

***2016 JEFFERSON LEAGUE BASEBALL
WINTER REPORT***



2016 JLB AWARDS

Most Valuable Player

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Tot.
<i>Altuve, J.</i>	5	-	-	25
Betts, M.	1	2	-	11
Dozier, B.	1	1	1	9
Trout, M.	-	2	1	7
Cano, R.	-	-	1	1
Arenado, N.	-	-	1	1
Myers, W.	-	-	1	1

*Rookie of the Year**

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Tot.
<i>Bryant, K.</i>	3	1	-	18
<i>Betts, M.</i>	3	1	-	18
Syndergaard, N.	-	1	1	4
Odor, R.	-	1	1	4
Oh, S.	-	-	2	2
Barracclough, K.	-	-	1	1

**Ineligible Rich Hill received a 2nd place vote*

The [Dirty] Randy

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Tot.
<i>Hendricks, K.</i>	3	-	1	16
Scherzer, M.	2	1	-	13
Lester, J.	-	2	2	8
Verlander, J.	1	1	-	8
Britton, Z.	1	-	-	5
Kluber, C.	-	1	-	3
Bumgarner, M.	-	-	1	1
Fernandez, J.	-	-	1	1

Durgala Award

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Tot.
<i>Manassas</i>	7	-	-	35
Reston	-	4	-	12
Springfield	-	1	1	4
Herndon	-	-	2	2
Arlington	-	-	1	1
Fleeter, D.	-	-	1	1

2016 JLB SEASON RECAP

2016 will go down as one of the most ridiculous, absurd, unlikely years in the history of western civilization. The Chicago Cubs broke a 108-year streak without a World Series, ruining some great myths about curses based around black cats, billy goats and guys wearing really outdated headphones. The city of Cleveland won a major sports championship for the first time since the plot of faking a moon landing was just beginning to be hatched. Donald Trump hopped in his ego-boosted hot air balloon filled with a basket of deplorables and rode it all the way to the presidency, dooming our country to an Armageddon, but at least we won the title before that happens.

Yes, by the far most unlikely, and perhaps most offensive, thing to happen this year was the Manassas Manatees capturing the 2016 JLB title. This is a league for some of the most elite minds and diehard baseball fans in Northern Virginia, maybe even ALL of Virginia - at least if *NoVa Magazine* is to be believed. A vast majority of the league attended one of the most highly acclaimed high schools in the country and went to college at Ivy League schools or schools in Virginia that pretend to be Ivy League schools. And in 2016, two guys from Manassas, VA and East Brunswick, NJ, who attended public high schools and went to state universities mainly to get drunk and try to hook up with chicks from New Jersey (mostly unsuccessfully!) won the JLB title.

How did it happen? It's simple really: You guys let it happen! Are you kidding?! We have no business winning a league like this! We are both basically Greenhalgh without anyone to act as Justin with the sensibility to hold us back from doing MORE stupid things! We will spend a few minutes discussing the few things we did that helped us win, but this will mostly be an in-depth examination of how dumb ALL of you combined to be to let this happen.

2016 FINAL TEAM CAPSULES

This is the part where we shit all over your teams!

-1- MANASSAS MANATEES, 99.5 (43.5 Hitting, 56 Pitching – 1st place at All-Star Break)

Mick: There are three reasons we won the title this year. First, we brilliantly signed Jose Altuve to a ridiculously cheap three-year free agent contract right before he turned into one of the best players in the league. Second, we traded for Jake Arrieta (and gave up only a 2nd round pick and a glorified deer hunter) right before he turned into one of the NL's most consistently dominant pitchers. And third, and most importantly, we absolutely NAILED joining JLB at the right time. Too early? We would have been stuck with Joe and Ricky's terrible roster. Too late? We would have only been good enough to come in second this year like the Spacemen. But no, strategically, Jay and I pounced at the PERFECT time to take over for [redacted] just a year before Mike Trout was about to take over the world. THAT is strategy, gentlemen.

