# 🎙️ AI-Powered Podcast Summary

## 🎧 Suggested Episode Titles

- 1. "Is Major League Baseball Hiding a Dark Secret?

- 2. "From Japan to the Wild West: The Bourbon Adventure

- 3. "Minor League Baseball: Billion-Dollar Industry or Exploitation?

- 4. "The Ultimate Bourbon Quest: Pat's Japanese Whiskey Hunt

- 5. "Bartov, Bourbon, and Baseball: What's the Real Score?

## 🎬 Selected Podcast Clips (with Score Breakdown)

[26:14 - 27:06] I think I get what you're saying, but I think my, my thought process is, but if I'm a player, why, why sit out in that moment? If I'm, if, if I'm not looking to have a new contract signed, why wouldn't I just say we'll sign this contract next year? I'm not saying you're not trying to have it signed, but I'm not going to sign basically the market value contract at that point. It doesn't make sense for me. What do you think, what do you think they say? What do you think they say? What Ethan is saying, but what I'm saying is, but if you're sitting there and you're the Cincinnati Bengals, if you go and even are aggressive in that moment, and let's say you offer 36, 37, 38 million dollars a year at that moment, you have now outpaced Justin Jefferson by three and a half million dollars a year, who was the highest paid player in on quarterback at that point.

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 72.09 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 14.07 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.38 | Measures topic alignment |
| Trending Score | 7.83 | Measures against trending topics |
| Sentiment Score | 0.10 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 14.0 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 15 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 0 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 5 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 3.36 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #TKB, #TheKnowledgeBar, #NFLFreeAgency, #TradeWarImpacts, #MinorLeagueBaseball, #ContractNegotiations, #SportsBiz, #BreakingNews, #EngagementDiscussion

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[46:16 - 47:05] So, you know, like, look, what's the upshot? Okay. If you're in the market for a car, you need to buy one like, like don't get a 25 model. That's for sure. That's the thing that I think is so crazy is that like I get people don't get it. Like the economics of this is pretty, if you don't really pay attention to it, it's pretty hard to grasp. But I think even at a really simplistic level, how are we not drawing the connection to the fact that things are going to get more expensive? Right. For you, we voted out a guy who is like a halfway okay president because shit was too expensive. And now she's going to get too expensive. It's going to get so expensive. And this boob stands up there.

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 65.47 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 13.91 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.27 | Measures topic alignment |
| Trending Score | 6.93 | Measures against trending topics |
| Sentiment Score | 0.38 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 14.5 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 5 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 5 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 5 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 2.74 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #TKB, #TheKnowledgeBar, #NFLFreeAgency, #TradeWarImpact, #MinorLeagueBaseball, #EconomicImplications, #ExpensiveReality, #GraspingEconomics, #Engagement, #TrendingTopics

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[34:09 - 34:41] But it kind of is because like I told you the only real free agent they brought in last year was SACON. And that's because the Giants totally shit the bed. Like SACON, Markley at 12 or 10 million a year, whatever it was that they signed him for is nuts. Like everybody was trying to get like the Bears were trying to get in on SACON on that, right? How we just made it made it happen. But like when's the last time the Eagles went out into free agency and said, I'm going to spend 20 a year over four for an edge.

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 65.21 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 13.87 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.25 | Measures topic alignment |
| Trending Score | 7.27 | Measures against trending topics |
| Sentiment Score | 2.11 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 8.5 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 15 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 0 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 5 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 2.10 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #TKB, #TheKnowledgeBar, #NFLfreeagency, #tradeimpact, #minorleaguebaseball, #SACON, #sportsnews, #edgeplayer, #economyimpact, #engagement

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[14:34 - 15:42] Well, I know that, but I'm saying like, for example, the Dayton Dragons don't necessarily have to be the Reds minor league team. The Reds could say like, we don't want a team in Dayton anymore. We don't want to keep doing this. And the Tigers could come along and say, we want the Dayton team. Okay. So then my question would be like, are they independent organizations or are they not? I mean, they're independent organizations, but I'm talking about paying your players. They're the people that are going to eventually fill your roster. So yeah, maybe the team is not necessarily affiliated, like, and not incentivized to financially support that organization necessarily, but they are certainly incentivized to support the players that are trying to make it the players signed minor league contracts with the major league club. So I got that. I'm just trying to understand organization. And the point that you make is good. Like those are my players. They're just playing on your team. But I could also see where that resistance would come from from a big league club about being like, Oh, so what, wait a minute, what happens then if they decide they don't want that team anymore, do they take all the players?

