



BUSTS: BECKHAM, BALLPLAYERS AND MRS. BECKHAM'S BIG BUSTS.

By Kerry Schmidt July 19,2009

Every sport has their busts. Players that are expected to be great and bomb out like an overflowing toilet.

However, Mrs. Beckham's busts are, well, great busts!

Before I get to the overflowing toilets of players for whom much was expected, but did not deliver, a couple of worthless tidbits.

Being in Loooooosiannnnna, the college World Series was fantastic, since LSU beat Texas. During the 3-game series, the announcers discussed the history of both teams and especially the storied accomplishments of Texas coach Augie Garrido. He is the winningest coach in college baseball, and led his team to 6 WS titles.

Well, even legends can bust. Garrido was arrested last week for a DUI. Police said they stopped him because it was around midnight, very dark, and he had no headlights on. Hmmmm.

Remember last week how I said some athletes were going to court to get their drug tests thrown out?

This was led by NASCAR driver Jeremy Mayfield. He tested positive a while back for methamphetamine. He appealed and the courts threw out the suspension.

So what does Mr. Mayfield do to celebrate? He fails another drug test, again for meth. "Come on back in here judge, I needs ya again!"

MLB commissioners can have a funky background. Marvin Miller was head of the MLBPA for many years, before stepping down in 1982. Ken Moffett was appointed to the position, but Miller made it known he did not like Moffett, saying he was too friendly with the owners.

Thus, Donald Fehr stepped in as the players head.

The owners then anointed Fay Vincent for their side.

He did not last long, since George Steinbrenner did not care for him.

Steinfuch said they needed someone with a "sound business background."

Well, I guess being a used car salesman was having sound business, because Bud Selig took over, and is still screwing up baseball today.

You want a real mess to read about for awhile? Apparently, QB Steve McNair did not leave a will! A judge has given his wife 60 days to file an inventory of his estate.

So, pick a number as to how many vultures will try to claim something(s) of his.

The NFL, which is the leader in trying to head off trouble, has already commenced discussions between the owners and new NFLPA head, DeMaurice Smith.

The owners have opted out of the current agreement after the 2010 season. The main points are the owners want to lower the 60% players get of the gross revenue. Smith points out that the average team worth has increased in value from \$2.88 million to \$1.04 billion in just 10 years.

At least they are getting an early start. My guess is they will still screw it up after said 2 years, and in 2001, lockouts, strikes? Whatever.

Now, we get to the busts

David Beckham. Soccer player.

You may remember the wave of hoopla when the superstar agreed to play in the US for the L.A. Galaxy in the U. S. Major League Soccer.

The Anschutz Entertainment Group, with entertainment being the key word, bought the rights to Beckham by giving him a 5-year, \$250 million contract.

He was to make soccer a major sport in America. He was to be the Babe Ruth of soccer.



His first year was 2007. And from the very first day, he (the bomb) was dropped and headed rapidly downward.

His first, injury-plagued season was simply a joke. Due to the ticket prices, some call it a scam. He drew large crowds just by sitting on the bench.

Last year (2008) was, in some respects, even worse. He scored a whopping 5 goals (at \$6.5 million per year, that's about \$1.25 mil per goal) and had 10 assists in 25 MLS starts. All that showed was his, and the teams, total lack of achievements. They finished out the season with 12 consecutive losses.

But AEG did not care, since huge crowds still showed up and many jerseys were sold.

AEG had several related entertainment companies – shows, concerts, et al. Thus, Bust boy Beckham earned well over twice his soccer salary in endorsements.

One writer summarized it up: Beckham has failed in MLS, thus transforming what was the flagship franchise into its worst.

“It became very clear last season, playing for an abysmal team surrounded by average players, that Beckham was both increasingly frustrated and disinterested,” wrote Nick Green.

He was thus sent “on loan” to play for AC Milan in Spain. Now back in his native Europe, with much better players, he did better, although not to earlier exploits.

Back in the U.S.

Not only did he contribute very little, outside of generating money (early on), but immediately upon his arrival, he was made captain of the team, thus taking away said position from Landon Donovan.

Donovan, a great player in his own right, eventually lashed out at Beckham in a book, mainly for his lack of effort, interest in his teammates (see wife Victoria below) and his real desire to, well, not be here, but back in Europe.

With both Donovan and Beckham back in Europe in preparation for the championships, the once mighty (in MLS) team is a mid-rate team, at best.

To finish up the real impact Beckham had on MLS and the Galaxy, Green wrote, “Beckham has failed – again, again and again – when it mattered most.

“His time has gone. It's time for the Galaxy and American soccer to move on.

“Because the only thing worse than failing is not owning up to a mistake.

“And,” he added empathically, “Beckham has proved to be a colossal mistake.”

A Bust? More like a bomb going off.

This brings us to the show business side of the Beckham's Hollywood experiences.

By all accounts, AEG and the 4 other entertainment businesses – one of which was Beckham's own, Simon Fuller's 19 Entertainment Group, began to meddle into the business of the team itself.

This leads us to Mrs. Victoria's very fine busts.

While Beckham, at first, attempted to assimilate him and his wife into the rest of the team's other activities – they would go to other player's houses and have barbecues, but that became short lived.

One barbecue was held at the Beckham mansion in Beverly Hills.