Jay: Fifty-fucking-six pitching points! Guys, that's SO many, plus we had a great offense! The 2016 championship is the culmination of a steady progression of finishing in the money (4th-2nd-1st) over each of the last three years. We inherited greatness, made some shaky moves early, but have shown a solid eye for relievers (going back to the days of Strop, Britton, Harris, Watson, Siegrist, just look at the goddamned roster it's all there!), low/mid money free agents that paid off a ton (Altuve, Andrew Miller) and the ability to tinker in-season (anecdotal / footage missing). This organization shows a borderline mentally unstable amount of willingness to consider anything, something more teams should call their bluff on (JLB Google Map zoomed in on Falls Church right now)! A return to form by Longoria and big money Braun, in addition to lights out pitching, and MVP-level production from Altuve and Trout were able to cover other offensive deficiencies, but this was a plan years in the making that was executed flawlessly. Basically, we put our minds to it and did it, just like Laskin's plan, except done correctly with good players. The title is in honor of former Manatee Jose Fernandez, who did everything we could have hoped for in his tragically short but thrilling time in baseball.

2016 Final Review: The Manatees showed patience yet urgency throughout the season, with the aggressiveness to make small, medium and big moves year round. The season wasn't without its bumps in the road, but in hindsight, this was a richly deserved almost wire-to-wire championship; **FIVE CHAMPAGNE-SOAKED STARS (*****)**!

A Look Ahead: Following our historic 2016 title, we are looking to run it back again in 2017. Most of the gang returns to Manassas, with the notable exception of Mr. Altuve, who we will be wining and dining around Manassas' finest establishments (basically a Bowl America and run down mini-golf course, but still!) in the coming weeks. We'll also need to figure out shortstop, or maybe not, since we just beat all of you with Starlin Castro, Zack Cozart and Jurickson Profar this season. We'll also be looking for a catcher and another outfielder to round out the offense.

-2- SPRINGFIELD SPACEMEN, 92.5 (46.5 Hitting, 46 Pitching – T-2nd at All-Star Break)

Mick: Honestly, there wasn't much the Spacemen did baseball-wise to hand us the title this year, although their complete zero of an off-season certainly didn't hurt. They also helped us out by flipping us Chris Davis for a pick following the Giancarlo Stanton injury, who then went 24/13/19 in 37 games in Manassas. No, where the Spacemen truly handed us the 2016 title was in back to back emails on July 16. After we sent out our Midseason Report, which was well regarded across the league, Courtney sent an email saying "Spacemen thought that report was pretty uninspiring." Harmless enough, but a little bit irking given the fact that the report was unquestionably hilarious and well-written. That was followed less than an hour later by Brennan saying, among other things "I can't wait to write the offseason report about the Manatees collapse." How's that write-up coming, Brennan? Those quotes were on the bulletin board in the Manassas clubhouse the entire second half of the season and were key motivation in the championship run. We didn't quite pull the full *Major League* with a cardboard cutout of Brennan or Courtney in a skimpy outfit, but the "Wergley Urinal Cakes" and "Moore Toilet Paper" were a big hit.

Jay: This clown car operation did nothing but piss down their legs all off-season, made one good in-season move (Dozier) to offset an awful winter one (Wong) and made no meaningful standings jump in the second half of the year. These smarmy douchebags [Bubbles temporarily exempt from this classification due to getting Elkton into the Big Boy playoffs!] then had the gall to vote themselves ahead of Hausman for the Durgala. All the Roundabouts did was go from T-6th to 3rd from All-Star break to the end of the season, constantly made moves to make himself better and would have passed these jokers if the season lasted two more days. Probably would have passed us if it lasted four more! By the way, thanks for Chris Davis.

2016 Final Review: The pride cometh before the fall: **HALF-A-STAR (½*)**!

A Look Ahead: Goddamnit, these jabronis are probably the favorite to win it all, with minimal large scale needs, tons of money in the bank and some big time prospects to use in the right trade. Good thing they have an entire offseason to fuck it up again (and they will)!

