2 Winner of the Nose Aerobics Basketball game: The game of pétanque gets its name from the sound of one of its hollow metal balls striking the head of a Frenchman. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

3 After their tragic experience with Lou Gehrig, the New York Yankees passed on a chance to sign Brian Alzheimer, Larry McClemmons, Annandale, a First Offender

4 Synchronized swimmers are typically fitted with plastic mouth inserts to ensure that their smiles precisely match. (Robert Schecter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

THIS WEEK’S CONTEST

Week 1061: Less taste, more fill-in

38 Across: AIRPGS: What you’ll see when the Redskins win the Super Bowl.

38 Across: AIRINGS: All you can blow with an e-cigarette.

A couple of months ago, as we’ve done for several years now, we published a filled-in crossword grid by ace constructor Bob Klahn and asked you to supply your own novel clues for words in the puzzle. This week the Empress again seeks novel clues — and novel words as well.

The grid pictured here is the solution to the crossword, also by Bob, that was published online last October. Well, not quite like this, of course: We’ve taken out a bunch of the letters so that you can give us a novel clue for any word or phrase in which the remaining letters fit, across or down. The letters DON’T have to form a working crossword; just think about individual across or down words. You may use a real word or phrase, or coin a new one. Please give the location of your word (e.g., “14 Down”). The limit is, as usual, 25 entries. You can write more than one entry for a given word, I don’t care. Your clue doesn’t have to be as short as the ones for real crosswords, but they still shouldn’t be more than eight or 10 words. Bob chose this crossword grid, rather than the one we used most recently, because it had more long words, which will allow for more variety in the entries. (See the original words and answers at bit.ly/klahn1061.)

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a wall-size “Span Through the Years” calendar, depicting ads and paraphernalia about the famed canned meat product. While that’s a pretty Loserly prize in itself, it also happens to be a calendar from 2003. BUT! It so happens, notes prize donor Kevin Mellemma, a 2003 calendar works like a charm in 2014.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired “Whole Fools” Glossary Bag. Honorable mentions get a lustered-after Loser magnet, either the Po’ Wit Laureate or Puns of Steel. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, March 3; results published March 23 (online March 20). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 1061” in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/invRules. This week’s honorable-mentions subhead is by Dick Barnes. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdevat, and click “like” on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at bit.ly/inkofday.

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Report from Week 1057

In which we asked for totally bogus sports trivia:

Rosie Ruiz’s hopes for winning the 1981 Marine Corps Marathon were dashed by Metro’s weekend track maintenance on the Orange Line. (Seth Tucker, Washington)

Struck out swinging: honorable mentions

Jim Thorpe excelled at just about every sport he ever attempted, except horseriding and archery. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

Manure collected from stalls at Churchill Downs has been proven to increase lawn growth by 153 percent vs. regular horse poop. (Dave Kornomik, Danville, Va.)

Early in their history, the Yankees were frequent losers to their arch-rivals, the Yankees. (Steve McClemmons, Arlington)

Hockey was named for the primitive phlegm-based ice-resurfacing methods used before the invention of the Zamboni. (Tim Livengood, Columbia)

After complaints about the water from local taps, Sochi Olympics organizers ordered a shipment of bottled water from West Virginia. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Richard Petty drove the entire 1973 Daytona 500 with his left turn signal on. (Eric Bennett, Stephens City, Va.)

In a study of 67 athletes who said they gave 110 percent, it was found that they actually gave an average of only 93.2 percent. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

The last man on a four-man bobsled team is called by a German phrase. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

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Before a single design was standardized in 1953, NFL referees could choose from a variety of animal prints. (Craig Ruth, Walkersville, Md., a First Offender)

Under the WEE rules, a wrestler can be fined up to $10,000 for sportsmanlike conduct. (Seth Tucker)

Center Kim Jong Un is averaging 40 points per game for the Pyongyang Tigers. (Jack Goldberg, Alexandria, a First Offender)

After the 1938 Race of the Century, stable groom at Pimlico made a tidy profit selling souvenir “Sea Biscuits.” (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)

While at Stanford, cornerback Richard Sherman was suspended for taunting his lab partner. “I’m the only particle physicist at this table! Eat my muons, punk!” (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Yogi Berra said everything he said except “I didn’t say everything I said.” (Ned Andrews, Damascus)

NBA Hall of Famer Bill Sharman went on to a lucrative career marketing toilet paper. (Brendan Beaney, Great Mills, Md.)

Skeet shooting originated in Holland when musketeers practiced their aim on passing ice skaters (skaters in Dutch), (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

McKayla Maroney’s mother regretted never warning her that her face might get noticed in the 2010 Olympics. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Ice fishing was a Winter Olympic sport until 1956, when all of the medal winners tested positive for performance-detracting substances. (Ivars Kuskевичs, Takoma Park)

Kids who play soccer in leagues where they don’t keep score grow up to be commies. No, actually, this one is true. (Tom Witte)

More sports fictoids in the online Invite contest. See bit.ly/invite1060.