Non King James Related Sports Evening

For the last two days, it seems the nation has been in the thralls of LeBron fever once again. Holding out on his free agency decision until a live, hour-long press conference. I say…. “Who cares?!” Who does he think he is… Tiger Woods?

I did however, enjoy a sports related movie totally unrelated to basketball. I enjoyed the 2004 movie, *Million Dollar Baby* starring Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank, and Morgan Freeman. I must say that Clint has sure made an impression on me with his more dramatic films instead of the macho, big gun shoot fests. The last few films I have seen have been poignant and emotional. He plays the curmudgeonly roles quite well. Accomplished not only as an actor/director but as a musician as well along with his son, Kyle.

I was hoping that *Million Dollar Baby* was not going to be the typical boxer/trainer situation and I was not disappointed. The movie was an intelligent, profound piece following the lives of a young female wannabe boxer and the very hesitant veteran trainer/manager. It’s more about Maggie, the 31 year old’s dream of beating the odds, rising from her “trailer trash” roots, and becoming a contendah in the prize ring. I know, been done countless times in countless ways.

Eastwood’s character is well-defined as well. Not the typical one-dimensional trainer but so much more. Why is Frankie so hardened? Why does he play it safe with every fighter he manages when he knows they are worthy of their “one shot?”

Not so surprising but a very good movie which won Oscars for Best Actress, Supporting Actor, Direction, and Best Movie of 2004. And so much more entertaining than the question that **seems** to have been on the minds of tens of people.

The Next Karate Kid After The Last Next Karate Kid

Yep, you guessed it… ANOTHER REMAKE that does not need remade. Why, oh why can't people be ORIGINAL!?!? I did enjoy the first two *Karate Kid* movies… they went downhill after that. I wonder if Hilary Swank holds her turn as *The Next Karate Kid* in high regard.

I guess there are changes in the plot line: Work causes a single mother to move to China with her young son; in his new home, the boy embraces kung fu, taught to him by a master. Well.. single mother forced to move, kid embraces martial arts taught by a master. The fact that the master is changed to Chinese and not Japanese changes little. The fact that the stage goes to the Orient in the first movie instead of the sequel… well, maybe we will be saved from a sequel.

Looking at the cast list, I was shocked to see Jaden Smith (son of Will and Jada Pinkett-Smith) at the top of the list. I then looked at the creative geniuses behind the endeavor. Imagine my astonishement when I saw both of the Smiths listed as two of the **FIVE PRODUCERS**?! Really… do we need 5 producers to make a remake of a 25 year old movie? Oh… and if you have been wondering what has happened to the long-forgotten (at least by me) Jackie Chan look no further.

So, lets see if Hollywood can bring us any good movies for the summer.