-3- RESTON ROUNDABOUTS, 91.5 (47.5 Hitting, 44 Pitching – T-6th at All-Star Break)

Mick: Hausman helped us win the title thanks to his ability to convince Carlton to trade him Andrew Miller for a handful of bad players, which allowed us to flip Miller to Carlton for Justin Verlander in a pseudo three-way deal (Is it still a three-way if one participant is unaware? I think that's assault, actually.) Anyways, Verlander was terrific down the stretch for us, helping lock in the title. My point here is, Hausman helped us win the title by being really good at JLB. Could we shit on him for trading Brian Dozier right before he turned into Babe Ruth? Of course we could. But hey, we are the guys whose first move in the league was trading Anthony Rizzo and Francisco Lindor for one year of an overpriced Felix Hernandez. It's cool, Dan, we all make bad moves sometimes. If you don't let it get you down, you too could make it back to the top of the mountain someday. Just like us.

Jay: The season ended just in time! Haus was about to hunt us down, *Most Dangerous Game*-style. Just as Randy won the Cy Young every year, so too should Haus annually win the Durgala. He took a team that was T-6th at the break and finished 3rd, moving up TWENTY standings points from the ASB (71.5) to the end of the season (91.5). His daily insistence on us trading for Brad Miller to plug in at SS helped us win the title, despite us not doing it (I don't know how, just go with it).

2016 Final Review: Haus is great at this but didn't win the whole thing, so he gets dinged a little. [This](#) is a good video representation of his general work; **FOUR STARS (****)**!

A Look Ahead: The Roundabouts will make a few mid-tier FA signings, look like a good bet to finish between 4th and 7th, and place top 3 after some phenomenal in-season tinkering. It's just what Dan does. He has big holes at 1B, OF and on the pitching staff. But again, this is the guy last year who found Adam Duvall and whoever it is pitching in Danny Duffy's jersey. Bet against Reston being in the money again at your own risk.

-4- STERLING STARFISH, 86.5 (41 Hitting, 45.5 Pitching – 4th at All-Star Break)

Mick: Mac helped us win the title late in the 2015 season. Jay and I really got a taste for what a JLB pennant race was like, even heading into the final day of the year with a legitimate shot at the title. Things didn't go our way, but that day, as we watched George Springer gallop home to score the run that would put us away, we made a pact that we would never let another chance at a JLB title slip through our fingers again. And just like pretty much everything else Jay and I have done together in JLB, it went exactly as we planned it. It was also nice to see Mike Trout respond to Bryce Harper's 2015 with a giant middle finger to anyone who doubted he was the king.

Jay: Hard to say, I guess thanks for non-tendering Carlos Santana so we could nab him on a cheap 2-year deal?

2016 Final Review: This was a solid team and Mac did a nice job staying in the race all year, but he had more name sizzle than actual production, so good job by the marketing department to get the fans excited for a low end contender. He didn't do much in-season, and adding Lackey and Reyes around the deadline would have been a MUCH bigger deal in 2007 (I just randomly plucked that year but holy hell Lackey had 19 wins and a 3.01 ERA and Reyes had 78 SB and 119 R that season, those are Rick Porcello / Jon Villar numbers!). **ONE STAR(FISH)! (*)**

A Look Ahead: Mac has already made it clear that due to him probably living at sea for most of 2017 that he will look to take a year off from competing, and has put studs like Madison Bumgarner and Aroldis Chapman on the block, along with overrated hacks like Porcello. Most of his offensive core (Rizzo, Murphy, Harper, Marte, Springer) is also locked up for 2018 (or longer, in Springer's case), so it's reasonable to see Mac down in 2017 and bounce back quickly in 2018. We'll see if he can shake down the Spacemen into giving up too much for Bumgarner.

