

3-0 and the Return of Devin Hester!

Well, the Bears are 3-0 and it is very hard to believe... Every win this season has been BEARly. This week was no exception and we began to see flashes of "Bad Jay" – the interception machine (Jay Cutler) from last year.

But, in the end, all that matters is the score: BEARS 20, PACKERS 17.

I will take a sloppy, undeserved win over a well played undeserved loss any day.

One thing did happen in the win over the Packers that should really make Bears fans giddy though... THIS:

<https://youtube.com/embed/XsBYWRt9qGU>

With Devin Hester once again returning punts for TDs (one was returned for a TD and another was close) this becomes a HUGE advantage for the Bears. You see, it is not just about the touchdowns. Football is a game of field position... The closer your offense is to the endzone when they get the ball, the better their chance of scoring... PERIOD. And, if you have a return-man (Hester) whom opposing teams are afraid to kick the ball to, you start to get consistent good field position. In my opinion, the FEAR of Hester was the #1 contributing factor to the Bears' 2006 Super Bowl run. Teams were willing to give the ball to the Bears with great field position just so they wouldn't have to deal with a Hester return.

Now the Bears head to the Meadowlands to play the Giants who are hungry for a win. This will be a dangerous game for the Bears – but, IF they win and go 4-0 it seems impossible to believe they will not be in the playoffs this winter. ☐

GO BEARS!

My First Professional Call Back

I could never, ever put the last 10 years down! I have been in 17 (soon to be 18) stage productions and met the most amazing group of people anyone could hope to meet. They really are my best, dearest friends! Today, I went to my first professional call back. I had absolutely no idea what to expect so I made sure to get a decent night's rest (after watching the best season premiere of Smallville in its ten years... what a way to start off the final season) and eat something this morning. I was a little nervous but a LOT MORE excited.

As I entered the call back space, the receptionist acted like I was from outer space. Not far off but after learning that I was the first to arrive (big surprise) she invited me to sit in the sitting room and wait so I had more time to read through my sides. Only three other perspective actors arrive... two of whom I have had the pleasure of working with before... and one already professional from Indianapolis who has appeared in a commercial with a certain Colt.

After waiting the arrival of the producer (who ran a bit late as his car was attacked by a horde of rampaging wildebeast), we were subjected to horrors too gruesome to describe on this little, family-friendly blog. I must tell you that I have never seen such horrors.

Following the torture, we were given "the acting is not all peaches and cream speech". Even after the fearful events we

were put through, I thought that it could not get any worse. And I have heard the same speech more than once.

And the outcome of all the horrors! EXCELLENT! I am forbidden to say anything more. But I am just a bit more excited than I was when I left this morning ☐

I wonder if I get to rid myself of the "scruff" after October 17.

Season Premiere

Tonight is the season premiere of CSI: New York. There is about half an hour left before it starts and I am dreading and anticipating it at the same time. Last season they ended it with a shot ringing out during a black screen! Who was shot and was baby Lucy all right are the top questions I need answered and I know that with this episode, my questions will be answered, but with this episode, I will see how my favorite character, Stella, is being written out of the show. She decided she didn't want to do another season, to be able to spend more time with her family. I get all of that, but she was my favorite character and I don't want her to leave the show! The person they have coming in to be her replacement I don't really know. I have only seen her in the Fugitive and that was for about five minutes, because she was the wife who was killed.

Of course, she isn't going to be Stella. They have come up with a new character, but being second in command to Mac? No one will do the job as well as Stella. She was Mac's best friend, his trusted co-worker, his confident. And now she is going to be gone! Who is Mac going to be able to turn to now? I think it will be either Flack or Danny, most likely Flack. I

will watch the show, but not until Tony gets home. I am going to record it and then once Tony gets home, we'll watch it together. I hope it's still good without Stella!

Recycling Is Important...

Especially when you are this cute – my two youngest helped carry in the recycling bin on garbage day, chanting “Teamwork, teamwork” all the way! Awww!!



Unsportsmanlike Conduct.. 15 Yard Penalty

After Saturday's OSU/OU football game, I saw on a friend's fb account that the OSUMB's halftime performance was less than outstanding... full of Looney Tunes, Flintstones, and other cartoon themes. However, I wonder if the Bobcat alumnus thought the following was so extraordinary:

Apparently, the heinous display by Rufus Bobcat upon the unsuspecting Brutus was premeditated. The no-goodnick tried out for the role of mascot a year ago with the ultimate goal of tackling the Buckeye. He has since been summarily banned from all Ohio University affiliated athletic functions. The funny thing is, the miscreant no longer attends the Athens, Ohio college. He now attends nearby Hocking College. OU has issued an apology to the Buckeyes.

In every way but personally, the shenanigans were for naught as the Bucks handed the Bobcats a 43-7 thrashing. They should have tackled the player with the ball instead of the mascot. Kind of funny especially after the games outcome. A streaker running across the field was even more shocking and hilarious.

Oh, that's a kick in the pants.

There are times when you think you make a difference. There are times when you realize that you can make a difference. There are also time you think that you will never make a difference. And there are also time when you _KNOW_ that you did make a difference.

