

WHEN THE GAME ENDS.....



By: Jonathan Creel

THE MOMENT

It's the kind of announcement that induces networks to halt regular programming, the kind of proclamation that results in hundreds of media members to fly to across the country the same morning, the kind of announcement that has the world buzzing from New York to London to Japan.

It's March 11, 2013. The shocking words cross the wire: "Bryan Hathaway will announce that he is retiring from DOL as a player and will continue only as league manager."

It is not the first such retirement: Rocky Marciano retired at the age of 32 as undefeated heavyweight boxing champ with a 49-0 record. Sandy Koufax retired at 30 after compiling a 27-6 season in 1966 with the Dodgers. Bjorn Borg quit at 25 with 11 major titles. Jim Brown's retirement, considering he had just led the NFL in rushing and TDs at the age of 29, surprised the football world. Michael Jordan retired after 3 straight NBA titles, three straight NBA Finals awards and seven straight NBA scoring titles in 1993. And just two years earlier, Magic Johnson had stunned the basketball fans everywhere when retired after contracting HIV.

As the Hathaway news comes, you think, this can't be real. It's got to be some kind of cruel joke. But this is no joke. This is serious. It is surreal. Too surreal to comprehend. After all, how could this DOL legend retire in his prime? Sure, he was inducted into the DOL Hall of Fame and won two DOL championships. But retire? Why? It doesn't make sense. No sense whatsoever.

Jacob Jordan, Hathaway's rival, the guy who ran for years in Hathaway's shadow as the two founding fathers battled year after year, is at his home watching wild buffalo and deer and whatever else roams freely in Jay when he hears his friend/rival retiring.

"I couldn't believe my ears," Jordan later tells the media. He texts Hathaway. "It's true," Hath tells him. "I've done all I can do. I'm just going to continue to do what I do best... improve DOL." Jordan tries desperately to talk him out of it. There's no way. Hathaway says he has no choice but to step away, that it's time to move on and leave his team in the hands of Creel who, together, has gone to a final four in their first season and is off to a 4-1 record thus far this season.

WHEN THE GAME ENDS.....(Cont.)

Sadness and gloom filled the room as a city, a nation, and a league mourns. The impact on DOL, television, attendance, competition, revenue, merchandise sales (other than DOL merchandise, of course) is staggering. The man who generates billions for others is now going to cost them millions. There is no aspect of the league that Hathaway's presence doesn't touch.

As the world watches in disbelief, Hathaway calmly explains his reasoning, without any sadness in his voice, without any tears. He actually smiles. He actually proves his decision is one of relief, despite retiring at the height of his power.

"I've reached the pinnacle," he tells the world. "I always said to the people that have known me that when I lose that sense of motivation and that sense that I can prove something, it's time for me to leave."

He pauses. He looks out at the crowd of reporters. He looks down. "It was just a matter of waiting until this time, when DOL was near, to see if my heart ticked for it," he says. "I went through all the different stages of getting myself prepared for the next year, but the desire ... was not there to run the team, only... to run the league."

A replay from his March Retirement Speech:



"I'm here to announce my retirement from team ownership at the end of the 2013 season. Mentally, I'm exhausted; I don't feel I have a challenge. Physically, I feel great.

I've accomplished everything I have set out to do. I've won multiple championships and being elected to the Fantasy Hall of Fame was really just the icing on the cake for me. Last season I really felt like I was able to back away a little and give the reigns to Creel and we made it to the final four in his best season ever. I just want to concentrate on running the league and I feel like this is becoming harder and harder and still run a team.

I would like to thank Will Spencer for giving the opportunity to play the game of Fantasy Football. I would like to thank Jacob Jordan for being the best rival he could be and basically laying down in nearly every game. I would also like to thank him for the 2007 Championship, my second ring.

