

MAVS CAMP OPENS: ALL-ACCESS PASS

Contributed by Mike Fisher
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"The Mavs are the mystery team in the Western Conference," summarizes team radio voice Chuck Cooperstein. "Are they the team capable of winning 50 or 60 but with something to prove? Or is the window closing, and the whole thing is about to fall off a cliff? A mystery."

I've got every Monday Media Day angle covered below: Josh trying to end some controversy, Cuban maybe starting some, Carlisle as zookeeper, Dirk as the class clown. ... if you can't get your fill of Mavs camp takes, you, sir, have come to the right place. ...

JOSH: THE IDIOT HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

J-Ho -- under the protection and guidance of the franchise and his family -- with a heartfelt mea culpa.

THE MYSTERY MACHINE

So which is it? Window still open? Or franchise about to fall off a cliff?

JOSH HASHANAH & TIDS & BITS

Tids and bits from Media Day: Who were those random bodies filling out the bottom of the training-camp roster? And how Josh Howard can celebrate his own Jewish holiday!

DETERMINED DIRK, CLASS CLOWN

Dirk Nowitzki did a lot of talking with the newspaper beat writers in preparation for training camp. On Monday, he displayed his unfortunate haircut, his unflappable sense of humor and his unyielding desire to win a championship. "My goal throughout the rest of my career won't change," said The UberMan, meeting the media and adopting a very serious tone. "I want to win the championship. That's what I'm playing for." That goal doesn't change from camp to camp. And I'll tell you what else never changes:

PAGING DR. RICK! STAT!

Don't accuse Rick Carlisle of being vague in his bedside manner. He pinpointed two very specific illnesses that plagued the 2007-08 Mavs. And Dr. Carlisle even proposed a specific Health Plan for how his patient can recover.

WE LOVE OUR TEAM, REDUX

"Brace yourself: It's alive! 'We Love Our Team' is alive!

"Are we a better team than the one that went to the NBA Finals?" Mavs owner Mark Cuban said, asking the question and answering it himself. "Yes."

DB.com devotees know this drill well. Some of it stems from Mark's usual upbeat mood. And that was very much in evidence Monday.

To wit:

FIVE FUNNY MAVS MEDIA MOMENTS

Five funny Mavs Media Day Moments off the top of my head:

RUN WITH STOTTS, NASTY WITH CASEY

DB.com has your answer to our question of Who's It Do What on this coaching staff. And we've also got the answer to the style-of-play question that has been ping-ponged about all summer.

First, to the roles of the staff:

AFTER THE COUP D'ETAT: CUBAN STEPS UP

We all know Avery ran a little dictatorship here. Or, if you didn't already know it, you now are aware of it after Dirk informed you of such. The problem with a successful coup d'état against a dictator, of course, is that somebody needs to step up and fill the void.

Mark Cuban — taking "all the blame" for last season's Avery failings that the owner insists caused "half the roster" to request trades — is volunteering himself for the job.