

## The Daily Fix

### Tim Tebow Era Begins in Denver

By Nando Di Fino

"People started ordering shots because they were so mad they had to get drunk."

And with that comment by a waitress in a local bar, according to the Palm Beach Post's Tom D'Angelo, the Tim Tebow Era in Denver began.

Tebow's selection by the Broncos with the 25th pick of this year's NFL Draft was met with head slaps, groans and boos by most of the football-watching nation. When pundits began handing out their annual "winner/loser" awards on Sunday, many cited Denver's selection of Tebow as the reason the team received such low marks. It makes some sense: the Broncos already had a starter in Kyle Orton and a challenger to the starting role in Brady Quinn, who, like Tebow, is often the object of scorn and mockery from fans and writers alike.

But a quote in D'Angelo's column shows that a lot of the vinegar spat in the direction of Tebow may be just some brand of blind hatred. Former Broncos defensive end Alfred Williams, now a radio talk show host in Denver, expressed his displeasure with flawed logic.

"I thought this was professional sports, and this was about winning a championship," he said. Apparently, Williams never read Tebow's bio, which notes his one Heisman Trophy, two college National Championships and a Florida state title in high school. Say what you will about Tebow's throwing motion or possible professional pedigree—and many, with conflicting opinions, including former Colts coach Tony Dungy (loves him) and former Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson (hates him), have done just that—but suggesting Tebow is not a winner is just wrong. Be bothered by his proselytizing or feel jealous over his falsely-rumored girlfriends, but it's tough to doubt the fact that he just keeps winning at every level.

"Tebow exceptionalism has been proven over and over again," writes Dan Shanoff. "At some point, doubting should become benefit-of-the-doubt. The default should be that he will succeed."

And as for the burning question of how Tebow had those Broncos caps at the ready during his draft party in Florida? John Bena of the Mile High Report writes that Tebow's agent had bought a bunch of several prospective team caps.

"I don't even know what other teams we had, that was my agent who picked those hats out," Tebow said. "They're probably taking them back to Dick's (Sporting Goods) right now."

Outside of the Great Tebow Diffusion, the two teams getting the best grades for their selections were the Raiders and Lions. Oakland defied the low expectations of draft experts and pulled off a few steals with their picks, including Maryland offensive tackle Bruce Campbell in the fourth round, a player they were projected to take as high as eighth overall. Detroit drafted Nebraska's Ndamukong Suh with their second selection and traded up to draft Cal running back Jahvid Best at the end of the first round. Lions coach Jim Schwartz then fired off the two best quotes of the weekend.

"Some people watch adult videos on their computer," Schwartz told Yahoo's Michael Silver. "I go to YouTube and watch Jahvid Best highlight clips. That's what gets *me* aroused."

And after making Weber State's Tim Toone 2010's Mr. Irrelevant by selecting him with the last pick of the draft, Schwartz predicted that the wideout could become a cult favorite in Detroit partly because he is, "a white guy with dreadlocks."

Watchers of ESPN's draft coverage might have recognized the ubiquitous announcer's voice from "Pardon the Interruption." But your kids may have picked up on it, too. Veteran vocal actor Kat Cressida, who has been the announcer on PTI for the past nine years ("Pardon the Interruption is brought to you byyyy...Guinness!"), starred as Dee Dee on Cartoon Network's hit "Dexter's Laboratory," had voice roles in Disney movies "Tinker Bell" and "Tarzan," and has done voice work on myriad video games. Cressida says that the Na'vi language she learned for the Avatar video game actually helped her work out some of the more hard-to-pronounce names in this draft, including Ndamukong, Alualu, and lupati.

"Going from saying 'Tinker Bell' to 'Ndamukong Suh' was tough," says Cressida, who also voices the Black Widow Bride at the Haunted Mansion in Disney theme parks. "I definitely pulled out the flashcards on that one."

Cressida's presence and the regular draft drama turned out to be a ratings bonanza for ESPN. Bloomberg reported that Thursday's first-ever primetime round scored a 5.4 rating, easily outdrawing NBA playoff games featuring superstars Kobe Bryant and LeBron James.

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Scott Sicko, a New Hampshire tight end who went undrafted, channeled Sonny Corleone and took the snub a little too personally. Telling the Albany Times Union's Mark McGuire that going undrafted offered him clarity, Sicko turned down post-draft free agent offers from the Cowboys, Jaguars and Jets and said he's going to pursue post-graduate degrees in history instead, with designs on becoming a teacher. Stay tuned for the certain future article from McGuire: "Tight End Changes Mind and Signs With Cowboys After Learning What 'Recession' Means."

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The breeding ground for the draft may soon undergo dramatic changes, suggests CBSsports.com's Gregg Doyel. College football is quietly being threatened by possible conference realignments that could decimate the Big East and ACC, and possibly, if Doyel is correct, create a superleague that would break free from the NCAA. He fears that the pieces already in place make it almost impossible to stop, and it could change the entire college sports landscape.

"Now I see what the BCS leagues have in mind—what their own people are admitting they have in mind—and it scares the hell out of me," writes Doyel.

SI.com's Stewart Mandel complements Doyel's piece with answers to many of the questions—some we didn't even realize we should be asking—associated with the possible expansion and implosion of the conferences we currently know and love.

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While the the NBA Playoffs are dragging on and have yet to send one squad home, four teams have been purged from the overtime-and-drama filled NHL brackets so far: Ottawa, New Jersey, Colorado and Los Angeles.

On the Bleacher Report, Hunter McDowell argues that the NHL is far superior to the NBA. His main reason: Kevin Garnett's one-game suspension last week for throwing an elbow.

"What does a hockey player get for throwing an elbow like Garnett did?" asks McDowell. "Two minutes in the penalty box."

Almost on cue, according to the Washington Post's Tarik El-Bashir, Washington Capitals forward Eric Belanger made McDowell's point. He was hit in the mouth with a stick, lost "seven or eight teeth," had his exposed roots filed down in the arena, and was back on the ice approximately ten minutes later.

Capitals coach Bruce Boudreau told El-Bashir that this was playoff hockey.

"Having a root canal done in between periods, and still come back to play," Boudreau said, "the courage it takes to do that is phenomenal."