
Subject: FW: MBA 2005-6 FINAL Recap

From: John Benun <john.benun@sbcglobal.net>

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To: Norman Greenidge <Norman.Greenidge@notes.ntrs.com>, Ramin Shamshiri <ramin@communesite.com>

Cc: ddizon@Jefferies.com, jefferedit@yahoo.com, Jim Wagner <jimwagner1@mac.com>, John Benun

<john.benun@sbcglobal.net>, Taylor Williams & Mia Ross <jtaylorw@comcast.net>, Laurence Blau

<LBlau@blaulaw.com>, "Petersen, Matthew" <Matthew.Petersen@Mattel.com>, ng6@ntrs.com, ohmahki@aol.com

Subject: Re: MBA 2005-6 FINAL Recap

Guys for the annual recap, I thought I would provide some commentary on every team this year and my general overview on matters that I thought were worth talking about and of interest to help owners prepare for next year.

First and foremost, You have to give credit where credit is due and Mr. James Wagner and his RJ Runners IYF (In Your Face for those of you that forgot) team deserves alot of credit. Not only did he have the best auction/draft (he ended up having 4 of the top 15 players from hoops klyce (Brand #6, Marion #7, Pierce #9 and Gasol #14) and then added Kidd and Paul as his two PGs. It is very unusual to see a team win both blocks and assists but Jim found a way to do that. What is even more impressive is how injury free Jim's team was. Not one of Jim's top 6 guys played less than 79 games. Rock solid. Your team came prepared to play and dominated from game one to game 82. Like the San Antonio Spurs, Jim (aka Pop) then added additional fire power to an already championship caliber team with the likes of Josh Smith and Gasol.

#2 Young Guns were insecure from day 1 with their draft but impressive with their results come the final day of the season. Maybe insecurity comes with youth. You have to learn how to play like a champion and believe just a little more in your gut. You get the feeling that these guys are on the cusp of greatness. Vince Carter turned out to be one of the best buys at the auction but I am not sure I can even give you guys credit for this decision based upon how you disrepected his capabilities from the moment you picked him as exemplified by your immediate attempt to deal him not two seconds after you drafted him.

Unfortunately, like Kobe and Shaq, we may be seeing the end of the Young Gun era as rumour has it that the pair will be breaking up to pursue solo championships. It appears that each feels that him image is being somewhat tarnished by the shadow of his co-owner. Like Marbury and Garnett of old, you guys should think long and hard about the break up.

Blind Spots - At least I am consistent. Last year I overpaid for Elton Brand and this year I overpaid for KG. I immediately proceeded to come out of the gate looking like a loser and then hard work, determination and a never ending desire to rebuild my team, I go on a roll after the all star break to make a serious run to the top of the standings. My early season pick up of Zo and Dalembert got me through the first two thirds of the season without having to give up the blocks category. Diaw turned out to be a stud and may have led league in triple doubles this year with 4, Boozer turned out to be worth the wait and the Yao Ming for Ray Allen trade (although at the time looked to be foolish on my part) turned out to be a great trade as Yao bacame a stud after the all star break. The only regret is that the last two years AK 47 has broken down on me close to the finish line. It is the classis love/hate relationship. You love to AK block shots but you hate to see him step on the foot of his Blind Spots teammate, Yao Ming, and put him out for the season.

It is interesting to note that I lost to Young Guns by 124 points and by 95 rebounds. Based upon Yao Ming's averages, 6 missed games would have produced 112 points and 70 rebounds. Things could have been very interesting at the end if Yao would have avoided AK's foot.

Oh Mahki - I heard someone refer to his intensity level down the stretch as "legendary". I also heard that Max represents the old guard in the MBA and may have to redefine himself as an owner if he is to be able to compete with the new youthful hip-hop, cutting-edge owners that are now populating the MBA ownership ranks. The Eddie Jones jersey and the magic markers may be indicative of an era that has passed some of the owners by. It may be time to bring out the Amare Stoudamire jersey as the first step in your overall makeover a strategy that served owners well in the 90s.

