



Let's use this edition of The Weekend Wrap to discuss the odd case of Baron Davis, perhaps the only All Star in his prime (more or less) ever traded to a Cleveland team who seems to be reviled and despised before he's even suited up. Let us also use this valuable space to issue an annual warning about the NFL Combine currently going on in Indianapolis and to again express our unabashed man-love for Julio Jones. Finally, we'll take a look at another annual March happening: Indians fans bitching about signing a veteran for their bullpen and again passing up all the young Stephen Strasburg clones in Columbus.

### **Do We Have to Take the All Star?**

I can't remember the last time a Cleveland team acquired an All Star player in his prime in any sport and the collective reaction to the acquisition was, "Ughh...can they buy him out?" But that was pretty much the reaction to Thursday's trade that brought Baron Davis and a likely 2011 lottery pick to the Cavs in exchange for Mo Williams and Jamarion Moon.

Davis is a 31 yr-old veteran PG that's made two All Star teams and who's still in his prime physically although, to be fair, he's probably on the downside of that hill and not likely to be around if and when the Cavs turn their fortunes around. And there's no question that the deal was done primarily with the draft pick as the apple of the Cavaliers eyes.

But I'm wondering: Is there any chance that Davis actually provides any benefit to the Cavaliers?

You can't read an article on the guy without seeing the word 'mercurial'. That's main-stream media lingo that means, 'He can be a real asshole'. And he can. Davis can put up 30 points and 8 assists one night and then mentally not show up for the next game while bitching about his coach. He can seemingly put on and take off weight on a weekly basis.

But he's capable of that 30 and 8 when he actually feels like playing.



That's my issue with the trade. I'd prefer Davis (pictured left) show up with 'mercurial' in mind. Or he can sit on the bench with 'tender knees' and show off thousand dollar suits each night like Mo did and leave the point guard duties to Ramon Sessions. Sessions is younger and is finding himself in Byron Scott's offense but he's not there yet. And that's what I want out of this Cavalier team.

I'm fine with keeping an All Star on the bench or buying him out when he and Scott inevitably clash again (as they did in New Orleans years back when Scott was coaching Davis there). I want those first round picks to be more likely to garner high choices when they suck the ping pong balls through those tubes. I don't need a happy Davis out there playing with heart and poise.

Based on Baron's past, I'd say the likelihood of that happening is slimmer than he is, but there's no need to take that chance. Let those knees rest and let those picks gain value. Then let's see Baron full time next season. Make him happy early on, let him put up some numbers and then see if he can fetch a healthy return at next season's trade deadline.

See that? That's looking ahead and looking at the bright side. That's what I'm known for after all.

### See Ya Working

Davis aside, I like the fact that Dan Gilbert is willing to lay out \$12million more than he would have been on the hook for by trading Mo and taking on Davis's bigger salary for the next two seasons. I also like the fact that he was reportedly also willing to take on Rip Hamilton and his big salary in exchange for the trade exception the Cavs got when LeBron left. That deal would have brought another first round pick to the Cavs with Rip. Hamilton ultimately refused a buyout so he's still pouting like a bitch and undermining his coach in Detroit but Gilbert was willing to expedite the rebuilding process by laying out a boatload of cash.

I don't care that this draft is being hailed as a weak one. The Cavs are going to have two of the best 13 players in college basketball when all is said and done. Probably two of the best 10 when you consider that right now the Cavs are the worst team in the league and the Clippers pick the Cavs received would be #7 if you figured in current standings.

They're working it man. The Cavs are showing a serious commitment to this rebuild and doing what they can to shorten it. The deal they did with the Celtics was also a bold and intelligent stroke. They received a 7'0" center in Semih Erden and a 6'7" 250lb inside presence (and soon to be fan favorite) in Luke Harangody.

Erden can run the floor and he's sort of a hybrid big man/Euro-style player. He'll step in as the Cavs backup center almost immediately and with any luck he'll ultimately run the Human Q-Tip (Ryan Hollins) out of town.

I like the fact that both Harangody and Erden are experienced, young players who have spent a year or so in the Celtics system. They're way ahead of any player you could draft this season with that 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick (even if it was from Minnesota as part of the Delonte West deal). Even if they ultimately end up as the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> current 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> guys on the roster they at least kick the current 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> off the end of the bench and out of Cleveland.