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 65.15 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 14.18 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.45 | Measures topic alignment |
| Trending Score | 6.93 | Measures against trending topics |
| Sentiment Score | 1.10 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 20.0 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 0 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 0 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 5 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 4.24 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #minorleaguebaseball, #NFLfreeagency, #tradewarimpact, #baseballorganization, #playerdevelopment, #sportsbiz, #teamaffiliation, #currentevents, #engagement, #TKB, #TheKnowledgeBar

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[32:49 - 33:34] We just don't know yet. And I do think the stuff about like Jesse Bates, the $12 million law, that's all garbage, like let it go. But the thing that I that I kind of wanted to get to, and I just want to ask you all one more question though, because the reason I got so frustrated about the Bengals is because there's like historic spending happening right now at the beginning of this free agency, like it's incredible how much money people are spending for kind of a shitty free agent for for a crummy free agent class. And question for you guys is this, do you do you two think that this is like a reaction or an overreaction to the Eagles model? Or do you think this is just where we live now? Because it feels like the Eagles a little bit like the Eagles the last couple of years have really gone all out and they've just said, we are going to spend the money. That's that's not true.

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 64.79 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 13.96 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.31 | Measures topic alignment |
| Trending Score | 7.34 | Measures against trending topics |
| Sentiment Score | 2.22 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 15.0 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 0 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 5 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 5 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 3.48 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #TKB, #TheKnowledgeBar, #NFLFreeAgency, #TradeWarImpact, #BaseballTalk, #EconomicOutlook, #SpendingSpree, #SportsAnalysis, #EngagementAlert

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## 🔍 SEO-Friendly Tags

podcast, interviews, storytelling, trending, discussions, expert insights, podcast, minor league baseball, NFL free agency, trade war, MLB salaries, living wage, major league players, farm system, minor league affiliate, player representation, union, revenue sharing, auto industry, tariffs, economic impact, book recommendation, movie recommendation, Daredevil: Born Again, Marvel, Charlie Cox, Netflix, Wilson Fisk, superhero series, entertainment.

## 📜 Full Podcast Transcript

This week on the Knowledge Bar, we dive into what the hell is going on with minor league baseball. The excitement or lack thereof surrounding the start of NFL free agency. And then yours truly brings us back to reality with quite the dumbest trade war ever. No Pat this week because he's in Japan, but guess what? We barely noticed. Stay tuned. Welcome to the Knowledge Bar. I'm Alex. I'm Ethan. And I'm Chris. I'm sorry, I didn't say the tagline. We're elevating Bartov and we're bringing it up, y'all. Next time we'll make sure we say it. But for now, we're elevating Bartov. We appreciate you all joining us for another episode of the Knowledge Bar. Please remember to subscribe, rate, drop us a five-star review, leave us a comment, and let us know how it's going. You can always find additional content at the Knowledge Bar. If you have questions, comments, or want to suggest a topic for the pod, email us at podcast@theknowledgebar. Let's get started with another fun episode. Make sure everyone has a drink in front of them. Let's do a quick check. Chris, what's in the glass?  
  
Drinking a little Four Roses single barrel barrel-proof. Pretty good. One of my favorite bottles. Got it for 99 bucks in Chicago. Not bad. What are you drinking, Ethan?  
  
I have a Starman Pale Ale from Black Rocks Brewery in Marquette, Michigan. Pretty solid. And I'm having a cocktail called Cut the Chase, a milk-washed bourbon with ginger syrup, lemon juice, amaretto, and Peychaud's bitters. Fantastic.  
  
Ethan, what's got you this week?  
  
