



PREMIUM PODCASTS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## **BLEAV Sports with Fred and the Fantastics** **Aaron Rodgers Passes on the Jets' Minicamp** 📡

Hey everybody, it's that time again, Fred and the Fantastics tonight.

Fred and the Fantastic with Art Sorce.

And we're going to talk about this, that, and anything in sports and it's heard of course on BLEAV and PodClips and you can email us at [sportsfred@aol.com](mailto:sportsfred@aol.com).

I'm not a big Aaron Rodgers fan.

You know, when he first came in the league, I felt sorry for him because Brett Favre didn't treat him nicely and then of course he didn't, he hasn't treated people very nicely since he didn't show up to, uh, now it's an option.

He didn't have to show up, but he makes \$50 million a year.

He got hurt in the fourth play of last season.

So he made \$50 million for four plays and he doesn't show up and join his teammates. Any comments?

How about if I give you two or three words, selfish and self-centered?

I mean, I just got to say that. And, you know, I can't ever argue about his talent.

He's had some trouble in big games. I don't like his record in NFC championship games, but he has won a Super Bowl and lost the Super Bowl. But the point I'm trying to make here is if you're going to be bringing a team, you know, like the Jets into the AFC and you're a leader of the team, you show up for the four-day mini-camp.

You have a full month after that mini-camp to get prepared for the season, you know, in the, in the

preseason, and you're not going to do a whole lot in preseason. If you're Aaron Rodgers you know

you're going to be running the offense, get yourself healthy, you're not going to play in any exhibition games or preseason games, you know you're going to work with the young kids.

But I, I don't have any I have trouble with that Fred because you make a commitment now.

Where I really have trouble is if you're Robert Saleh, or you're

Woody Johnson, the owner, how do you? How do you deal with that?

I mean, I know in my era, the GMs, you know, they would probably call you in like Duke Klosterman and say, look, are

you, are you a part of this team? Are you not a part of this team? Jack Faulkner would say the same thing. You

know, you got to show commitment, you got to be a

leader, you got to step up and show the young guys with

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with how you practice and how you, your, you know, your intensity, what it takes to be an NFL champion.

And he doesn't, he doesn't seem to arrive at that. And maybe, maybe his leadership skills are lacking.

I don't know, Fred, it seems to me they are.

Well, I just can't handle it. Again, I supported him when Brett Favre treated him horribly. And then when Jordan Love was drafted, he treated Jordan Love as poorly as he was treated by Favre. So it's just like these guys sometimes never grew up.

So, Fred, I got to ask you a question. Okay. The old age-old question. We're halfway through the major league baseball season. This Cleveland Guardians team, I don't know how they're doing it, but they seem to be playing awfully good baseball. The Yankees are playing well. Red Sox are playing well. Orioles are playing well in the American League. Who's your AL MVP? Mid-season? Uh, I think Judge. I

think we're one hundred percent agreed, 100% agreed. Now, here's a tougher one. And there's three guys that I think fall in this category. Four guys in the NL. Okay. Um, who's your, who's your National League most valuable player?

Otani. Who else? Otani, Soto, Ozuna or Kyle Tucker I guess but yeah I kind of agree with you there, but you know who got left out of that, and I mean he's only missed probably 10 or 12 games now, Mookie Betts. Yeah Mookie Betts, in, in the casinos, in the, in the sports books prior to getting hurt, playing shortstop, although he didn't get hurt playing shortstop. He was a two-to-one favorite to win the National League Most Valuable Player Award.

Here's something that'll blow your mind.

There's 33 guys listed for the MVP in the American League.

Do you think Mike Trout's on that list? Still?

In the beginning of the season, was he even on that list?

Yeah, beginning of the season, I think, yes.

Yeah, he was like 27th. You know where he is now? 70th.

That's amazing to me.

I mean, you're talking about a once-in-a-generation ball player who has just gone through a nightmare in the last four years, very rarely seeing the field.

And I'm wondering if that back injury, because I will tell you this.

I hurt my back when I was about 26 years old, and I thought I could overcome it.

I really did.