No matter what people say, your age hasn't slowed you down one bit come the end of the year. Nice late run that almost catapulted you into a top 3 finish.

Trojans - Don will always have the distinction of being the only rookie to grab the championship in his rookie year. Who can ever forget his drafting of the original twin towers in the first two rounds - David Robinson and Tim Duncan and just riding their wave to victory.

On paper, the Trojans had all the making of a championship contender. But unlike RJ Runners, Don's top picks had serious injury problems (Gerald Wallace - 55 games, AK - 69 games and TMAC - 47 games) and like the teams they played for missed out on the playoffs (payoff). It is hard to believe that Don's most healthy player during the first half of the year was CWEB. That should have been a warning of some kind.

It is good to have Donny back in LA and there is no mistaking Don's love for the MBA. He and I look forward to retiring someday in Palm Springs and being able to have our NBA package turned on every night and looking at stats online every night after a long day of shuffleboard and parcheeze.

New York Stars and Wish List - It is very appropriate that these two teams finished so close together in the standings. I like to equate their teams and their strategy to a game of 5 card draw in which they both have an ace high (Norm's ace was LeBron and Jeff's ace was Kobe) and even though they see that others around them have two pairs and three of a kind they decide to stay pat because they like the team of players that they have been dealt. I know you guys know the difference between five card draw and five card stud. I beg you guys to please do a trade with me next year! You won't regret it I promise. And is it my imagination or does Jeff always have Laker players on his team. Jeff, might it be time for team name change to LAKER LOVER.

It is interesting to note that those players that went for over \$50 in the auction (Kobe, LeBron and KG) did not lead their team to elite team status in either the NBA or the MBA. On the other hand, RJ Runners IYF, did not spend more than \$36 for any of his top 6 players, thus providing him with serious gun powder to purchase heavy artillery in the fifth and sixth rounds of our auction.

Larry's Legends - Oh how it is difficult to repeat success in the MBA. Everyone brings their A game every night to play the defending championships. But you have to hand it to Larry for aggressively attempting to rebuild constantly and not being afraid to involve himself in multiplayer trades that involved franchise superstars like Duncan, Wade and Gasol. He picked up Joe Johnson, Wally Szczerbiak, Steve Francis, Andre Miller and others at a time when they were big time stat contributors.

Dough Boys - The rookie wall! As they say so rightfully, the MBA 82 game season and the intensity and competitiveness of each team is unlike anything that a rookie has ever experienced. At some point during the year, every rookie hits the wall. We just wish it wouldn't have been after the first week of the season. A sound auction strategy - Corner the market on big men (Yao, Jermaine O'Neal, Iglauskus and Shaq at one point) and then trade them as other owners become desperate for blocks went sour when he realized that he had

inadvertantly cornered the market on "injured" big men and they unfortunately are difficult to deal to other teams under any circumstances.

But Dough Boys youth, enthusiasm and persistence in pursuing trades was very much appreciated. His new blood invigorated the group. We are glad that you exceeded the minimum score of 20 which allows you to return for a second year and avoids your fellow owners from having to engage in the much dreaded offseason vote of confidence (aka The Guitierrez Rule). Good job rookie!

Have a great off season, reconnect with your family and dont be afraid to contact one of your fellow owners for support if those dreaded MBA withdrawal pains hit you early next week during the playoffs when you realize that you are watching games that have absolutely no impact on you and your MBA team.

Oh by the way, look for the Pistons to beat the Suns in 6 games in the finals.

JB

Blind Spots

Owner

Norman Greenidge <Norman.Greenidge@notes.ntrs.com> wrote:

Guys!!

Congrats to Jim!!!

Great year to all and a good fight for 2nd/3rd/4th over the last few weeks of the season. Sorry for the major "time out" this season, we lost all of our sales team here in my office (JB-knows the story) and now have 5 new replacements with "NO" direction.

Last man stand (me) gets all the stuff. Next season (10/27) looks good!!

All the best

Norm Greenidge
Senior Vice President
Wealth Strategies Group
(310) 443-5112-Direct
(310) 824-8381-Fax

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