

An Awkward Glance Ahead: Get Your Facts Straight Steve

Written by {ga=motherscratcher}

Monday, March 07 2011 11:00 AM - Last Updated Sunday, March 06 2011 10:51 PM



I spend a lot of time on the internet. Too much time probably. No, definitely. It's ridiculous how much time I waste. It makes me sad when I think about all that I could have accomplished and that I could accomplish still, if only I would do something, anything, productive with my inconsiderable but valuable free time.

I could be cleaning and organizing the house. I could be exercising. I could be learning new, healthy, and delicious things to cook. I could be catching up with old friends. I could be reading with my son, or taking him for a bike ride. I could be building a deck, or at least planning to build a deck when the weather improves. I could be expanding my horizons by reading Infinite Jest. I could be practicing root canals on extracted teeth (yes, I actually do this, but I could do it more). I could be conducting research into stem cells with the goal of devising a plan to grow 2 giant, indestructible horseshoe shaped teeth in the 6 year old mandible that would replace the unwieldy 32 tooth system that has caused so much misery for so many people over the course of human history.

All of these things would be more worthwhile than frittering away hours of pointless and fruitless ether surfing. But, I wouldn't do these things. I know what I would do. 36 years of experience in laziness, apathy, and inertial have proven that I would absolutely just watch TV instead.

So, there I was the other day, surfing the interwebs for something, anything, even remotely interesting that would make the wasted time, if not justifiable, at least explainable. I ended up at ESPN.com though force of habit and lack of options on my tool bar*. Now, we all know that ESPN is a cesspool and the embodiment of all that is corrupt and horrible in the world. But, they are difficult to ignore so their website is a daily visit, even if you have to pinch your nose when you get there.

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**Does anyone else do this? I sit there with my feet on my desk and will only visit the small handful of websites that I have bookmarked on the toolbar. If it's not on the toolbar and there is no link to it, I'm not going to see it. Basically, if it involves the extreme effort of putting my feet down and typing something at the keyboard, it isn't worth it and I don't need to see it. If I want to look up something on IMDB, I click on the home page and essentially play Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon through nothing but links until I hit the page I'm looking for. This can take upwards of 15 to 20 minutes sometimes for an expert such as myself, so for your average person I'm guessing it could take over an hour. For some of you who are reading this, it would be impossible. And that's why a lot of you suckers have to do your web surfing with your feet on the floor.*

One article in particular stood out among the rest and it immediately caught my eye*. It was an intriguing debate between Chris Broussard and Rick Bucher over (you're never going to believe this) where they think Dwight Howard should play after he becomes a free agent in 2012. No really, over at ESPN, they are talking about where an NBA star should play when he becomes a free agent a year and a half from now. Crazy, right? It was interesting as hell and I don't mind telling you that it almost caused me to consider possibly contemplating whether or not I should give any thought to completely wasting around \$7** to become an insider for the month so that I could read even more news centered around around LA, NY and LeBron's balls.

**I recently discovered that our good pal and Cavs PD Insider Mary Schmitt Boyer noticed the article as well and thought I would be remiss not to mention it here. Nothing makes me happier than when I have evidence that my interests are in line with the Schmittster's, and I think that her thoughts on the matter are easily as interesting as her tweets during cavs games.*

***I ultimately decided against it, and instead went to eBay and ordered a case of 16 boxes of 1988 Donruss baseball. My plan is to stockpile as many Gregg Jefferies rookie cards as possible to help offset the cost of college for my son. Either that or sell them and buy a really bitchin' car in a few years.*

As luck would have it, ESPN stupidly made the first few paragraphs of the groundbreaking article were free, therefore making my Gregg Jefferies dilemma a much easier call. (\$7 paid for the case AND the shipping.) You are never going to believe what they think. Out of all of the teams in the NBA, they picked the LA Lakers and New Jersey Nets. I know, right?

It's incredible. I was stunned, STUNNED I say, that they thought Dwight Howard should go to

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Big Market teams (heretofore referred to as BM team) in LA and New Jersey when they had so many teams to choose from. They could have chosen the Knicks, Miami, Chicago...virtually any one of a half dozen teams in about 4 cities.

Well, nothing is more exciting than contemplating which of 4 BM cities all of the biggest stars and great players in the NBA should play, especially for the fans in Cleveland, Minnesota, Charlotte, and Portland. But, since I'm not an Insider, I'm not privy to all of the wonderful and interesting reasons why the NBA's best center should go to Las Angeles to ease the suffering of all of the downtrodden Laker fans who have had so little to root for recently. My hope was that Howard would end up in Miami, whose poor team has still not yet received the NBA championship that was promised to them last July and which they so obviously deserve. Personally, I think it's a travesty that they don't have 2 or 3 Championships by now. But, if it must be LA, I suppose as a Cavs fan, I can live with that. By far my biggest regret is that, as an NBA franchise, Cleveland will have nothing to offer to a BM team for years to come. I hope we can be forgiven.