-5- ARLINGTON ARSENAL, 75.5 (30.5 Hitting, 45 Pitching – 5th at All-Star Break)

Mick: Sure, the Jake Arrieta trade before the 2015 season definitely helped. But guys, Hunter Renfroe might actually be great! (At baseball. We already knew he could catch a damn deer with his bare hands, what more do you want?!) But the real key that Arlington provided to the Manassas championship run was endless enthusiasm. (As you might have guessed, most of the enthusiasm came from Brian and not Justin, but I think that is more just their personalities than their passion for Manatees baseball). During the 2016 JLB season, it was VERY rare that a day would go by without a gchat or text from BG about the Manatees. This even led to Brian volunteering to host the Manatees championship celebration in Arlington (Although, Greenhalgh wasn't as into this celebration as I'd hoped, because he was sad that a long-shot, last-day run at 4th place didn't pan out for the Arsenal).

Jay: Mick covered it, Jake the Snake and emotional support, NO ONE helped out more (on purpose!) than the Arsenal.

2016 Final Review: An incredible Cinderella story finished one spot out of the money in a year very few expected them to compete. Some big money players worked out (Cano!) while others didn't (Fielder). It was a surprisingly competitive season, but there was an obvious failure to stick to the "All Mariners" plan by the front office; **ONE STAR (*)!**

A Look Ahead: There is no doubt BG will be gunning for the money again in 2017, but this time, Justin may even support all of his moves! While Kyle Hendricks may take a step back, their rotation still looks solid with Sanchez, Carrasco, and Odorizzi alongside Hendricks. They need a reliever or two to pair with Kenley Jansen and could maybe use one more bat...That \$13 million to Prince Fielder could really come in handy this off-season! Whoops!

-6- HERNDON HEROES, 60.5 (39 Hitting, 21.5 Pitching – T-6th at All-Star Break)

Mick: By not trading us guys we wanted! We spent weeks trying to get Michael Fulmer, but Danny never budged. He then pitched to an ERA over 4 in his last 12 starts. We spent weeks after Aledmys Diaz as a shortstop upgrade, and right around the deadline he got hurt and missed six weeks. Even Giancarlo Stanton, who we did trade for in the offseason, was terrible for the first two months of the season, missed most of the last two months of the year with an injury and had his best friend die in a boat accident. Jay, we probably shouldn't try to trade with Danny anymore!

Jay: Goddamnit was I upset when you (correctly) wouldn't package Posey with Stanton in our off-season trade talks. Until about the All-Star Break I was hoping to see Scott Cousins coming around third with a steel chair. Do you guys have any idea how absurd it is when Mick gchats randomly "do you think Danny would trade us Mookie Betts"?

2016 Final Review: The Herndon front office did a great job selling expiring players for what could become secondary pieces on the next competitive Heroes team before the 2016 season, but his pitching strategy hasn't worked in a while. This was looking like a 9th place or lower season around Opening Day, so it was an excellent job to set himself up for the future, not take any standings penalties, and finish in the middle of the pack. Very nice job, Danny; **ONE STAR (*)!**

A Look Ahead: Danny has three of the best players in the league (Arenado, Seager and Betts) locked up for many years to come at basically no money. There are a few useful pieces sprinkled elsewhere, but can he find enough pitching to get himself back in contention? Between Salazar's injury issues, Fulmer's late-season regression and Pomeranz being forced to pitch in park that allows hitters to bring bats to the plate, there are lots of questions on this staff that has Tanner Roark as its ace. Woof.

-7- FAIRFAX FIREMEN, 57 (42 Hitting, 15 Pitching – T-2nd at All-Star Break)

Mick: Any good race horse needs someone who gets out of the gate way too fast that has no shot of winning to help them set their pace. Keenan was our pace horse this year. Fairfax's incredible start to the season, based on an offense that looked like one of the best in JLB history (HINT: It was not), helped keep us motivated early in the year when the true contenders were hiding in the weeds. Although, a collapse really shouldn't have surprised anyone, given Jonathan Papelbon's presence on this roster. At least now he's gone...oh. He is still on the roster?! Oh no!