Those times when you actually _KNOW_ you made a difference can really affect the way you think and live your life. Now in this, I am assuming that the difference made is a good one, but that is not always the case. Even with that said, those times you _KNOW_ will affect your life.

I feel that, even with different religious/moral beliefs, it is one of our jobs to help those we meet on the life journey. When you actually see the difference you make, it can be a

kick in the pants.

Yes, I recently felt that type of situation. It made me feel good and insignificant at the same time. It was also just a little frightening. There is always the possibility that my own little efforts will not help, or worse they will injure. But, those times that have occurred, when I KNEW I helped, are enough to keep me in the game.

Those little kicks in the backside keep me on the right path.

2-0 Bears? Proof I Have Died.

With a strong relationship with God through Jesus Christ, perfect family, beautiful and loving wife, and the best possible friends... My life is so close to pure bliss I had to wonder at times if I wasn't experiencing the **after life**.

However, the Bears always were able to keep me grounded (pun, pun)...

I mean, a stinky-poo-poo Bears team is no fun at all. Sure, it doesn't even put a small dent in the other great stuff... But, it certainly makes the air smell a little foul.

Now the Bears are 2-0 for the first time since 2006, you know the year they went to the Super Bowl, and they just beat the famed Dallas Cowboys... WHAT?!? This Bears team? The Bears team that went 0-4 during the preseason and looked like they would be better off playing in a poker tournament? The Bears team that BEARly squeaked by a Lions team that has one 2 games in their last 34?

Yep. Those Bears.

So, there are now only one of three conclusions I can come to:

1. The Bears are Much Better than Expected
2. The Bears are Getting Lucky and are About to Start a Downward Spiral
3. I Have Died and am in Heaven which is Perfect, but Nothing Like Described in Scripture

For now, I will go with #2 but another win (next week against GB on Monday night!!!) and I may have to start considering #1... Another few wins and I better start checking my Bible!

GO BEARS!

CAST

Thinking of a good title is difficult. While some of the suggestions were good, I wasn't in love with any of them and I'm not sure yet how much I love this one. CAST is an acronym- Christ, Acting, Singing, and Teaching. I don't do much of teaching anymore, but I still do once a month or so and am at least a leader for other weekends. It is conveniently placed last in the acronym while Christ is first. Not that He really has been first in my life seemingly, but it is a goal. Christ needs to be before everything, including family (fortunately He places a high value on family, especially children so He usually won't demand anyone actually give up their family, just put Him first in your family). So what do you think of this title? It also has a ring to it as far as the performing words of the acronym. As in I am currently cast as a singer and actor in Jekyll & Hyde.

The unofficial takeover of the 11:15 service has become

official with the couple I mentioned before having been asked to share the role of the “point person,” or head “anchor”. I am having somewhat of a problem with one of them unfortunately. I haven’t yet decided if she is just taking the role far more seriously than others in previous years or she is overstepping her authority. Looking in the guide their role is that of the room leader, but she has taken to threatening to not allow someone to lead a small group for such things as being late or doing something during the teaching time other than sitting with the kids and listening to the message with them. Productive things I should say, not “I just don’t want to listen” things as kids often do in school. I believe she is crossing a line here but I have to think on it, maybe ask Lisa- the staff member in charge of 4th/5th grade. In any event, there is friction here and something needs to happen to remove it.

The show is almost there. We just had our first rehearsal with the orchestra yesterday, at the actual performance venue. Okay, the set for the currently running show, Into the Woods, is up meaning we will have to work around it, but aside from one more rehearsal at the retirement home we’ve been at, we are now rehearsing on the actual stage. It was strange to work with the orchestra two weeks in advance- I am used to the orchestra not being there until a day or two before opening night. Indeed, we may not see them again until then, but even if so, the one chance was better than none at all. Less than two weeks until opening- yikes. But we will be ready. ☐

Boxing Day

No...I am not celebrating the British holiday a few months early. Today, the family gathered at the home of my oldest

brother to celebrate the birthday of two of our youngsters. I guess once you go beyond 18 years, my family does not age. We also got to meet big brother's new friend who was introduced in typical fashion: "This is (____). This is everyone." So our uncle got up and did a more traditional introduction.

Apparently, the two groups of parents failed to get the cake situation correct. Both groups swore the other was to order it and pick it up. As it happened, grandma ran into Big Brother and his friend at Wal Mart yesterday. In the end, Grandma and Grandpa went to Dairy Queen in hopes of finding an ice cream cake. No one better complain about the design.

As the party progressed, some of us ventured over to the Wii. Bowling, boxing, and Guitar Hero seemed to rule the day. The boxing is definitely one of the most entertaining games to watch others play as evidenced but the following video. You may have to click the link... not sure if it will be embedded directly on the post.

And it's always a good day when the Cowboys get beat! I'm sure there is another tangenteer who is absolutely ecstatic!

Next On Dancing With The Stars...

One of those rare amusing email forwards caught my eye, so I'll share. Besides, my last post was kind of a downer; here's something funny to counteract it:

Next Season on Dancing With The Stars:

