a game, and it's an eight-run game.

It's over.

And we start to fill time talking about that.

And Uker says, well, at the end of the day, that could never be done.

And I said, well, why not?

He said, you couldn't find enough diseased horses.

So I mean, this was Bob.

This was Yuki.

I love him.

Are you talking to anybody specific in your mind when you're calling a game?

Or are you kind of having a conversation with your color announcer?

Or do you think that you're talking to all of America?

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

Is there a perspective that you're in when you're talking?
You know, that is a great question,
which I've thought about a lot.
And I still don't have the exact answer to it.
Because there are times when you don't,
it's not like you have a megaphone,
and you're talking to 100 million people.
You really have to think more in line of,
I'm talking to one person.
And I've tried to think that way.
Because I've done 11 Super Bowls.
And I know you have an audience of over 100 million people
watching.
And you can choke to death when you come on the earth
thinking about, I'm talking to 100 million people.
But I try to think to myself, I'm talking to one.
And I'm also saying to myself, you play mind tricks here.
You have 330 million people who live in the United States
of America.
100 million are watching.
230 million don't give a damn.
Right.
Yeah, half full or half empty.
Mind games.
Now, do you get to keep all those handsome clothes you get to wear?
I mean, every time they put the trim on you guys,
you look like Will Arnett up there with the Bruno Cuccinelli
and the fucking Laura Piana.
I mean, you guys are wearing like \$3,000 outfits every day.
You don't get to take it home?
No.
Because I buy my own clothes.
Because the clothes they gave us for the last couple of years
have not looked like Army, Navy, fire sales surplus.
That's you.
So I'm not going that way.
So you're packing a nice garment bag every game?
I'm packing.
What can I tell you, man?
That's it.
I go out and I buy a couple of sport coats and away I go.
Al, speaking of sport coats, the one thing I want,
you can't make this promise to me,
but I'd love to come over one day and just keep all the blazers

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

with the various insignias from all the networks and stuff and the wide world of sports over these.

Oh, I love those.

No, I had one yellow one.

We tried to find it.

We were going to go to a Halloween party or something, and I couldn't fish it out of the closet.

Imagine that.

You had a Halloween party and Al Michael shows up on Monday there in football blitz.

The ABC sports.

We looked like a bunch of canaries.

Best.

Who's got the best dog?

Or meal.

The best hot dog?

Yeah.

The best hot dog.

Dodger Stadium sells the most.

People will be surprised to hear.

But frankly, to be honest with you, the old Dodger dogs were fantastic.

Thank you, Al.

They're okay right now.

Thank you, Al.

Thank you, Al.

Oh, as Vinny would say,

Farmer John, all beef wieners,

Eastern most in quality,

Western most in flavor.

That's right.

It's just great.

I make a good hot dog.

I cut it up and put it in a mac and cheese.

It's good.

Do you really?

Yeah, sometimes.

You know, to me,

there's nothing better than a big, juicy steak.

Nothing.

Yeah.

Well, what stadium service?

It's well known.

I don't eat vegetables.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

I just eat meat.
I eat chicken.
I eat fish.
You don't eat any vegetables?
Some starches.
Zero.
What's the matter with you?
Zero.
I'm notorious for that.
I've heard that about you.
Yeah.
No.
You and Sean are going to get along marvelously.
Why don't you eat vegetables?
I hate them.
I don't like to look at them.
I don't like to smell them.
Hold on.
Hang on.
A gun to your head.
You have to have one vegetable.
Which one would it be if you had to have one?
A steak.
A steak.
Wait, Al.
I bet you I bet you I'm right.
Al, would you eat,
would you eat a wedge salad like at the Palm?
Would you have the wedge?
Oh, hell no.
No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.
Wow.
Your body's got to be so.
Thank you.
You could probably sneak something into the middle of pasta,
maybe.
Tomato sauce.
Maybe.
But that's a fruit.
Well, I like tomatoes.
I like tomatoes are fruit and I'll eat potatoes.
That's a storage.
But everything else.
Now, the only time I came close is Michelle DeFoyer,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

