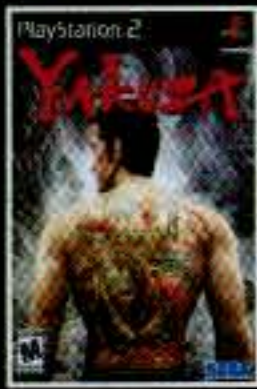


ARE YOU GAME?

BY CASEY LYNCH



YAKUZA (SEGA; PS2)

Every time we play *Yakuza*, it gets better. Sure, there's the kick-ass fighting and the open-ended, GTA-meets-Tokyo-mafia feel, but the real draw is the story—a former rising star in the Yakuza fresh off of serving 10 years for murder gets caught in a plot with a mysterious girl and a missing \$100 million. We're so in.



OKAMI (CAPCOM; PS2)

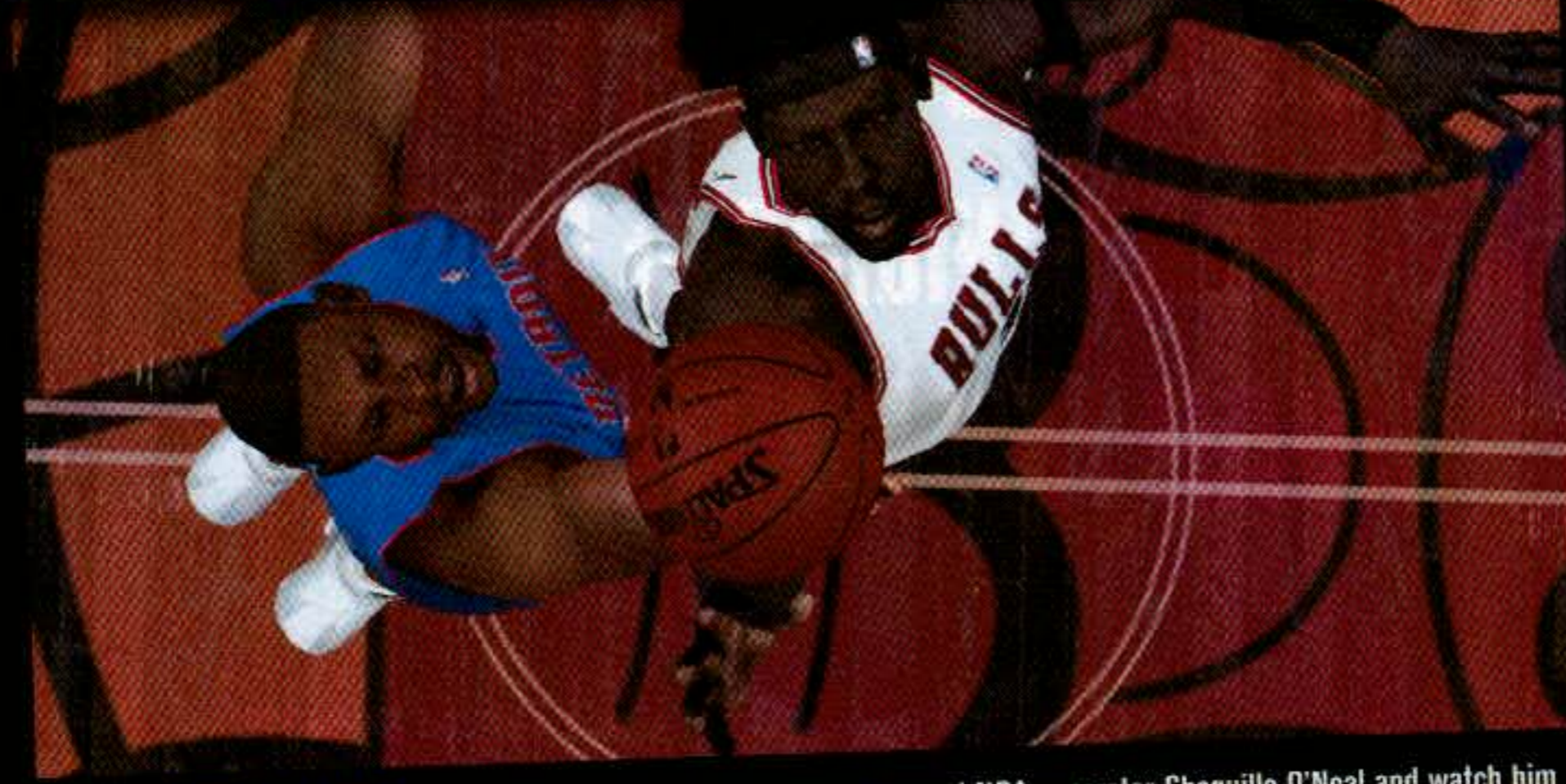
Easily one of the most original-looking games this year, *Okami* has the grace and pacing of the greatest *Zelda* games, just without the green tights. Oh, and you play as a wolf named Ama Terasu that must bring the world back to life. With producer Atsushi Inaba (*Viewtiful Joe* and *Resident Evil 2*) at the helm, we can't wait.



