

“\$250K Bond Set for Blaylock for Fatal Car Crash”

Daron “Mookie” Blaylock, former guard of the Atlanta Hawks, has just received a set bond of \$250,000 for the fatal head-on crash that involved the death of 43-year-old Monica Murphy. In addition to the charge of second-degree vehicular homicide, Blaylock will also be charged with driving with a suspended license, making an improper lane change and crossing over the median. The Judge said that she set Blaylock’s bond due to past DUI arrests and convictions. Blaylock has also been ordered for house arrest and his passport will be confiscated.

The Hawks said in a statement following the crash, “We are saddened to hear of the accident today involving Mookie Blaylock and the Murphy family and the ensuing passing of Monica Murphy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of all involved.”

The crash happened Friday afternoon on May 31 while Blaylock was driving in Jonesboro, Ga. His SUV crossed over the center line, onto oncoming traffic, and crashed into Monica Murphy’s and her husband’s van. Blaylock was airlifted to Atlanta Medical Center where he was in critical condition and was initially placed on life support. The victims were also rushed to the hospital. However, Monica Murphy died hours later while her husband, Frankie Murphy, acquired a broken ankle and was released shortly after it was treated.

It is still unclear what caused the crash. Blaylock was also wanted in Spalding County for failing to appear in court for a DUI hit-and-run charge. However, according to police, drugs and alcohol do not appear to be involved in this crash. Nonetheless, Blaylock will have to be tested for drugs and alcohol in addition to being under house arrest and giving up his passport. Jonesboro Police Chief Franklin Allen mentioned to WSB-TV that Blaylock has, “a history of seizures” and Blaylock’s attorney stated that Blaylock blacked out just before the crash.

“Court Date Appearance Changed for Jason Kidd’s DWI Charge”

Jason Kidd will be able to attend the Orlando Summer League this week, as he does not need to make an appearance in court for his DWI charges. The former Knicks player was originally supposed to make an appearance at the Southampton Town Court on Thursday; however his lawyer, Edward Burke Jr. stated that, that is no longer necessary.

The accident originally occurred last July, while Kidd was leaving the Foundation Fostering a Legacy Benefit. Kidd was returning to his Southampton home when he crashed into a utility pole. The crash happened at 1:56 am on the Sunday of the 15th. Kidd only obtained minor injuries from the crash, but was taken to the Southampton hospital regardless. It was there that the former point guard refused any blood or Breathalyzer testing for alcohol. His memory of the incident remains unclear. “I was going home from a club, I don’t know what happened,” Kidd remarked after the accident.

The impact from his crash not only broke the pole at its base, but also caused temporary telephone and cable outages in the area. Several days after the incident, Kidd posted an apology on his twitter saying that, “I regret any disruption my accident last weekend may have caused members of the community and want to thank the local authorities.”

Burke said that Kidd will still plead not guilty to the DWI misdemeanor charge and that Kidd will be expected to make a court appearance next Tuesday. If convicted, Kidd may face up to a year in jail.

“Dwyane Wade and ex-wife, Siohvaughn Funches, Reach Financial Settlement”

Dwyane Wade and his ex-wife, Siohvaughn Funches, have reached a new financial settlement for five million dollars in addition to other expenses. Both parties have also signed a “non-disparage” agreement, thus forbidding either individual from publicly debasing each other. The agreement was presented to the court last Tuesday.

Funches was dissatisfied with the original agreement, saying that Wade did not pay the money allotted to her and she was displeased with the lack of visitation rights. In protest of this treatment Funches went outside the Chicago Daley Center on the 19th with a sign that said, “NBA Miami Heat star, mother of his children on the streets.” She also tried to sue Wade but ultimately her lawsuit was dismissed. Nonetheless, Wade’s reaction to this public attack was prompt. Jim Pritikin, Wade’s attorney, released a statement Monday concerning Funches’ accusations,

Despite false allegations by Ms. Funches claiming to be “homeless” and “destitute,” Dwayne Wade has maintained over the years financial support to his ex-wife by providing her with income over \$25,000 on a monthly basis, timely paid for her home mortgage, maintenance and security at the house, four cars, insurance, taxes and all of her attorney fees throughout this process. Ms. Funches has made a mockery of homelessness which is a serious and personal issue for Mr. Wade as his mother was homeless for a period of time when he was a child.

Wade first filed for divorce in 2007, after five years of marriage. In 2011 Wade also won a separate court case concerning the full custody of his sons. A year after the decision Funches was arrested for attempting to abduct her children after not returning them to Wade on time, unlawful visitation and other similar charges. Despite these issues, Wade hopes that one day Funches and he could co-parent amicably. Right now, however, the welfare of his sons is the most important issue for him. “I was probably a terrible husband, but I pride myself on being a good dad,” Wade said concerning his relationship with his ex-wife and children.