our sideline reporter for years.
We're in Baltimore one night.
We had a couple of nights off.
We had a long day and everything and everybody has about,
you know, four or five martinis.
And she sneaks me some French fries,
which turned out to be Brussels sprouts.
That was so deep fried.
They might as well have been.
So I actually put that down into my body and,
you know, that's the closest I've ever come in.
Trojan horse.
The Trojan horse.
By the way, that's the second Trojan horse I've heard during
the podcast.
I know.
This is the Trojan horse episode.
I'm here for quality control.
You know that.
Well, Al, Jason and Jason, Jason and his wife are,
they're like living up in this castle and they've eliminated
all food and all they do is think about is eating nuts
and cardboard and such.
And so I said, Jason, you heard the story.
I sent him all this junk food because I know how much
he loves it.
He'll come into my house every once in a while.
He'll walk in and he'll go straight to the pantry.
And he starts going, who bought this as he's eating it?
I just shoveled as much junk as I can get in.
And I'm like, I got two, I got three boys here who live here,
four actually.
So anyway, Al, boy, we can just talk to you forever.
It's like hanging out with it.
Well, it is hanging out with an old buddy.
We really appreciate your time.
Pick this up on the golf course.
It's really cool to meet you, Al.
Al, you're the best.
Thank you for doing this.
Yeah, you are the best.
You're a legend.
I mean.
Sean, I even got you into this thing.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

I was worried.

I was concerned.

I didn't know how much you liked sports or anything.

Sean's become a huge football fan.

You should know.

Yeah, I'm a big football fan.

He and Scotty are watching football every weekend, though.

Yeah.

But it's an honor to meet you.

I mean, there's no one bigger in your field.

Oh, let me get your question on this.

It's too controversial.

We can cut it.

You can tell us, but it's talking about the Reds.

And we've got all this gambling now that has become legalized.

Right.

In fact, they're even making you guys give plugs to the draft kings and all this other stuff on on area.

You're telling these guys to go ahead and gamble.

Now that gambling is kind of a partner of professional sports.

Do you see any path to Pete Rose finally being led into the hall of fame with a little bit of sort of a, well, I guess the past gambling is not that big of a deal anymore.

Where do you stand on that?

Does he have your vote?

That's such an interesting question.

I mean, now that you say that.

I look at it this way, then I saw Pete for three years every at bat have known him for years.

What he did, I mean, he broke a record that couldn't have been broken.

In my mind, he's in my hall of fame.

Yeah.

Let's put it that way.

Yeah.

I mean, he's one of the greatest players of all time.

So I know there is a real hall of fame and then there's the hall of fame of your mind.

And I don't know if he ever gets to the one in Cooper's town.

I, you know, it's people say it's tragic.

It's not tragic.

It's sad.

It's just a sad situation.

Yeah.

And will Pete ever get in?

You know, I don't know, but I'm afraid that if he does, it's going to be posthumously.

Yeah.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

They'll put them in these things will change.

The more race will be different, they've started to become different right now.

But, you know, to me, if I'm as a fan, who's in your hall of fame?

He's in mine.

For sure.

Yeah.

Just be based on what you did when you were there, when you were playing.

Did you, did you have that record?

Yeah, you did.

Did you do the great, you know, incredible thing?

Yeah, you did.

Okay, great.

And that's what he should be on.

And that's why other players are not because of stuff that they did while they were playing and affected their play.

And we don't want to get into that.

Well, but there's also like, we don't want to get into this either.

There's a lot worse crimes that we can all think of that would, you know, justify that.

Are you talking about murder, Sean?

Fuck you.

Here he goes with murder again.

Yeah.

It's such a bad rap.

God, he just loves getting into murder.

Al, big, huge thank you.

Thank you, Al.

And I mean, we could do a two-parter on this.

I know we could.

You're the greatest.

You're the greatest.

The greatest of all time.

Al Michaels.

G-O-A-T.

We're back on Thursday.

I'll see you guys there.

Okay.

On to Bel Air now, right?

Yes, sir.

Let's do it.