I played the game the best I could play it, I tried to enhance the game itself and will continue to do for DOL as long as I am allowed to be your League Manager. "



This week's Game of the Week between what was the #1 and #2 overall teams and the top two in the Blouses Division ended up being just that as Taf's *Team from State Farm* were handed their first loss of the season in a 125.1-109.1 upset handed down by Creel/Hath and *Discount Belichick*. Creel was a little hard to get in touch with without antennas and aluminum foil, so we got in contact with the GM, Hathaway after the game:



Bryan: "This was a huge win for our program. And for the SEC, I mean Blouses Division. This is the toughest division in the league and you can't overlook anybody. We were lucky this week and hope it doesn't run out anytime soon."

Whitson's *Bjoern to be wild* squad rolled up the Lowe family thanks to a 30+ point performance by Dez Bryant and for the Lowe's trying to squeeze one more drop out of the Brady Train and leaving 50.9 points on the bench JUST with Tony Romo. Lowe inc has already been on the phone this week and has made moves with Creel/Hath and Taf inc. Whitson moves into a tie for 2nd in the competitive Blouses Division.

The big news of the week comes in the form of JJ WATTS and Hullett getting their first win of the season. Cutler led the way in a 25.9 point blowout of Weston's *Brady* squad, who has once again scored over 100 points and lost their 4th game of the season. Hullett, not happy with just one win has already made a big trade to replace the top wide out in Julio Jones who went down last week.

(BREAKDOWN Continued)

Will and his *Butt Fumble team of monsters* rolled past Nelson and his *Popped a Molly* bunch, bouncing back and improving to 3-2 on the year. As mentioned before, Nelly, inc. made a big deal with Hank this past week trading McFadden and Andre for RG3 and MJD. "I'm tired of my quarterback scoring 3 points a week." Nelson was quoted as saying.

Troy's Racists and Chad's team of nothing but quarterbacks both squeezed out tight wins and improved to 3-2 on the season as well. 43.8 of Chad's 121.9 points came by way of Peyton Freaking Manning. But if you think Chad will slip up on a Bye week you are mistaken. He has the max amount of quarterbacks sitting on his bench you can possibly have. All, top 5 point scorers.

BATTLE FOR APOLLO'S SHORTS

WILL SPENCER	est. 2005	TAF BENTLEY
'05: Mean Machine-118, Berlin Bombers-75 '06: Bingville Bulls-108, Unmolested-106 Bingville Bulls-120, Unmolested-78 (PO) '07: Zack Attack-131, Pitt Crew-88 Zack Attack-85, Pitt Crew-79 '08: Little Thrill-96, Darkness-92	6 93	9 102
	WINS	
	AVG. PPG	

05: Berlin Bombers-109, Mean Machine-85 (PO)
06: Unmolested-85, Bingville Bulls-82
07: Pitt Crew- 143, Zack Attack-124 (PO)
08: Ghost & the Darkness-93, Little Thrill-45
09: Hurricane Ditka-113, Optimus Primetime-61
10: Homo for Romo-80, Down with the Girls-70
Homo for Romo-138, Down w/ the Girls-87 (PO)
11: Death Penalty-155, Willfork for Food-99
12: Snot Rockets- 123, Talkin Bout Hillis- 88

WILL SPENCER

TAF BENTLEY

It's that time of the year again. It's the time.... for the BATTLE FOR APOLLO's SHORTS. The Taf vs Will rivalry is the league's most intense. Originating in 2005 with Taf's entry into the league, this rivalry has not only had bragging rights at stake, but Championship implications as well. Meeting 8 times in the first three years, saw three times the winner advance the League Championship. With four of the league's championships between the two of them, this rivalry is as good as it gets. Will has not won since 2008, but this could be the year these two titans meet up twice. Taf, tied for #1 in the league and Will, sitting at #3 overall look to have the league's best two teams and with nobody of significance on BYE week this will be another big chapter in this storied rivalry.



Taf, inc has bounced back after his first loss and made a trade with A-Train, inc that many have already questioned the defending champ for making. Taf sent Gore and Wayne to Ashton for Arian and Mike Wallace. GM Ashton is under fire for turning down another offer many deemed more worthy. In any case Taf's *Jake from State Farm* squad now looks as well rounded as anybody in the league and even more the league favorite as he creates talent separation from Creel/Hath and Will.