“Jason Kidd and Mark Cuban Patch up Friendship”

Tuesday night on the Fan’s “GBag Nation” radio show, Jason Kidd announced that he received an email from Mark Cuban that seems to highlight a renewal in their relationship. After a tense year following Kidd’s decision to play for the New York Knicks, it seems that Kidd and Dallas Mavericks’ owner, Mark Cuban, are finally on talking terms. The content of Cuban’s email essentially revolved around congratulating Kidd on his career and recent retirement. Kidd said in response to the email, “Yeah, Cube reached out and sent me a nice note. Cube is one of, if not the best owner in sports and we were lucky to be with him when we won that championship.”

So what caused this rift between the two in the first place? Last year, after signing a three year contract with the New York Knicks instead of the Dallas Mavericks, Cuban expressed resentment toward the point guard. The Mavericks offered Kidd essentially the same offer as the Knicks and it seemed that Kidd was interested in staying with the Mavericks. Ultimately, however, Jason Kidd decided to play for the Knicks- a decision that aggravated Cuban. “I was more than upset. I thought he was coming (back). I was pissed,” Cuban remarked in a radio interview on the “Ben & Skin show” after Kidd signed on the dotted line. He went on to say that he did not plan on retiring Kidd’s jersey anytime soon and that, “... you don't change your mind like that. I'm sure I'll get over it at some point, but as of right now, I wouldn't put J-Kidd's number in the rafters.”

However, with this new email correspondence between Kidd and Cuban perhaps Kidd has a chance to have his jersey retired after all. Kidd said that he thought of approaching the subject with Cuban, but ultimately decided against it, as it was too soon. When asked on “GBag Nation” if he had any preference to which number was retired Kidd replied, “Oh, whatever number (Cuban) would like to put up.... Just as long as my number went up, that would be just the best honor and the highlight of my career.”

Jason Kidd went on to say in his radio interview that he looks forward to asking Mark Cuban for future advice regarding his post-retirement options; which, might include anything from a coaching job, working in the media or a front office position. “I definitely will reach out to Cuban in the near future for advice going forward. Now that I’ll be on the business side of things and he’s had a lot of success with that, that would be a guy to go to,” Kidd says. However, at the

moment Kidd is content to simply enjoy his time off and slowly reestablish his friendship with Cuban.

Jason Kidd retired Monday after an impressive 19 seasons in the NBA, during which time he won co-rookie of the year along with Grant Hill, and helped the Mavericks win the NBA title.

“LeBron James Contemplating Running for NBPA Presidency?”

On Wednesday an unnamed source close to renowned basketball player LeBron James told Fox Sports reporters that James is contemplating running for president of the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA). “It’s something he has talked about with a small group of people,” the unnamed source said. “It’s a very important position for where things are going.”

In recent years, LeBron James has expressed a notable interest in the wellbeing of the players, the sport, as well as the union itself. His most recent expression of concern occurred during All-Star weekend when he passionately asked for more change within the union. ESPN sports reporter, Stephen A. Smith has also mentioned that he thinks that LeBron would be an excellent presidential candidate for the NBPA and that he “....cares a lot for the players on a personal level and their interests....”

LeBron’s passion and enthusiasm for other players and the sport, though admirable, might be a bit much for the 28-years-old player at the moment. He is not only busy with his endorsement deals, being a high ranking player, and other league responsibilities; but he is also busy preparing for his wedding in September. The unnamed source has also mentioned LeBron’s limited availability as a reason why, though interested, he probably won’t seek candidacy anytime soon.

“LeBron doesn’t do anything halfway and he has serious concerns about whether he has the time he knows the job requires...the demands on LeBron’s time are already substantial. Whether it’s formally or informally, LeBron has strong opinions on the future of the union and will be very active in the rebuilding process.”

Whether or not, LeBron James does become president for the NBPA is anyone’s guess at the moment. However, if he does manage to find the time for the job and is elected, he will be the union’s highest ranked player since Patrick Ewing in 2001. Derek Fisher’s, the current president, term will end this summer and one of the vice presidents and close friend of LeBron James, Chris Paul, has not yet expressed interest in the job.

“Miami Heat to Remain Mostly Unchanged for 2013-2014 Season.”

