

Frankly Plank

By Duane Plank

Greetings, kind readers. Looking forward to Monday's Memorial Day festivities, are ya? A little beach, a little barbecue, maybe a little relaxing are in order. Enjoy the day, the family and friends.

Heard a comment on the old wrist radio as I was circling the local dusty, make that *dust-choked*, high school track the other day. I know that they are replacing the old dirt-pile down the road, but a little maintenance (water) between now and then would sure be appreciated by us joggers.

Retired/washed-up NFL quarterback Trent Dilfer, now a talking head on ESPN, said something the other day to the effect that life is 10 percent what happens, and 90 percent how you deal with what happened.

Made sense to me. Sure, there are incredibly serious events that occur in our lives over which we have no control. Like a death in the family. But most of the day-to-day bumps on the road are just that—mere blips on the radar screen. Something happens to you, take a step back, breathe, figure out the best possible outcome. Not the perfect outcome—because if you tend to do that, you will fall into the “paralysis by analysis” mode.

Take some kind of action. Guarantee that you will feel better about it. Be proactive. Plank has a few issues to deal with, and maybe he should start taking his own advice.

And one more piece of wisdom: Don't jump the fence because the grass appears greener on the other side. It may just have a ton more fertilizer on it. The other guy who looks like he has it all together may have just as many, if not more, frustrations and insecurities than you or I.

Speaking of washed-up quarterbacks, looks like the Brett Favre saga is still front and center stage. At least to most of the TV media guys, who have been living off

the Mississippi golden boy for the past 15 years or so.

Favre retired, or was retired, by the New York Jets earlier this season, putting an end to a rather limp one-year experiment that had Number 4 moving to Gotham City and taking over the reins of a Jet offense that wasn't exactly suited for the ex-Packer. Favre piloted the Jets to an early 8-3 record, but was at the helm as the New Yorkers plummeted to the pavement in the final month of the season, losing four of their final five games and missing the playoffs.

Favre, who was apparently nursing a sore right shoulder, chucked eight interceptions in the final five fateful contests, ending the season with 22 picks. And 22 touchdowns. Coach Eric Mangini was fired soon after the season concluded for the Jets, but the tubby head honcho bounced back quickly, resurfacing in the beautiful city of Cleveland, taking over a Brown team that had stalled out in 2008.

In February, Favre told the Jets he was done, which reportedly was the exact same conclusion that the Jets' management had come to. But earlier this month, the graying QB requested and was granted his release from the Jets' Reserve/Retired list. This freed up Favre from any obligations to the Jets, and allowed him and his agent to skulk around and look for another team to run into the pavement this fall.

And again, just like last off-season, the Minnesota Vikings popped up on the screen of those closely monitoring the Favre saga. The Vikings run an offense conducive to Favre's dwindling talents. Called the West Coast offense, it has gotta be too complex for a simpleton like *Plank* to absorb, but suffice to say, it should be a better fit than the Jets scheme, which seemed to be run the

See Frankly, page 19

Laker Bandwagon Survives a Couple of Flats

By Duane Plank

Laker fans, supporters, frontrunners, bandwagons and car-flaggers: Did you get a little worried when the fellas sleepwalked their way through a couple of road games against the injury-depleted Houston Rockets? Was your sky falling when the Rockets forced a game seven back at Staples last Sunday by embarrassing the purple and gold in game six?

Were you cursing young Andrew Bynum for his no show? Pleading for coach Colonel Sanders Jackson to get up off his rusty dusty and actually coach the team when the Rockets raced out to what turned out to be insurmountable early-game leads? You know, maybe use a bleeping timeout before the fired-up Houstoners ran up double-digit leads in the first six minutes of the game?

Well, Laker fans, all the angst was just a waste of time, right? With the Lakers cruising to an easy 19-point win last Sunday, the locals live to play another couple of days and are now embroiled in the Western Conference final series with the somewhat surprising Denver Nuggets, who the Lakers dispatched last year in round one 4-0. Game two in the series takes place tonight at Staples.

But this year's edition of the Nuggets seems to be a far different squad than last year's, which tanked the series after game two. Thanks to the exodus of the guy the talking heads dubbed “the Answer,” Allen Iverson, and the acquisition of the somewhat-under-the-radar superstar Chauncey Billups, the Nuggs should test the mettle of the up-and-down Lakers.

The sometimes “me first” Iverson was sent packing to Detroit earlier this season, with the team-oriented Billups coming west to Denver. And voila. Overnight, Denver became a dangerous team, as opposed to the

Carmelo Anthony/Iverson, one dimensional offensive road show.

The Nuggets are playing in the Western Conference final for the first time in 24 years. They easily dispatched the quitters down in New Orleans in round one, and took care of the Mark Cubans from Dallas in round two. They are led in playoff scoring by Anthony, who is registering 27 points a game in the postseason.

But make no mistake about it, it's Billups who is the driving force behind the Nuggets' success. The 33-year-old guard has been good for 22 points per in the playoffs, and should be the key guy as the Nuggets knock off the Lakers, depriving the basketball world of the presumed finals match-up between the boys from La La Land and King Lebron.

Mighty Mariner alert! The Little League kids are riding a nice winning streak, capping off a first place regular season with something like a 26-9 victory on Saturday. And to think they accomplished this offensive explosion without their seemingly all-important BP pitcher, third base coach, and chief strategist. Which would be me!

Couldn't attend the final game. Had a prior commitment to watch my kid toil in the outfield for the Babe Ruth League (13-15-year-olds) Beavers, who opened the season 2-1. Kid walked three times and scored a couple of runs, and the Battlin' Beavers picked up an easy win.

But back to the Mariners, who open up the double elimination playoffs Friday night at 5 p.m. And we do expect your support, folks. From what I'm told, the highlights of the final game revolved around a couple of late-game home runs, one a grand slam by a 10-year-old Mariner nicknamed “Meat,”

See Lakers, page 19

CITY OF EL SEGUNDO

Film Permit

Subcommittee Meeting City Council Chambers

350 Main Street

El Segundo, CA 90245

May 27, 2009

5:30 p.m.

The El Segundo City Council Film Permit Subcommittee is meeting to discuss potential revisions to the City's Film Permit Ordinance. The City encourages members of the public to attend and share their thoughts and concerns about the current film process.

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