



STYLE SPY

GAME CHANGE

The governing bodies of professional sports have banned sartorial statements on the field and sidelines, probably thanks to Joe Namath and his unforgettable full-length fur coats (although LeBron James still proudly wears his headbands). **Athletic equipment** has remained largely on the bench of style, but this season throws us a couple of curveballs. Tommy Hilfiger and the Art Production Fund have paired with five artists, including Raymond Pettibon, on custom surfboards. The designer won't be personally testing the boards, though. "I paddleboard in calm waters," Hilfiger says. Meanwhile, Coach has partnered with two companies, Warstic Bat and Valkyrie, on colorful bats and gloves that reflect the founders' love of baseball. In 1941 the original craftsmen's first bags were inspired by the leather of a well-worn glove. Jeffrey Uhl, Coach's senior vice president of men's design, says there was some rigorous product testing this time around: "The street behind headquarters is perfect for impromptu baseball games. We lost a few balls down the sewer and over the fence of the construction project next door, so the bats work and so do the gloves. But Team Coach needs to focus on its out-fielding." *Raymond Pettibon surfboard (\$2,000), tommy.com; Coach bat (\$248) and glove (\$348), coach.com*



"I THINK YOU SHOULD PRETEND YOU don't care," Katharine Hepburn once told Greta Garbo. "But it's the most outrageous pretense. I bet it takes us longer to look as if we hadn't made any effort than it does someone else to come in beautifully dressed." This season's **evening flats**—deceptively casual, comfortable, delicately embellished, heavily gilded—walk Hepburn's fine line. Giorgio Armani—surely Garbo's and Hepburn's first choice if they were around today—might have put Garbo in a Privé tuxedo and Hepburn in the flare pants of a Collezioni suit. He could also have offered them the evening flats he includes in every collection. Other



GROUNDING INFLUENCE

Evening flats level the playing field.



SWEET & LOW
Fans of the evening flat, including, *clockwise from top left*, Sofia Coppola, Elle Macpherson, and Ginevra Elkann, might take a look at Giorgio Armani's silver version (\$595), *armani.com*.

designers have caught on to the nighttime potential of flats. Louis Vuitton's latest collection showcased blue velvet slippers accented with a black satin ribbon, Roger Vivier included sky-blue satin flats with jeweled buckles, and Carolina Herrera ended her spring show with a lightly beaded chiffon evening gown, worn with sandals (*above*). **S.V.**

HERT KATO/STUDIO D (BATS, GLOVE); SGRANITZ/WIREIMAGE (COPPOLA); EVAN AGOSTINI/GETTY IMAGES (MACPHERSON); TOR VIRGILE/GAMMA-RAPHO VIA GETTY IMAGES (HERRERA RUNWAY); CLINT SPAULDING/PATRICKMULLAN (ELKANN)