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I lost a lot of weight, built things up, did everything I could, but I was never quite the same after that lower back injury.  
And I'm wondering if the same thing has happened to Mike Trout.  
Well, I have lumbar stenosis, so I agree with you a hundred percent, should have had an operation 10 years ago.  
I had scoliosis, uh, 50 years ago, should have had an operation then, didn't.  
And now at my age, I almost, uh, probably not going to have the operation. I can see you running up and down the court at McHale Center, bearing down, being, leading those, leading those Wildcats on the fast break! Folks, I was going to play basketball at Arizona and they do the physical and they say you have scoliosis.  
And my mom and dad immediately,  
I flew home, and they took me to Dr. Jobe and Dr. Kerlan.  
And they were gonna do the operation on my back for scoliosis.  
And then two days before, Dr. Kerlan called me up and he says, come on down to Westchester.  
We lived in Culver City.  
I've been in their offices there. Yeah.  
And he said, uh, you know, how much do you love basketball?  
I said a whole lot.  
And he said, uh, you know, I love basketball too, but then I hurt my, I hurt myself and I decided to, uh, no, I got out, when he said I got, I got arthritis, so I decided to help athletes rather than being an athlete.  
So I raised my hand and I said, it's the spine.  
So you're saying it's dangerous.  
He said one in a million, but it's one in a million.  
At that point, Fred walked out and my basketball career, for all intents and purposes. You became a world-class sports talk show host.  
So what's wrong with that?  
Well, you know, the, the interesting thing years later, I would see Dr. Jobe all the time up at Dodger Stadium and we'd laugh and I would laugh and I'd say, you did the right thing, Fred. Your partner was right.  
Dr. Kerlan was right.

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No question about, you know, a couple of you weeks ago, we lost Jerry West at 83. The Times did a piece of your top five Laker players of all time. And do you know that Elgin Baylor didn't make the top five? Now, that's how you know we're getting old Fred. Explain that, explain that because people don't know how great Elgin Baylor was. I mean, anybody you even ask your old sports talk partner Billy Russell, God rest his soul.

You ask any of the old guys,  
like I hung out a lot with Will Chamberlain,  
they would tell you what Elgin Baylor was really all about.  
That little head fake, his ability to play  
up and down the court, shoot, rebound.

I mean, they have no clue.

I mean, you know,

and that's nothing against the other five guys.

I mean, you probably had Shaq, Jerry West, Wilt,

uh, Magic. Who was the, who was the fifth one, Fred? Oh, Kobe. So I, you know, but I mean to, to not put Elgin in that group. I don't know. Hey, I gotta say something, Fred.

One of the, one of the guys I really liked as a sports, sports journalist. And I say journalists because there are probably very few journalists left in this world. Mike

Downey who married Dean Martin's daughter, one of the neatest guys I ever met, got to play in some golf tournaments with him.

He passed away at 73 the other day

and he was just a real class act,

knew a lot about sports, worked for the Chicago Tribune,

worked for the Detroit Free News, Free Press,

and also for the LA Times for many years.

And he'll be greatly missed.

He was a good guy and the same goes for TJ.

TJ Simers used to get on Rick Neuheisel

better than anybody I ever saw.

He would make him just writhe up there at the post-game conference news conferences. Artie,

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before we go one final question when are you gonna call me when am I gonna, what, when are you gonna call me with a positive? Oh like I said I'm gonna find out on on Monday so you know I got my fingers crossed I'm gonna pray, pray, pray that's all we can do I've laid it all out there for him and we're doing everything we can and God only knows We need a sponsor, Fred. Give me a 30-second final comment. Final comment is this. It's the last weekend of the month. You've got some exciting things going on. Got some great baseball games, matchups, some great series this weekend. I look at professional sports right now And it's the dog days of summer, Fred.  
And we're only about 48 days from the NFL, the Hall of Fame game, about 57 days from the first to college football season. And I'm looking forward to it.  
And I just, I gotta tell you, I hope you're starting to feel better. You sound better, which is important. And I guess I'm looking forward to things. You know, I think it's gonna be a great year. You know, I'm a little concerned about our, our nation, but I think there's a lot of people in that boat with me. But aside from that, we got to keep a good attitude and treat everybody with respect and I think we're going to be okay. I'm just going to say one thing, Joe, step aside. For Mario, for Artie, I'm Fred, Fred of the Fantastics. We'll see you around the corner. Everybody bye. Thank you.

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