LEGO STAR WARS II: THE ORIGINAL TRILOGY (LUCASARTS; GAMECUBE, PC, PS2, PSP, XBOX, XBOX 360)

The Force will be with you in this sequel to arguably one of the greatest and goofiest *Star Wars* games to date. A new Free Play mode allows Padawan gamers to customize vehicles and all the 100 playable characters, forming LEGO combinations like "Darth Solo," "Storm Leia" and "Boba Yoda."

HOW GOOD IS YOUR SHAQ-FU?



NBA 2K7

PUBLISHER: 2K SPORTS
PLATFORMS: PS2, PS3, XBOX, XBOX 360

DRIVE THE LANE and stuff a power dunk with 7'1", 325-pound NBA superstar Shaquille O'Neal and watch him dance his way through the dazed defenders left in the paint. Or, if you prefer, land huge jumpers with D-Wade or take it to the glass with LeBron James. The choice is yours, and so are all the player-perfect signature shots and moves of your favorite players, thanks to 2K Sports' lovingly realistic recreation of the NBA's flashiest ballers. Steve Nash licks his fingers before throttling a one-handed bounce pass, Chauncey Billups fingers the defense while barking out plays, and the Matrix hangs in the air like, well, like the Matrix. The real joy is playing this beauty on a next-gen console. The Xbox 360 version looks so realistic, the only thing that's missing is the po-po serving Isaiah "J.R." Rider warrants for skipping his sentencing hearings.

THIS MONTH: BEN JORGENSEN (VOCALS/GUITAR) OF ARMOR FOR SLEEP

WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING?

I've recently discovered a game that far surpasses all other games currently on shelves worldwide. You will not find this game available for Xbox or PlayStation. It's only available for use on PCs! It's called **MINESWEEPER**. The objective is simple: Click on squares until you click on a mine and lose, or learn how to do more advanced stuff and predict where all the mines are. The graphics alone leave me in awe, but the complex strategies required for victory keep me addicted.



DVD WRAP-UP

BY LESLIE SIMON



TOO COOL FOR SCHOOL: THE JOHN HUGHES COLLECTION (PARAMOUNT)

Just when you think John Hughes can't get any cooler, he releases suped-up versions of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Pretty In Pink* and *Some Kind Of Wonderful*. Hell, if Hughes put his name on a turd, we'd probably buy it.

EXTRAS ▶ Too many to list. Trust.



THE O.C.: SEASON THREE (WARNER BROS.)

Sure, viewership of *The O.C.* has waned over the past two seasons, but there's still front-page news happening in Newport: Ryan is brooding, Seth is neurotic, Summer is a tease and secondary characters get used up faster than a box of Kleenex. There you have it.

EXTRAS ▶ Isn't Marissa Cooper dying enough for you people? Savages.



NACHO LIBRE (PARAMOUNT)

The only thing enjoyable about this movie was the giggle we got as we scarfed down nachos while watching *Nacho*. Obviously, our humor is very advanced and mature.

EXTRAS ▶ Behind-the-scenes featurettes, deleted scenes, *Nacho Libre* comic book.



THE OMEN (20TH CENTURY FOX)

Wasn't this remake of the '70s horror classic supposed to be about the son of the devil? If so, then where was wiL from Aiden? I was totally waiting for him to pop out during the entire movie. What a buzzkill.

EXTRAS ▶ Unrated alternate ending, "Revelations 666" featurette, extended scenes, omenisms.



X-MEN 3: THE LAST STAND (20TH CENTURY FOX)

We get it: Humans don't like mutants. It's a social commentary. Blah blah blah. With a cheesier lesson than any "The More You Know" promo, the only thing that keeps us coming back to *X-Men* is James Marsden. Dude's totally underrated.

EXTRAS ▶ Alternate endings, deleted and extended scenes, audio commentary.



WAKE UP SCREAMING (MVD)

Sure, Warped Tour won't rear its ugly head until '07, but thanks to this documentary about Peta2 activist Jason Bayless, you won't have to wait in line for animal-rights pamphlets and stickers. Thankfully, farmer tans are not included.

EXTRAS ▶ Live performances by Hawthorne Heights, Emery and Silverstein, outtakes, exclusive band interviews about veganism and vegetarianism.