

An Awkward Glance Ahead: Diabolical Blunt Edition

Written by {ga=motherscratcher}

Monday, March 28 2011 10:00 AM - Last Updated Sunday, March 27 2011 9:00 PM



The Buckeyes built that loss brick by brick. It was a game they should have won, with even an average shooting performance. It was the most infuriating basketball game I've watched since Dec 2nd, 2010. I can't remember what happened that day, but it must have been awful, because just thinking about that date makes me want to run for the bathroom.

The worst thing about the Ohio State loss is that this team, more than any OSU team I can ever remember seemed perfectly built for a long run towards NCAA glory. All season long, Sullinger seemed like a dominant force inside. Sullinger isn't the strongest or the tallest guy to ever play inside, but what he does have is a giant ass that he wields with reckless abandon. Most of his points this year seemed to come when he would take a pass from Aaron Craft that appeared invisible to all but Sullinger. Jared would catch it and, with defenders bouncing off his J Lo like ass*, throw down a thundering dunk before retreating down court to play defense while screaming at the top of his lungs. It was all great fun if you're a Buckeye fan. Not so much for anyone else.

**I'm not kidding. That guy's ass is like something out of a Bill Cosby cartoon. I'll bet he's the all time Buck Buck champion of Columbus.*

Which makes it all the more confusing as to why he was rendered almost powerless against Kentucky. I know his stat line makes it look like he was very effective. In fact, looking at his 21 points to go with 16 rebounds you'd probably guess that Sullinger is the only Buckeye to show up at all. But, I can't ever remember a team's supposedly dominant inside presence get stuffed as much as Sullinger did on Friday night.

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Kentucky had 11 blocks on the night, and probably twice as many shots that they disrupted; all while single teaming Sullinger so they could lock down the Buckeyes vast array of 3-point shooters. The NBA knock on him is that he's too short and a not strong enough to play inside against the best players in the world or even Ryan Hollins. He can dominate against lesser competition in college, but lose a lot of his effectiveness against bigger stronger NBA players. It sure looked that way against Kentucky's Josh Harrellson and Terrence Jones.

But it was a bummer, man. Just a total bummer to watch this team play their worst game of the season in the Sweet Sixteen. I was all geared up to watch the Buckeyes make an historic run through Kentucky, North Carolina, U Conn, and Kansas to win the National Championship. Is there a bigger murderer's row as far as NCAA basketball is concerned? I don't know if anything even close to a run through historically great programs like that has ever been done. If you think I'm actually going to look it up, you haven't been reading my column very long, so I'm just going to declare, with all of the ignorant confidence of an SEC football fan, that no, nothing like that has ever been accomplished in the history of basketball.

And it all went away in the flash of an eye when William Bufford appropriately bricked a last second desperation shot at the buzzer. They didn't even call a time out. The glory that seemed almost assured just a few days ago disappeared like the Christmas turkey being annihilated by the Bumpus's dogs as all of Ohio watched helplessly in a drunken haze. We all watched in horror as the guy who was 2 for 15 on the night launched a contested shot while Jon Diebler, the dude who hit 493 straight 3s without a miss in the month of February, didn't get to touch the ball.

There would be no timeout. There would be not Final Four. There would be no National Championship. There would be no more basketball. There would be no more distraction from the deepening mess that the Jim Tressel Tattoo Affair has become in what is known around Columbus* as "That F***ing Story That Just Won't F***ing Die".

**Once again, I'm assuming facts not in evidence. I'm just assuming that people are now referring to that whole mess as TFSTJWFD because it should be.*

As disappointing as the loss is, there was one good thing to come out of it. Jared Sullinger did announce that he's coming back to OSU, as he should, so there will be at least one more year of Craft to Sullinger awesomeness to appreciate next year. Like he did this year, he will probably dominate at the college level next year. But, to improve his NBA outlook, I think that

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the smartest thing for him to do over the summer will be to work on adding a couple of inches. If he can do that, he could end up back in his home state as I'm sure the Cavs will be picking pretty high again next year. At 6'11" he'd look pretty good playing along side Kyrie Irving and Harrison Barnes in a Cavs uniform. Someone needs to look into getting him some Extenze, unless I'm misunderstanding the product.

Speaking of the Cavs.



An Awkward Glance Ahead At The Cavs

I don't know about you, but I fell out of my chair on Saturday morning when I opened up the paper to find that the Cavs had beaten the Pistons the night before. I had absolutely no idea that the Cavs were still playing.

But they were, and what's more, they were on a certifiable hot streak. The Cavs had won 1 game in a row before traveling to Atlanta yesterday, and 2 of their last 6. One of those losses came in over time against New Jersey so I'm going to go ahead and count that as a win too. When you look at it that way, the Cavs are playing at a blistering .500 pace over the last week and a half.

Take that Kelly Dwyer, or should I say "Smelly Dwyer."* If I was the Cavs owner I'd make you eat some crow on Twitter. 12 wins huh? How do you like us now, bitch?! We might even get to 15, possibly 16 wins before this thing is done. That would be, like, almost twice as many as you

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said, or something. Maybe next year you'll learn to keep your pie-hole shut.

**That's right. High five. High five.*

After picking myself up off the floor I immediately began to research why the Cavs were suddenly the team that nobody wanted to see on their schedule. I came up with 3 reasons.

1. Any lottery team playing the Cavs would be terrified that, no matter what they did, they would be unable to lose and therefore unable to increase their own ping pong balls.

2. Any playoff team playing the Cavs would be terrified that the unthinkable might happen and they would lose, shaking the confidence of the entire organization to their very core. Right before the playoffs too. Plus it's embarrassing.

3. The Cavs suddenly formidable starting lineup.

Don't believe me? Feast your eyes on this:

Alanzo Gee, JJ Hickson, Ryan Hollins, Ramon Sessions, and Anthony Parker. That would scare the hell out of anyone.

Joey Graham didn't even get on the floor against the Pistons, fer cryin' out loud.

THE JOEY GRAHAM!

No wonder these guys are making Smelly Dwyer look so foolish.

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With the Cavs sprinting towards the finish line, let's take a look at what they have coming up this week. There are 4 games on the schedule.

The first one is at home on Tuesday. It is the long awaited rematch against the Heat, where the Cavs attempt to make up for their hard fought, last second loss way back on Dec. 2nd. Man, that was a nail biter.

The Cavs took Sunday off, despite the fact that they had to play a game against the Hawks. That's how seriously they are taking this rematch against the LeHeat. And, preparations have been ongoing. Players have been cleaning their houses, moving out of their master bedrooms in case LeBag-O-Farts needs a place to crash, hiring maids and nannies in case he needs someone to watch his kids, interviewing high priced escorts, reserving rooms in bars on West 6th in case he wants to go out after the game, and Tivoing as many Family Guy episodes as the DVR will allow (even at the cost of tragic amounts of porn)...just in case.

You can never be over prepared for a visit from that guy. This time, the Cavs will be ready for him.

The Cavs also travel to Charlotte, Washington, and New York; three teams that are just bad enough to lose to the Cavs and screw up the whole Kyrie Irving plan.

My prediction is that the Cavs will regain their focus after the Miami game on Tuesday and end up no better than 1-3 for the week. This will keep them in the ping pong ball driver's seat, but also twist that knife a little bit deeper into Dwyer, who is certainly regretting the day that he dared predict the Cavs to have a 12 win season.

As if.

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