The AWARDS



Christopher Walken High Score Award

1.21 JJ WATTS (Hank)- 140.6 points



Rambo Knife Award

Justice for Doub Martin (BobZane)

Killed by 50.4 points by Whitson



Coach Mac Award

Justice for Doug Martin (BobZane) left 80.1 points on the bench, which was almost more than they scored for the week in total.



The POLL

1. Jake From State Farm (Taf)
 2. Discount Belichick (CreelHath)
 3. Reevis & Butt Fumble (Will)
 4. Luck Dynasty (Chad)
 5. Cooper's KKKids (Troy)
 6. Bjoern to be Wild (Whitson)
- ***PLAYOFFS***
7. Annexation (Jake)
 8. Jim Schwartz (Ashton)
 9. Justice for Doug (BobZane)
 10. Im Suspended (Nelly)
 11. Call Me Brady (Weston)
 12. 1.21 J.J. Watts (Hank)



Bryan and Taf's Power Rankings

1. Taf
2. Bryan/Creel
3. Will
4. Chad
5. Troy

These power rankings are based on a highly complex system of picking the top 5 teams we think are beast mode despite their places in the polls.



The Unity Council has come to a decision, albeit a split decision, on last week's agenda.

The Divisions/Division Champions will have no impact on the seedings for the playoffs. Since you play everyone in the league once and not just teams in your division, the seedings will be 1-6 for the playoffs with the top two teams, no matter division, receiving the BYE.

ESPN does not do it like this, so if it is needed there will be manual override for playoff seeding, so everyone is aware in advance. Again, it will be the top 6 teams no matter division, with the top two receiving the first round BYE into the final four.

BIG WESTICLES

Orange barrel, reroute!

That lame Peyton Manning Buick commercial could summarize my fantasy season so far. 146, 124, 114, 110, and 115. Those are my scores through 5 weeks, which have lead to a 1-4 record. The main source of consistency on my team has been Wes Welker, causing some interesting trade proposals. Hank offered me his Motorola Razr, and postage stamp collection. Bryan offered me his old Mustang (didn't Sherm buy that?). Taf offered me his Huffy bike, and pogs collection. Trust me, it's been difficult to turn down these "generous" offers.

Faster than the fall of the A-Train dynasty, this season is flying by. Good luck to everyone, if you're playing me I'm sure you'll have it.

Shout out to former DOL member Chase Norton for having a kid.

-Weston, 2008 DOL BOWL CHAMPION

**NUMBERS
NEVER*LIE**

Thus far this season we have had 34 league trades through Week 5. In comparison this is more trades than the entire seasons of 2010, 2011, 2012 combined. Before this season the most trades in a single year we ever had was 16 in 2009.

lowemaintenance

Hey I Just Met the Bench

Hey I just met the bench and this is crazy, but here comes Romo and there goes Brady. What a decision. Romo, while a consistent choker, has put up some very nice numbers. Brady, on the other hand, has been throwing to more unknown receivers than MHS. Not counting by-weeks, Brady has been a consistent starter in D.O.L. since way back when Will Spencer was actually a factor. Not this week! I skyped with Tom to give him the news and he took it hard. His first words, "Put Zane on the phone!" I apologized, but told him Zane would not be bailing him out this week. He asked to be traded to Hathaway/Creel. That's not happening Tom, I told him. Go sit on the bench with Dawson's Creek and the fake southern accent kid in Friday Night Lights. Tom cursed and screamed at me and told me he would put up big numbers this week and that I'd be sorry for benching him. I carefully mentioned the 5.9 he put up against the Bengals. Of course we both agreed on how ridiculous the decimal system is, but the peace was short lived. After a little more verbal sparring, he said, "no wonder you don't have your own team!" then he dropped his mic and walked away.

In conclusion, all I can say is "please, please, please Romo, don't screw this up for me you choking maggot".



OUT!!