With the recent win of the 2013 NBA Championship against the San Antonio Spurs, the Heat players and president seem more inclined than ever to remain together. Pat Riley, president of the Miami Heat and LeBron James both expressed a desire for the Heat to remain together for the upcoming 2013-2014 basketball season. When asked if he would like to continue to play with the Heat, LeBron James found the concept more than a little interesting. "I love the burden. I love what I have to do for this team to win....I'm coming back saying if we come back with this roster, we're going to compete for a championship," LeBron James said. James is not the only one who wants to continue to play for the Heat. Both forwards, James Jones and Rashard Lewis have decided to use their player options to stay with the Heat for next season. Mario Chalmers will also be remaining with the Heat, as the Heat used their team option in order to keep the guard. Bosh and Heat coach, Erik Spoelstra, have also said that they have little doubt that Ray Allen will return to play for the Heat next season and on Friday they were proven right. The 37-year-old guard decided to use his player option in order to continue with the Heat next season.

As for the “Big 3” and the other Heat players, things seem a little bit more uncertain. There is still no word yet if Chris Bosh or Dwyane Wade will be back. Given Wade’s past injury and the Heat’s overall lack of size, it would be a good bet that Bosh will stay. It is also obvious that Wade and Bosh love playing for the Heat and given a choice will likely remain. According to Wade, “Everybody that came here pretty much took a pay cut to be here.” This commitment undoubtedly shows the dedication and affection all the Heat players have for their team.

Forward, Chris “the Birdman” Anderson is also up in the air, though Anderson has already expressed a desire to remain with the Heat at Monday’s championship rally. Anderson staying will be especially helpful for the Heat, as he has the height and talent that the team needs in order to keep up strength in the paint.

However, next season the Heat will face steep tax bills that could mean changes for the 2013-2014 roster. This will pose problems as the Heat are already committed to \$85 million for next season. Also, there are rumors circulating that the Heat may be signing free agent Greg Oden for next season. More than half the roster will remain unchanged leaving very little room for other additions to the Heat unless there is a trade. However, Pat Riley is adamant that there will likely

be little change in regards to the future Heat's roster. "I like our team.... We don't like change. There are times that it's necessary to change, but we don't feel like it's necessary." In short, it seems like the Heat will remain mostly unchanged come next basketball season.

“Pitbull Remixes Song for Heat Support“

World famous rap artist Pitbull, remixed his song “Feel This Moment” in support of the Miami Heat for the Eastern Conference Finals. The music video, debuted during half time of game one, showcases fans from all across south Florida, all expressing encouragement and support for the Heat; particularly from the areas of Miami, Broward and West Palm. Images from last year’s championship, Floridian landmarks and current Heat players in this year’s basketball series are also depicted in the music videos along with the Heat’s fans.

“Pitbull is one of Miami’s native sons and we’re thrilled at the chance to collaborate with him....,” Eric Woolworth, President of the Heat Group’s Business Operations said. “Heat fans are clearly going to ‘feel the moment’ as well as the love when they hear the song and watch the video.”

The meaning of “Feel This Moment” was originally about taking the time to enjoy life and to appreciate each moment for what it is worth. However, to demonstrate his support for the Heat, Pitbull remixed this song specifically for the NBA Playoffs in order to encourage the Heat and their fans in the second round. In the lyrics of the remixed version, Pitbull encourages the Heat to “...tell each team in the NBA move out to the side...” Not only did he change the lyrics to the song, but also compiled three short, similar videos depicting fans from all over south Florida in support of the Heat.

This is not the first time that Pitbull demonstrated his loyal support for the Miami Heat. When fellow musician, Lil Wayne, insulted the NBA and the Heat; Pitbull wasted no time in defending his home town and team. Pitbull released a remix of the “Harlem Shake” with lyrics supporting Miami and the Heat as well as criticism of Lil Wayne. “Feel This Moment” was not only used for Pitbull’s support of the Miami Heat, but the original song was also featured in the NBA’s music video/compilation of footage for the 2013 NBA playoffs.

As evident by Pitbull’s newest remix and the demographic results of current polls on ESPN, home support for the Heat remains strong. Miami now leads the series 3-2 after a 90-79 victory Thursday night. The strong encouragement will hopefully help LeBron James and the rest of the team keep the momentum going and eliminate the Pacers in game six. In short, this support from their loyal fans, like Pitbull, could be exactly what the doctor ordered.

“Richie Incognito issued trespassing warning from Florida nightclub”

Dolphins’ offensive lineman, Richie Incognito, is not living up to his surname. For the second time this week, Incognito has been in the news. This time, the offensive lineman was involved in a club fight that took place in the wee hours of the morning on June 10. The fight occurred at a nightclub called Liv in the Fountainbleau Hotel. Following the incident, Incognito received a trespassing warning from Miami police and was, “advised not to return.” It is still unclear if Incognito will be reprimanded by the NFL for this incident, but if he ever does go back to the club he can face jail time.

