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FOOTBALL EXTRA POINTS - MONDAYS @ 9:00PM EASTERN

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014

## CAPTAIN AMERICA HATES THE BLACK EYED PEAS: DA BEARS IN FREE AGENCY - PART II

Captain America is totally sick.



And I don't mean "sick" as in "affected by disease or ill health" as per Webster's Dictionary, I mean "sick" as in "crazy, cool, insane" as per the Urban Dictionary. Or perhaps "sick" as in "what one is during days one has an important test or exam after failing to pay attention all semester, or to even show up for class since he thought it was really too early in the day and who in the heck uses math anyway? Oh and I drank too much the night before because it was dime beer night." as per the Ha Kung Wong College Dictionary. Well, actually, I should call that the Ha Kung Wong Life Dictionary since the corollary to that is "what one is during days one has an important day at work after failing to pay attention...well you get the picture..." But I digress.



Ferris Bueller is my hero.

But getting back to the new Captain America movie, it's awesome that they've introduced the Winter Soldier. And I won't spoil anything about that character for all you non-geeky types who never read the comic books, but I will say that the guy they have playing the Winter Soldier looks a lot like that fourth guy on the Black Eyed Peas that no one seems to remember and who basically contributed two to three words per song, usually consisting of repeating what Will-I-Am just said. I've never spoken to Will-I-Am, but I'm suspecting that could get a little annoying, particularly if you're trying to order food at McDonald's at a drive through:

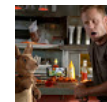
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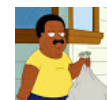
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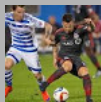
The Ravens stole one against New England last week. Here's a look at week 4 matchups.



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**Will-I-Am:** I'll take a Big Mac extra value meal.

**Fourth Guy on Black Eyed Peas:** I'll take a Big Mac extra value meal.

**McDonald's Employee:** Uh, so that's two Big Mac extra value meals?

**Will-I-Am:** No, just one.

**Fourth Guy on Black Eyed Peas:** No, just one.

**McDonald's Employee:** Um, you mean one for each of you?

...and so on and so forth.



The Winter Soldier and Taboo separated at birth?



But although I'm poking fun at Taboo (yeah, that's the name of the Fourth Guy on the Black Eyed Peas), I'm sure he's really important to the band, and that if they let him go, it just wouldn't be the same. Heck, I bet without Taboo, Will-I-Am would be stuck latching on to random pop stars just to keep his career going, like Britney Spears and Justin Bieber...oh wait, he already does that? And he's even more popular? OK, bad analogy. Anyway, my point is you don't know what you got until its gone, so since we discussed who the Bears **Kept in the last article**, let's take a look now at significant players the Bears have **Ditched** during free agency so far.



**Ditched**

*Henry Melton - DT*

Henry Melton was arguably one of the best parts of the Bears defensive line over the years, but Melton ended up being too expensive for the Bears' front office, especially with the ACL injury. Now that he'll be terrorizing the NFC East for the Cowboys, the Bears will need to pick up the slack with high upside 3-technique DTs in free agency and the draft.

an Elite 2013 Fantasy Quarterback?

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#### *Josh McCown - QB*

Josh McCown served admirably in relief of the oft-injured Jay Cutler and flourished in Trestman's QB friendly offense. Maybe it was just Trestman being the "QB Whisperer", or maybe it was Marshall and Jefferey finally working in tandem as we had hoped they would. Either way, McCown turned heads for the first time in a relatively long career and managed to parlay that into a chance to start for the Buccaneers. I'm happy for him, but I'm worried about the Bears. Cutler hasn't played a full 16-game season in the last four years, and I don't have a ton of confidence in current stand-in Jordan Palmer. This could be a significant lost in the upcoming season without another solid backup QB in free agency (or even the draft).

#### *Julius Peppers - DE*

Julius Peppers used to be one of the most feared DE's in the NFL with amazing burst off the line. But he's probably past his prime, as was shown in a relatively down year in 2013. He wasn't terrible (with 7 sacks and 2 forced fumbles), but he's not the future in Chicago, so cutting him probably made sense. But being picked up by the Packers doesn't make anything easier on the Bears in 2014.

#### *Earl Bennett - WR*

Although the Bears have arguably the best wide receiver tandem in the NFL heading into the 2014 season with Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery, they're pretty thin at the position after that. And they got thinner when they let go of former Cutler college target Earl Bennett. Sure, he wasn't anything special, but he was solid and reliable when needed. With Eric Weems on the fence as well (not wanting to take a pay cut), the Bears will need to keep digging at WR, as they'll be only one Johnny Knox-like accident away from mediocrity.

So now that we've looked at significant players that the Bears have **Ditched**, join me next time when I discuss what I think about significant players that the Bears **Picked Up** in free agency so far. Or just show up so we can talk about that other guy on the Black Eyed Peas. You know, um, that guy.



**By Ha Kung Wong (Twitter: @Rhihan)**

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