That brings me to the point (or what passes for a point around here) of all of this rambling, nonsensical jibberish. I thought it might be fun to take an awkward glance ahead at where some of the best writing, TV, and sideline reporting "talent" that ESPN has to offer might end up in a perfect world when they become free agents in a few years. Because all of this endless speculation is so damn fascinating to all of us unworthy minions outside of the BM cities.

So, let us begin.



Chris Broussard – Chris Broussard actually got his start in Cleveland at the Plain Dealer where he covered the Cavs. After a quick stop in Akron it was off to the bright lights of BM market New York City before finally landing in Brostol. He was at the forefront of the LeBag-O-Farts Decision debacle as he broke the story repeatedly on twitter. I'm sure there's a record somewhere (I'll be damned if I'm actually going to look it up) of all of the destinations that Broussard "broke" over twitter during the 3 years of LeBag-O-Farts* free agency (I know it was officially only a few weeks but we all know it was longer than that).

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**I'd like to think you guys are enjoying my "LeBag-O-Farts" joke as much as I do but I don't see how.*

Going just from memory Broussard broke the story that the city was going to be New York, Chicago, New York, Chicago, Miami, Chicago, New York, Las Angeles, New York, New Jersey, New York, Miami, Chicago, Las Angeles, New York, Las Angeles, New York, Terra Haut, New York, Chicago, Miami, New York, Las Angeles, New York, Chicago, MIAMI! Nailed it.

Broussard it turns out was right all along. But, during the whole thing, he was more of a gossip than any kind of actual reporter. He's the Blake Lively of ESPN. As such, I believe that he will take his talents to Ladies Home Journal.



Rick Bucher – In researching Ric, I realized I've been spelling his name wrong the whole time*. I thought about going back to correct all of the times I called him Rick, but decided it was funnier to just leave it. I'm not sure why. It's probably just as funny one way as the other. But there it is.

**Actually, I'm not so sure that I should admit that I have it wrong. It's really Ric, or more accurately his parents, that have it wrong. Just because you spell something wrong on an official document doesn't mean that it's all of a sudden OK. My guess is that's how we ended up with "Sean". A long time ago some illiterate asshole wanted to name his stupid kid Shawn and decided that "Sean" was close enough. And, now look where we are. Shawn, Shaun, Sean, Chaun,...It's goddamn chaos. No. I'm taking a stand for what's right, right here right now. Ric Bucher is Rick Bucher as far as I'm concerned. You don't get to change the spelling*

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of Rick just because you were too lazy or stupid to look it up in the 9 months you had to decide on a name. And don't get me started on the damage that dunce Avril Lavigne has done. Just don't expect me to go back and edit that last paragraph now.

Rick is actually from Cincinnati, so there's another one with an Ohio connection. You might be thinking to yourself "Self, it seems like a lot of worthless sportswriters come from Ohio, maybe I should look unfavorably upon that state" To this I would direct your attention to Joe Posnanski who's awesomeness overshadows any douchebaggery ESPN could throw at us.

Alas, I don't know much about Rick beyond what it says on Wikipedia about where he's from and this other time he made some kind of crack at the expense of the Mormons. He called them good basketball fans or something. Don't worry, he apologized.

But, he does look a bit like a railroad engineer. At least to me he does. So, I have Rick taking his talents over to Locomotive Engineers Journal at the end of his contract.



Bill Simmons – Actually, I like Bill Simmons. At least, I used to back when he used to write stuff. Here's what I think Bill should do. I think [Bill should create his own website with Chuck Klosterman.](#) It could be owned by his masters over at ESPN but for some reason not actually say ESPN anywhere on his site. They could hire someone away from Deadspin. Maybe someone like Katie Baker. They could get Lane Brown to write about pop culture and stuff.

It would be like 2 trains are on the same track hauling ass at each other. One is carrying the cast of Jersey Shore and 90210, the other carries the entirety of Boston Sports. Exactly in the middle is Billy Zabka.

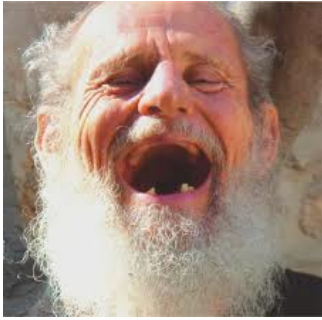
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This could work.

I think I'll send Bill an email. He should do this. Of course that might involve him actually writing something at some point again.



Rick Reilly – I'll start off by giving Rick props for spelling his name correctly. I'll also say that back when he was writing the back page for Sports Illustrated, I really liked him. He was condescending and preachy, but it kind of worked.

Well, he's still condescending and preachy at ESPN, but it no longer works. I can't remember the last time I thought he was either funny or clever. It's kind of sad really. I don't know if I changed or if he did. Either way, he sucks now.

I'm sure he's still a big hit at the home. I don't even think he should wait until free agency. He should force his way over to Geriatric Magazine Carmelo style.

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