Jay: Whatever you did in the second half was enormous help, thanks Keenan (more below).

2016 Final Review: Someone did a disservice to Keenan by alerting the Firemen that Fairfax was on fire! At the All-Star break, this was an 87.5-point team (55 alone on offense!) yet it finished the year in 7th place with 57 TOTAL points. I haven't seen someone go from contender to pretender this quickly since we compared Clifton's expectations with reality. **HALF-A-STAR** (½*).

A Look Ahead: It's tough to really kill the Firemen too much, despite the collapse. Their pitching staff consisted of Matt Harvey, Dallas Keuchel and Chris Archer, all of whom were fantastic in 2015 and then either injured, terrible or both in 2016. The good news is all of these guys are still in the mix and could be poised for bounce back years. Mix that with staff ace Johnny Cueto and good-looking up and comers like Lance McCullers and Aaron Nola, and Keenan should have a respectable (at worst) starting staff. The offense still has Donaldson, Encarnacion, Cespedes and Billy Hamilton's base-stealing, but we have to assume Jean Segura will be traded to Arlington now that he is a Mariner. Ian Desmond losing his SS eligibility is tough, but him being bad again is a much bigger problem. Keenan had to be popping champagne when Desmond signed in Colorado.

-8- FALLS CHURCH FOXES, 51.5 (26 Hitting, 25.5 Pitching – 11th at All-Star Break)

Mick: So, after the disappointment of finishing second in 2015, there were some brief thoughts where Jay and I pondered whether trading Trout might be the right move for us. Carlton, of course, reached out immediately, and made this offer:

Carson Smith / Rusney Castillo or Delino DeShields, Jr. / Luis Severino / 1st Rounder / \$2 million

After we were done laughing and shaking our heads, we realized trading Trout was a silly idea, even if someone else was actually serious about trading for him. So, thank you to Carlton for making such a ridiculous offer that we never again even considered trading the best player in baseball, who then helped march us to a championship.

Jay: Any time we offered Carlton 160% of value in trade talks, he held out for 200%, helping every potential bad deal fizzle. Thanks for being so absurdly gluttonous in your asks that even Mick and I said, "Eh, that's just too much." One more time, just for fun (and to hit a fake word count) look at these actual offers we made:

5/07/15 - a 2016 1st, 2017 2nd, Austin Jackson's shit contract for Smyly & \$3 million. Smyly went on the DL the next day.
7/26/15 - a 2016 1st, Blake Snell and Brett Phillips for Votto and Carson Smith
7/28/15 - a 1st and 3rd rd AM for Carson, a 5th rd AM and \$2 million
7/29/15 - THREE 1st round picks for Votto

2016 Final Review: Carlton did a great job improving in the second half and setting himself up to be a monster, as soon as 2017. Too bad we are reviewing 2016 and he finished way out of the money; **HALF-A-STAR** (½*).

A Look Ahead: Carlton is desperate to make the Foxes a winner again, and this is the off-season he is going to go all out to do it. He has a loaded farm system, tons of cash, and already a deep offense that includes studs like Votto, CarGo, Bogaerts and Bregman, plus a couple of young catchers in Schwarber and Sanchez. On the pitching side, he has Yu Darvish, and then a bunch of young guys who may or may not be good. You can expect him to be in on any starting pitcher on the free agent or trade market as he looks to get Falls Church back into the money. If he isn't in the Top 4 this year, you'll be able to hear Carlton's angry screams from the top of a Swiss mountain like he's in a Ricola commercial.

-9- ALEXANDRIA ALLEYCATS/ALBINOS, 47 (17 Hitting, 30 Pitching – 8th at All-Star Break)

Mick: Their remarkable insistence on refusing to call us by our name ([OUR NAME IS OUR NAME!](#)) has fueled a fire that burns deep in the Manassas clubhouse. Sure, the Spacemen say dumb things that they clearly don't have the talent to back up. And Carlton sends us hundreds of unprompted emails that we don't want to read. And Lasken whines a lot. But, we will

NEVER forget the Alleycats or Albinos or whatever the hell they want to be called now refused (and still refuse!) to call us the Manatees. Outside of JLB, Joe and Ricky are two of my favorite people in life. As the owners of the Alexandria franchise, they can kiss the ring.

