

In The Huddle

Playoff Edition

Being out there on there Sunday, I have to admit that those were some of the best playoff games I have seen in a long time. A couple overtime games and a couple surprising blowouts wrapped up the first two rounds of the playoffs.

Black Panthers (8-2): Another great regular season but once again came up short in the playoffs. If you would have told me that this team would have gotten shut out by Dynasty, I would have laughed. Dynasty just outplayed Black Panthers and beat the brakes out of them in every facet of the game. Clearly this Black Panther team was not ready to play. Were they tired after beating Quiet Storm? Were they looking ahead? Who knows, only Black Panthers can answer that. I have to give Brian credit; he has been faithful and patient with this team. Four seasons this team thought it was their year and they have come up short each time. I think it's safe to say that this team will be doing some heavy recruiting for the summer season to take them over the top. **Season over**

Onyx (6-3): One of the most surprising teams in the league. Everybody wrote them off because of the defections that left them and formed Dynasty. This team played with a huge chip on their shoulder and also played with a lot of heart, my hat is off to them. Their season came to an end against the Generals in a very exciting game. I know Javan is probably kicking himself for losing that game, but I will be the first to tell you that you have more receivers than just Deb (Sunshine). I swear Randall was open the entire game and I can count on one hand how many time Javan threw to him. Aside from that, there were a few iffy calls during this game that could have changed the momentum for this team but in the end Generals just executed and made more plays down the stretch and in overtime. **Season over**

Generals (5-4): What a difference a few weeks made for this team. A couple of weeks ago they were fighting for their playoff lives and now they are in the Championship. Give credit where credit is due because nobody (except Generals) expected this team to make it to the finale. Watching this team week in and week out, they have shown improvements. The on-field chemistry improved and clicked at the right time. When I thought about this team, I called them the Minnesota Twins of the league. Why? Because this team doesn't make many mistakes and they rarely beat themselves. They don't turn the ball over and they take what the defense gives them. It seems like every team out there has a deep threat receiver except the Generals, yet they still find ways to win. This team beat Onyx, upset Arsenal and now is one game away from winning it all. I wouldn't be surprised if they pull off another upset and beat Dynasty on Sunday. **vs Dynasty (Championship Game)**

Arsenal (8-2): If making noise won games (Alvin), this team would be playing for a trophy on Sunday. Rumor has it that a few players on this team complained about the playoff seeding, causing for the seeding to be switched at the last moment, but in the end, it still didn't work. This team goes out, recruits two excellent female receivers, they recruit a guy who is 6'6 that can out jump anybody out there, they have a great regular season, but once again they lose in the playoffs. The reason being is the secondary. When Ricky got hurt, that was a huge loss for this team and that defense. The defense got exploited against Reckless Abandon with the deep ball. I am not going to make excuses for nobody but if Ricky was out there, this team might just be playing for the championship on Sunday. I know John, and he is probably on the phone right now recruiting players already. It will be very interesting to see where this team goes after another disappointing end to its season. **Season over**

TDG (4-5): The loudest team in the league and one of the most inconsistent teams in the league. It's hard to get a read on this team. One week they play great, making you think they are about to turn the corner and hit stride, then the next week they play like they have never met before. I think TDG would agree with that statement. Don't get me wrong, individually, they had some players make progress, but too bad they couldn't put that together as a team. This team has talent but doesn't have enough bodies to compete; and that showed against Dynasty in the playoffs. The defense needs to show more toughness because that toughness did not exist against Dynasty. It looked like they were intimidated to play against Dynasty. Nobody on TDG will admit that but body language tells a lot, and it showed this past Sunday. No question if this team wants to compete, they need to add more athletes on both sides of the ball and try to revamp their offense. Thriller says his offense was designed to score in two plays, I think he needs to sit down and find a better alternative. Anytime you use Sam as your deep threat on almost every possession, then something has to be wrong with your offense. Sam is a hell of a player and can catch with the best of them, but if you keep sending her on deep routes, you're going to mess around and get her hurt. **Season over**

Dynasty (7-3): Cocky, Arrogant, Walk around like they don't stink, you name it, and this team has it. Having witnessed an open team argument 2 weeks ago, maybe the loss to Onyx might have been the best thing that happened to this team. They came out on Sunday beat a talented TDG team and shut out a Black Panthers team who was favored to win it all this year. This team that showed up Sunday was the team a lot of people expected to see in the regular season. This team looked good on both sides of the ball and right now things are clicking for them at the right time. On offense, what can you say, we all knew that they could put on points, all the hype that the guys get on offense is cool, but this team would not be where it is if it was not for Erin. As far as the defense goes, it played well this past Sunday, but at the same time, it can be there Achilles heel. Grabbing flags has been an ongoing problem for this team since the season has started. They let 5 and 10 yard catches turn into 25 – 30 yard plays because of their inability to grab flags. If they can't grab flags on Sunday, then this team is going to in for a long day. **vs Generals (Championship Game)**

Reckless Abandon (3-6): Struggled early in the season but finally caught on late, and if it wasn't for a WR slip in the end zone during the 2nd overtime against Arsenal, there's no telling where this team might be right now. Offense was never the problem for this team because they have shown that they can score with the best of them. Their downfall was that they couldn't get defensive stops when they needed to. The key for this team is to get more females who can catch the ball and turn it up field. If they decide to come back for the summer season, it wouldn't shock me if they finish the season in first. I know John Irving will probably bring more semi-pro players to his squad so it will be interesting to see. Even though this team lost they have gained confidence and they have finally made that transition from semi-pro to flag . If this team comes back for summer, they will be a very dangerous. **MARK MY WORDS. Season over**

Quiet Storm (2-6): What can you say about this team? Everybody was a Quiet Storm fan this year. I know I was. This team has steadily improved ever since week 1. The wins might not have been there, but you can see the progress. One thing I liked about this team is that it showed a lot of heart and played hard on every play. When tragedy struck this team could have easily packed it in but they still went out on that field and play their tails off. If they can go out and get a few players/athletes for the summer season, this will be one of those teams that you would consider under the radar. **Season over**

Championship Preview

Dynasty vs. Generals – A surprise game for sure but a pretty good match-up on paper. The Generals have athletes on both sides of the ball and a championship QB leading the way. Dynasty has several people that have iTZ rings and a fellow championship QB on its roster as well.

The difference will be at two positions. There is not a lady on Generals that can run with Erin and the Generals safety was beaten badly by Arsenal on two deep plays last week. What will Astin, Magic or #9 do to him?

Generals have heart and lots of experience but at the end of the day not enough firepower.

Dynasty 27 – Generals 14