Victoria made it very clear that she had no interest in associating with these “lower class” people, whose yearly salaries did not match a few minutes of Beckham's time.

Thus, the team camaraderie quickly vanished.

Victoria befriended Tom Cruise, Stephen Spielberg, et al. Only the “jet set crowd was good enough for her.



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She had her own music company and recording studio and several other entertainment related businesses

She would go to Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills and once spent \$1.8 million on 4 handbags! That's more than most all of the team's salaries – combined!

To describe her as a snob would not cover it. More like an “A-list only Bitch!”

And to say the least, this furthered the division between Beckham and his teammates, including Donovan.

And when she crowed long and loudly to the paparazzi that she and her husband “were taking some time off to look for a ‘place’ in London.” And of course, she let them know it would be “much larger and grandeur than the 16,000 square feet their Beverly Hills home is.”

The stories in the celebrities' magazines even started hinting that she was wearing out her welcome.

She allegedly once told Tom Cruise's wife that she thought “Scientology was a horrible cult.”

But the relationship must have been ok, since the Beckhams named their newest boy, “Cruz.” Another Hollweird writer, Jason Pederson, wrote, “I firmly believe Beckham's main interest in coming to MLS was to chase the almighty dollar and grow his personal advertising to benefit himself.

“If they just happened to make the playoffs, that would just be a minor bonus.”

But I lived in Malibu for 20 plus years, and I can tell you that no matter what type as bitch or assh..e. your were, if the news media still chased after you, you were still on that ever so important “A-List.”

In any sport, there are “Busts.” Not the bronze ones in the Hall-of-Fames, but players who bombed out.

A few of my favorite are the NFL ones.

Brian Bosworth. He was a Butkis award winning LB out of Nebraska, saying he was going to be the best ever and “crush those damn RB's.”

He lasted barely 3 years, and his only “famous” moment was when Bo Jackson absolutely crushed him, ran right over his chest into the end zone. That was cool. A true Bust member.

Perhaps the captain of the Bust team was QB Ryan Leaf. You all remember him. The big question among the teams was weather to draft him or Peyton Manning.

We all know that Manning did (is still doing). Ok, but Leaf lasted less than three years. His only meaningful acts were two quotes. “Just don't f...n talk to me,” and then later told the same reporters, “F-all of you. I got my 10 million (sign on). A top 5 Bust.

Nebraska must be screwed up or something. Lawrence Phillips. The No. 6 overall draft pick in 1996 by the Rams, he lasted less than 2 years. From 1997-2002 he had stints with 9 teams, mostly in Canada.

At least he was consistent. In each case, he was thrown off the team for disciplinary reasons. I guess that it was OK in Nebraska to beat up your girl-friend and threaten to shoot her in the knees and elbows.

But the NFL frowns on that. He was arrested 13 times and actually did some time. Certified Bust Club member.

A few others are probably more deserving of being on this list, but I'll give you Tony Mandrich, the 2nd overall pick by Green Bay in 1989.

He was on the cover of Sports Illustrated with the caption, “The greatest offensive lineman ever.” Also, “The Incredible Bulk.”

But the NFL was a little tougher on steroids. He barely lasted 4 seasons.

The main reason I mentioned him is because of whom GB passed on to draft him. Derrick Thomas, Deion Sanders and some little guy named Barry Sanders.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Many more are in my NFL Best Busts class, but that's enough.

NOTE: The one common thread you find in all the Busts is ego. Except for Beckham's wife, who had ego and all other 13 s...y a hole characteristics.

The NBA had a few busts. Again, there are quite a few, but I picked ones that told me who they were drafted ahead of.

Dennis Hopson, No. 3, Nets, 1987.

Spent parts of 6 season, and he could barely dunk! The Nets passed on Jenny Smith, Reggie Miller and Scotty Pippen to get him!

Sixers took 7'6" string bean, Shawn Bradley with the No. 2 1993 pick.

Only thing he was known for was being "Posterized" – pushed out of the way. Sixers passed on Penny Hardaway and Jamal Mashburn.

Benoit Benjamin, Clippers, No. 3, 1985.

Benjamin was very temperamental and played for 9 teams in 14 years

Players taken after him were Chris Mullin and Karl Malone.

And, last but not least. Sam Bowie, No. 2 Portland, 1984. Had a decent career, with a 10.9 ppg and 7 boards, but could not play defense.

And, who did they pass on??? Right behind them, at No. 3 Chicago took.....Michael Jordan!

Busts all, as the club grows.

MLB had some busts.

Kurt Brown, # 5, 1985, Yankees.

Never made the majors. With the 6th pick right behind them, Pitt took Barry Bonds.

Seattle Mariners, # 6, 1978

Tito Nanni, a HS outfielder who never made the majors.

At #7, a Michigan State WR named Kirk Gibson was drafted by KC. And then traded, so two teams f..up and one more bust was added.

Bill Bene, L.A. Dodgers, #5 1988

Bene had a 100 mph fast ball, but his career record was 18-34, with a 5.45 ERA

To get Bene, the Dodgers passed on Robin Ventura, Tito Martinez and Alex Fernandez.

No way I was going to look up NHL busts. No one would have ever heard of them anyway.

There are many more, and some very interesting ones. If anyone gets really bored and stupid like me, you can google and find all this worthless junk.

So, for all you busts out there, here's one middle finger of single malt.