Jay: You guys were kind enough to work a deal to let us complete our set of CKhris Davises, which was extremely helpful. Some evaluators have actually called Khris Davis the Black J.D. Martinez (no one has done this), which means we'll trade him to the 6ers for someone who ends up being the worst at his position in the sport within a year.

2016 Final Review: I think the Mid-Season Report had some harsh but fair criticisms:

“They had a Step 1 shortstop who plays his home games at Coors Field and was homering every other at-bat for the first week of the season, so they immediately traded him for a midget pitcher with a 5 ERA who makes up for it by not striking anyone out. It would seem hard to be paying \$9 million to two left-handed relievers that don't close, but here we are with Cecil and Doolittle.”

Obviously **HALF-A-STAR** (½*)

A Look Ahead: They still have Sale, deGrom and Wainwright at the top of the rotation. Marcus Stroman and Vince Velasquez are big question marks but certainly have big upside. I'd also guess they have a Mets pitcher none of us have ever heard of either in their minor league system or on their MLD radar who will turn into an excellent JLB performer. On offense, a full season of Dee Gordon, Addison Russell continuing to improve and the most HIP-HOP outfield of all-time (Jones, Cain and Fowler) are all fun, but they don't seem like enough pieces to contend. Jake Lamb being the guy from the first half of 2016 and not the second half, plus an Adrian Gonzalez bounce back would be two steps in the right direction.

-10- ~~ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS~~ CLIFTON CLAMS, 41 (16 Hitting, 25 Pitching – 9th at All-Star Break)

Mick: He had Clayton Kershaw and Max Scherzer on his team! Of course he helped us win the title! If teams that actually had a prayer of being good had one (or both!) of those two pitchers, there is no chance we win the championship. Besides those two pitchers and Trea Turner, this team is a garbage fire. At least the Diamondbacks fired Dave Stewart.

Jay: By participating, thank you for your league fees!

2016 Final Review: Why beat a dead horse? This franchise should be renamed Tenderized Barbaro but it wouldn't be alliterative & Tenderized isn't a Virginia suburb; **HALF-A-STAR** (½*)!

A Look Ahead: You can certainly envision a world where Clifton has a good pitching staff. We already talked about Kershaw and Scherzer, but if any of Steven Matz, James Paxton, Trevor Bauer or Dylan Bundy can pitch a full season, there is something there. However, the Clams have absolutely zero to talk about in the bullpen, and the offense is basically Trea Turner, hoping Gregory Polanco and Max Kepler are actually legit, and then finding 4 or 5 good hitters on the free agent or trade market. Our guess is Lasken will make a push to compete this year, but it seems far-fetched to think he can make enough moves to get into the money.

-11- CENTREVILLE 66ERS, 39.5 (22 Hitting, 17.5 Pitching – 10th at All-Star Break)

Mick: There is plenty to say here about the Sixers and how they helped us win the title. Corey Kluber, Wade Davis, Russ Martin (for about a month) and not having to pay Ryan Zimmerman's salary were all reasons we won the title this year. But it was no secret that Jose Fernandez was my favorite player in baseball. Trading him was hard, but the right thing to do for the franchise. Watching him pitch for a pathetic non-contender was even harder. But knowing I'll never be able to watch him pitch (or hit dingers!) again makes me legitimately sad. Why was Jose so awesome? How about [when he hit his first ever homer](#), pimped the SHIT out of it, got the Braves panties all in a twist, and just smiled and smirked while Brian McCann and Chris Johnson lost their damn minds. He was the best ever. Why couldn't lame-ass Chris Johnson and Brian McCann have been on that boat instead?