The security guard of the establishment, Carlos Joseph, stated that Incognito and his friends were getting too close to a performer on stage. Joseph’s requests that the group move back were vehemently denied, and members of the group even pushed the bouncer. From there, the fight quickly escalated, involving Joseph, Incognito and some members of Incognito’s group. Incognito told a different story to police. He said that he spotted the fight between his friends and Joseph and went over to stop the fight before it got out of hand. According to Incognito, he, “was trying to break up the altercation when he got hit in the face” by the bouncer. Otherwise, Incognito sustained minor injuries and did not seek medical attention afterwards. Incognito is also the one who notified the police of the incident.

The official police report seems to lean towards Incognito’s version of the story, which would explain why he simply got a trespassing warning after the ordeal. As of yet, neither the NFL nor the Dolphins have commented on the fight. Earlier this week, Incognito was also in the news due to an altercation between Houston Texans’ defensive end Antonio Smith during a preseason game. Smith was later suspended for the rest of the preseason and season opener.

“The Future of the Orlando Magic, a Look at the Recent Roster Changes”

With the NBA draft over and free agency beginning, there is still no word about the Orlando Magic making any deals with free agents, nor is it likely. According to general manager, Rob Henningan he would rather concentrate on fostering their young talent instead of looking for free agents at the moment. “I would say I wouldn’t envision us making a huge splash this summer... We’ll probably swim in the kiddie pool,” he said in relation to free agent picks. It seems that the Magic are concentrating on strengthening their young players instead of going after veterans at the moment. In the long run this will be more helpful for the Magic. By concentrating on building a core team of young players they will be able to slowly strengthen them according to their needs. Also, by focusing on young players they will have enough room and money to spend on a big name veteran in the future if they so choose. Though it currently seems like an imbalance, Henningan hopes to one day have the ideal combination of youths and veterans. “It takes a balance of young guys and veteran guys... You don’t want too much youth or too many veterans on your roster at once. So it’s a mix of the two that you are looking for.”

As of right now, however, the Magic appears to be more than happy with their current draft picks, Romero Osby and Victor Oladipo. Both players will be an asset to the Magic’s team. Oladipo was a consensus All-American during his college years and Osby brings some of the best elements of a small and power forward. Both men will join with the rest of the Magic’s young players for the summer league next week.

Other notable changes include the fates of forward, Dequan Jones and guard E’Twaun Moore. As of July 1st Jones is now an unrestricted free agent. The forward impressed the Magic during the preseason; however, he did not perform up to expectations during the season and thus the Magic have decided not to extend Jones a Qualifying Offer. Jones will still be making an appearance at the Southwest Orlando Pro Summer League this week. Provided that he steps up his game, Jones may even be able to play for the Magic once again. His teammate, E’Twaun Moore, will still be playing for the Magic come the 2013-2014 basketball season.

“Trey Ball Joins Red Sox Family”

The Boston Red Sox have officially signed first-round pick Trey Ball with a signing bonus of \$2.75 million on Wednesday June 19.

Ball is being drafted into the pitcher’s position, though he does have considerable talent as a hitter and as an outfielder. Ball finished this season with a .320 batting average and even managed to score 10 home runs. He was named 2013’s Gatorade Indiana Baseball player of the year. Despite all these accomplishments, Ball plans to take it slow in as he has not been pitching a lot lately. As a recent graduate of New Castle High School, Trey Ball originally planned on attending the University of Texas on a baseball scholarship. However, his childhood dream of playing for the MLB proved too irresistible for the 18-year-old to pass up.

Ball met with the team earlier this week and was warmly received by the managers and his new fellow Red Sox teammates. “Makeup, athleticism, stuff, projectability. [*sic*] We sort of go through the checklist of the things we need to see in a high school pitcher to invest in a first-round pick, and he just checks all the boxes. He’s got the chance to be really good one day,” Ben Cherington, general manager of the Red Sox stated in regards to picking Ball. The Red Sox players also seem to be in agreement, as they amiably greeted the freshly graduated high school senior with advice and good natured teasing. Dustin Pedroia affectionately asked Ball to hurry up and sign so that he could retire, and Clay Buchholz even took the time to help Ball with his still-developing curveball.

Ball was first drafted by the Red Sox on June 6 for the number seven pick in the MLB draft. Both his parents, Amy Morrison and Ron Ball, are proud of their son’s accomplishments. “We couldn’t be prouder. You know, he’s worked so hard for it. And he’s done so much to put himself in this position... to see his dreams come true, that makes me very proud,” Ron Ball remarked after his son was initially picked by the Red Sox.

jessica nice work on this! I would just take "on wednesday june 19" off the end and put it like "As of Wednesday, ksdbfsuhf.." and "number seven" can be shortened to no. 7 since we're talking about rank. Thanks and I look forward to seeing this week's. Please text me if we don't get back with you in a timely manner so we can get you published!