



Courtside seats

by Andy Shah

So now that football season is over, and the primetime sport (if anybody can still call it that) to watch and highlight on SportsCenter unfortunately falls to the diva drama that people can somehow still call the National Basketball Association. I honestly think that in the last six months I have heard more about Lebron and Carmelo than actual basketball scores. Moreover, my beloved Philadelphia 76ers who have yet to fail being failures have kept me down, dry, and disappointed.

Now it's not that the Sixers are doing terribly. On the contrary, they may actually make the playoffs this year... at the seventh or eighth seed – spots that will pretty much guarantee them a first round loss and a mediocre draft pick. Unlike, the Celtics or the Heat, they do not have a fabulous Big Three or Four or a Gazillion. And unlike the pitiful Cavaliers, they do not have any chance of picking someone that is legitimately good from the upcoming draft. As my friend Bobby George says, "they have just been swerved."

I was jumping up and down when I heard the Sixers got the number 2 pick in the lottery last year - jubilant with ecstasy after hearing that we selected the prolific Ohio State shooter. Evan Turner promised me a season that may actually be worth watching. Yep, and for all that faith, I have been rewarded with potentially one of the biggest busts in draft history. Turner has thus far acted as a bust. The number 2 draft pick went from a starter, to sixth man, and then to benchwarmer in a matter of weeks. For all the preseason hype and pomp, the kid could not even make it into the Rookie versus Sophomore game. Again sorry Sixers, but you have just been swerved.

There was so much hype during this past offseason with the number of contract expirations and free agents. And if the Sixers had not wasted their money two years prior on Elton Brand, then we could have had at least two of those players. Before they signed Brand, the Sixers had the most cap space in the league. They were a rebuilding team that was still able to win and count as a legitimate contending underdog. Then for some odd reason, the front office decided to buy out Elton Brand to a near 100 million dollar contract. Even my grandmother who lives in India, speaks no English, and probably does not know what basketball even is would not have thrown millions at a player who has had a history of injuries and is on the offside of the age scale. This time Sixers, you just swerved yourself.

Then we find ourselves looking at Andre Iguodala, the man who in my personal opinion, is unworthy to bear the initials "A" and "I." The front office and past gazillion Sixers coaches put all their time, resources, and money into making this guy into something that's passable enough to be called a leader. Not only has he failed to do that, but he's become virtually impossible to trade. Do I need to say swerved?

My column was originally two times this size, but I have way too many greivences to fit this space. As my friend to the left said, "I am sick and tired bf being sick and tired."

Boys basketball falls short of postseason

by Sam Wolf

Two years ago, under Coach Andy Stephens' first season as head coach, Parkland boys basketball was atop District XI, and was moving up the state ranks. In their 2009-2010 tenure, they finished with a 9-13 record and failed qualify for District XI playoffs. This season, with only one returning starter and two returning seniors, another rebuilding year seemed eminent.

The 2010-2011 had a rough start for the Trojans, losing six of their first eight games.

Following their 2-6 beginning, Parkland revived to win five of their next six, bringing their record back to .500 (7-7). Several of those victories included defeating the likes of East Stroudsburg North, Boyertown and Pleasant Valley.

Following their mid-season success, the Trojans went on a three-game skid losing to Nazareth, William Allen, and Paul VI. This meant that going into their final five games, Parkland needed four victories in order to qualify for District XI playoffs.

The Trojans, led by junior guard Zach Muhr, responded immediately in their following game against Freedom. Muhr went off for 28 points and was assisted by Parkland's junior forward duo of Rob Dvoracek and Daulton Charles who had 13 points and 9 points respectively.

PHS was able to overcome a nailbight-er to the patriots winning 51-50.

The following game, Parkland breezed by Northampton 58-30, which brought them to the toughest team of their final five game stand; Central Catholic.

Parkland exploded in the first quarter, outscoring the Vikings 10-2. They

were able to match Central's 12 second quarter points and go into the locker room with a score of 22-14. The Trojans continued to be able to match the Viking scoring attack in the second half and pulled away with a victory of 51-45.

"Of all those games we had towards the end of the season, nobody was expecting us to beat Central," said senior Matt Kelley. "We just knew that if we played good defense and stayed aggressive, we would be able to win."

Now that Parkland had own three in a row, they just needed to win one of their next two games both against Whitehall.

In the first matchup, the Trojans were able to keep all but one of the Zypher scorers to four points or less. Unfortunately, the one who was not as contained was Javier Rivera, who dropped 23 points, leading Whitehall to a 45-39 victory.

Parkland's final game of the season became a must-win, on top of that it was senior night. The Trojans were not able to contain Rivera once again as he scored another 20 points.

PHS was also outscored in the first half, which greatly lessened their chances of victory considering the pattoned "Whitehall stall ball".



photo by Don Herb

Zach Muhr averaged over ten points per game this year in his first season starting.

After outscoring Parkland 23-13 in the first half, the Zephyrs substantially slowed down the pace. Whitehall upheld the "five pass rule" and exposed the Trojans' lack of footspeed.

After running roughly a minute off the clock during, the result of Whitehall's possessions usually ended in Rivera driving to the basket for a score, an assist or drawing a foul.

Whitehall pulled away with a victory 41-31, ending ay hopes of a District XI playoff appearance for Parkland.

The Trojans finished their 2010-2011 season with a record of 10-12.

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