Jay: Greinke was a nice gift at the 2015 deadline which gave us the taste for the title by finishing just short. That early August trade also laid the groundwork for productive talks for the big swap early in 2016 (Kluber, Wade & Russ Martin):

SP Zack Greinke (9.4M, 17 Exp) / OF Jay Bruce (1.7M, 15 Exp) / 300K / 2017 4th MLD for SP Masahiro Tanaka (4.2M, 17 Exp) / OF Austin Jackson (3.0M, 16 Exp) / 2016 1st AM / 2018 1st AM / 2017 2nd AM / Rights to Kyle Funkhouser

2016 Final Review: We crushed this roster in the mid-season report and I guess an 11th place finish legitimizes some of those criticisms. Anecdotally, people would rather be dead than play for this organization; **HALF-A-STAR** (½*) for this team's season and that classless joke!

A Look Ahead: Masahiro Tanaka and Jose Quintana are fine pitchers, but it sounds far too much like the 2014 Manatees staff, and unless they have a really good Oujia board, they can't bank on a Jose Fernandez return to save them. At least they have Drew Smyly locked up until President Trump's second term. On offense, they feature Freddie Freeman, JD Martinez, AJ Pollock coming back from a brutal injury, Jonathan Villar trying to follow up his monster season and a solid duo at 2B with Kipnis and Schoop. I also think it is terrific that they've started a Korean foreign exchange program, but they might want to actually find some of them that can actually hit.

-12- GREAT FALLS GRENADES, 38 (19 Hitting, 19 Pitching – 12th at All-Star Break)

Mick: This has VERY little to do with us actually winning the title, but it is just vintage JD so I'm telling it anyways because we won the title and get to write this report however we damn well please. A few years back, we were finalizing a trade with JD. I honestly can't even remember what the trade was and am too lazy to look it up, but there was one final piece to be determined that was coming to us from Great Falls. It was just a relief pitcher in the minor leagues, two names that seemed pretty similar. JD kept waffling on which one he wanted to keep (SHOCKING!), and eventually we said that screw it, he could choose which one to keep. He decided he wanted to keep Heath Hembree (who was actually surprisingly decent for Boston last year, but has been a JLB zero.) Who did we get? Brad Boxberger, who of course saved over 40 games for the 2015 JLB runner-up Manatees. I would guess JD spent hours agonizing and analyzing over that selection, and EASILY chose the worse option. It isn't of great consequence, but boy do I love that story.

Jay: Who gives a shit, is anyone even reading this still?

2016 Final Review: JD had such little JLB talent that we were able to avoid trade talks with him all season and he secured the No. 1 overall pick and corresponding pool money (do we not do that?). Unfortunately, he spent more than \$20 million on that 40-man roster; **FOUR-AND-A-HALF STARS** (****1/2)!

A Look Ahead: JD has lots of money, a very good farm system and a few guys you can absolutely build a championship team around in Bryant and Lindor, with Realmuto, Belt, Odor, Ramirez and Yelich all seemingly productive pieces for a winning team. He has Oh and Giles in the back end of the bullpen, but his best starting pitcher right now is Anthony DeSclafani. Does he try to make the worst-to-first leap and go all-in this off-season? Or does he add a few pieces, look to move up to the middle of the league, and then begin his title run in 2018? Either way he chooses will probably be the wrong one, according to JD.

IN CONCLUSION

Winning this JLB title is truly a landmark accomplishment for the Manatees ownership group. We are honored to be called champions and will never forget the 2016 season. And neither will any of you, because it was the year that proved all of you were bad enough at this to let two morons take home the Joe. You all should be ashamed of yourselves. Really? This is supposed to be the most in-depth, competitive fantasy baseball league around and its good name has now been sullied by two guys who think this [scene is a masterpiece of modern cinema](#). Sure, 2017 will come along and we probably won't win the title again. (NOTE: DO NOT LET US WIN THE LEAGUE AGAIN). But it's too late at this point. The luster will never quite be the same. Enjoy the new watered-down JLB boys. It always goes down smooth.

