

# TAMPA IS FOR LOVERS

by: Ron Berler, The Sports Sherpa, ESPN.com

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You have to wonder about these men — millions of them, apparently — who turn to Internet sites such as eHarmony.com or Match.com to find a mate. I mean, why take a chance on some mystery woman who posts a photo (likely ten years old), a come-on essay (almost certainly embellished) and her age (minus five years) when access to prime-grade divorcees is near as the news page of USA Today?

Think of the women currently available: erotic actress Ellen Barkin (rent "Sea of Love" if you doubt me), the beneficiary of many of Ron Perelman's millions; Sheryl Crow; and, as of yesterday, Jennifer Swindal.

Jennifer say who?

Mrs. Swindal filed for divorce from husband Steve Swindal in a Tampa court Wednesday, citing "irreconcilable differences." The couple had been married 23 years. For ten of those years, from 1987-97, Mr. Swindal had been chairman of the Bay Transportation Company, a towing firm. Since 1998 he's been a general partner at Yankee Global Enterprises. As in New York Yankees.

Swindal had an in. Mrs. Swindal's maiden name is Steinbrenner.

Two years ago Big Stein named Steve Swindal his eventual successor. As of today, that successor could be you.

What does J-Swin bring to the table besides the obvious, you ask? I am looking at a picture of her now, posing beside her soon-to-be ex. Silver-blond hair, attractive, pretty smile. And, unless she is standing on a box, a willingness to marry a man who comes up to her nose. She's not a ten. But then neither are you.

Her political allegiance may give some men pause. According to fundrace.org, a Web site that charts those who've made political donations, J-Swin contributed \$2,000 to President Bush's 2004 campaign. I like to think she was coerced by her husband, who gave the same amount that year to Bush. But consider this: Even if she is one of the 35 percent who, according to the latest Gallup poll, still approve of the president, no couple agrees on everything.

On the bright side, J-Swin describes herself as retired, with two grown children. Meaning she has plenty of time to devote to you.

Frankly, I see no downside here. Step up to the plate. Invite her to Tampa's St. Pete Times Forum (401 Channelside Drive, [Web site](#)) Apr. 6 to see the Tampa Bay Lightning play the Florida Panthers in their final home game of the season. ([Buy tickets.](#)) Close the deal with tickets to Tampa's Tropicana Field (1 Tropicana Dr., [Web site](#)) Apr. 7 to see the Devil Rays face Toronto. ([Buy tickets.](#))

Rest easy, there's no need to propose the first weekend. Big Stein will wait for you. "I'm the boss, I don't intend to retire and the Steinbrenner family will continue to run the team," he said in a statement yesterday through his publicist, Howard Rubenstein.

I'm rooting for you. Just remember me when I call, requesting box seats to a Yankees-Red Sox playoff game.