See you there.

I loved it, guys.

I loved it.

And by the way, I'm going to, I'm spending the rest of the day.

I'm going over and rifling Jimmy Burroughs' meal box.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

Yeah.

Get us some.

Spare us some.

All right.

Thanks, Al.

Have a great day.

Have a good day.

Bye.

Bye-bye.

That was really interesting.

I mean, the greatest.

Isn't it?

I mean, are you as calm, settled, and comforted by his voice as I am?

Yeah.

I was going to say, sitting here, just listening to him tell a story, you're like, you just sort of think, just keep talking, Al.

I just want to hear you talk.

But I touched on it before.

It's like, he's a savant.

Like it's crazy.

So then he goes, you know, in June 1994, he's making a date and I was thinking, and he goes, yeah, and I didn't want to embarrass because he was like, June 94, I was in LA because that was the same month that OJ went on that crazy ride in this Bronco and I was here staying in my friend Rob's place and that was also the Knicks were in the playoffs and the Rangers won after a 40-year drought in June 94, the Stanley Cup, that's all that shit came into my head.

I think it was 95.

Well, there's a pill for that guy.

Just elevate your feet, lay back flat.

It's like I'm doing, it's like I'm living in Bradley's movie that, what was the movie he did?

Limitless.

Limitless.

But like, I don't have to take the pill, you know what I mean?

No, I know.

You're already broken.

So wait, but I can't believe how long El Michaels has been doing it and still is doing it and like.

At the top of it.

Yes, for how many decades?

That's crazy.

And not sick of it.

Like he's like, yeah, let's go, let's go.

Like every week, how many shows do you think he does a week?

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

Shows.

Like, well, I mean, games.

Well, he's got the matinee, right, Sean?

He does.

Well, now he does it in football and his regular skit and now he's moved over.

He does 17, does he, or do they do 18 on the, on Amazon?

I think they do one a week, don't they?

Anyway, but I think that the last week or two, they do anyway, he could do, he could do three a day.

I mean, yeah, nothing slowing him down.

We played, we played this golf tourney last week, short for tournament and we, he and I, yeah, yeah.

And I got to play with Al and our buddy Skip Bronson is getting another mention on the podcast, this guy, Jason and co-crackers a great guy and it hits the ball a million miles.

But Al is the guy that everybody wants to see and he were out there walking the course and everybody and you just realize everybody, man, woman, child, grandpa, everybody, everybody wants to talk to Al and Michael because he's been in their homes their whole life.

He's been your tour guide for some of your favorite moments.

He does.

And Jason, you enjoy the tour guide.

You said that.

You said when you hear his voice, it's like, yeah, it's like warm.

And cozy.

And it's like, am I just being a kid?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

It's great.

Yeah.

You know, I think, I think, like you said, you can hear him do anything.

He's such a icon.

Here comes.

It's just that anything.

He's back into one right now.

Yeah.

Go ahead.

I got one.

I wish somebody would play him once.

And like, and like some like movie and what would, you know, those movies that are like, you know, when they play somebody famous, they're called like, what are they called?

Bi-o-graphic films kind of just hijacked my vibe for that.

Wait, no, no, no.

What was it?

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Al Michaels"

No, no, no.

Let's hear yours.

Let's hear yours.

I just think you would, you'd want, you'd listen to anything that was narrated by.

By.

Yeah.

Oh my God.

Pretty decent.

Pretty decent.

I think there's a way we can combine.

Oh, nice.

Combine.

Maybe there's a way to combine.

There's a way to combine.

See, again, I go up and I put, I put my body in a vice.

Why do I have to go up high?

Because that's what people, that's how you see it.

You accused us of doing it.

Now you're doing it because it's natural.

I know, it's catching.

It's natural.

It's just what people do.

Smart.

Less.

Smart.

Less.

Smart.

Less.

Smart.

Less.

Smart.

Less.

Smart.

Is is one hundred percent organic an artisan Lee Handcrafted by beđe Barbaco,
Michael Grant.

Terry and Rob.

I'm Jarf.

Smart.

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