I hate to bring back-to-back issues, but Major League Baseball's revenue of around $9 billion with a B seems low for a major sport. Like all 30 teams, the total revenues are $9 billion. Well, if you go check out episode 14, I believe it was, we'll let you know how baseball is dying. It does look like that was for $12.1 billion. Now it looks like in 2024. So even more of the point, okay, they do not pay their minor leaguers a living wage. Oh, yeah, I think I knew that, though. How is this possible? These are people that are not given representation at negotiations. And then we have seen since about 1975, MLB salaries have increased by about 400%. Minor league salaries have increased just 75%. At the lowest levels of the minors, if you were to work it out based on their typical 60-hour work week, they make around $4 an hour to be baseball players. For them, they have to get part-time jobs. They have to do all these other things. They have to use their signing bonuses. They have to go deep into credit card debt to try and chase this impossible dream that they are on the cusp of. And we see that basically, all it would cost to pay every single player in your farm system a living wage would be $4 million, which is basically the average contract for an average major league player. And you could pay every single person in your organization a living wage fraction of a percent. Yeah, it's ridiculous that this is even an issue. And it would contribute to a better quality product on the field. These guys who are one adjustment away or who are just on the cusp of making it but don't have any money could make it. And we would be better for it. These stingy, tight-ass owners would be making more money and have more success. It's absolutely mind-boggling to me. And that's why it's not like a hot-button issue right now. But I can't figure out why, because it seems like the most obvious thing in the world to do, and they could do it with a snap of their fingers. Ethan, I just want to go back. Are you saying $4 an hour on a 60-hour work week? That's the estimate of what I read that. They're making only $240 a week. It's something like that. They make around $1,100 a month, and then they get around $45 a game at one of the lower levels, I remember seeing. Good God. Yeah, this happened. I don't know. And I don't know how it's not a bigger issue. I'm just telling—I mean, I dropped the links in here for any. Is that factoring in when the top prospects get paid out big bonuses on draft night? No, I don't think that is included in it. This is just the base minimum salary. So this is the minimum salary? Because I was going to ask, does it vary by player? Like in the minor leagues, is it the same as it is in the big leagues where there are nice bonuses? But then what I know from MLB the show when I draft players, they're like, "Hey, come be on my team," and it's like, "No, you have to negotiate with them now," and I'm like, "Come on, man. I drafted you." Yeah, I think they get signing bonuses. And then there are, I don't exactly know how it works as far as when you finally make it to the majors because there are things that have to do with service time and stuff like that. So I'm not exactly sure how that works. But this is basically what the vast majority of people at those levels are kind of making. Is there a minor league players union? There is not. They are represented by the players' union, but they are not given representation in that union, and there has never been a big push from the main players' union to make this a bigger issue. I feel really ignorant, but I have very little interaction with minor league baseball other than like, I watched dragons' games and saw Bull Durham. But like, I guess the question is like, what percentage of players actually get from the minors to the majors? In other words, how many of these players are like your Bull Durham minor league lifers? I'm just curious how often that happens. I'm not sure. Maybe you could pick that out. I mean, it's got to be a tiny percent of players that make it to the show because I'm just thinking about these people who have this dream of wanting to make it, and I'm wondering what percentage of minor league baseball is like lifetime minor league baseball players, as opposed to what is the fraction of these players who actually have an opportunity to make it to the majors because they actually have the chops to do it. Well, I mean, the odds of it are players that are just filling out the league. Only about 10% of minor league baseball players ever make it to the major leagues, so 90% don't. But I imagine, though, that like most players, there's probably a shelf life, right? Like you can't pitch forever. So how long—how long is the average minor— League career? That's what I'm wondering. Yeah. Could it be? If you're only making $1,100 a month, at some point, it's like, well, if I'm not in the top 10%, I've got to figure out something else to do. Not only is it not financially sustainable, but how long do you mess around in the minors at this kind of wage? At least guys on the practice squad in the NFL are making real wages, giving them a reason to keep playing the sport. It feels like the minor league, from what you're telling me, is just like, "Hey, if the first couple of years don't look good, you might as well cut bait and get out of baseball." We're losing a lot of talent through that filter that could otherwise make the product on the field better, resulting in a more diverse and improved game with more feel-good stories. It would be a plus for the league with such a minimum investment. It doesn't make sense why you wouldn't do it. Also, aren't the clubs incentivized to invest in their farms in that way? It's not capped, so owners can spend however much they want on minor league contracts. Investing more and developing more talent will make your farm system and team better. As far as net worth goes, minor leaguers range from $3 million to $25 million and can earn revenues exceeding $10 million a year. The farm systems are generating over $10 million in revenue. It's wild. I've been to some minor league baseball games and know they struggle. Still, the fan experience at them, like the Dayton Dragons, is fantastic. I've seen Adam Dunn play, hitting bombs and having fun. Maybe they're not making enough revenue to support higher-paying players, but clearly, that's not the case. Why should it fall to the minor league affiliate to support that? It's the club's system that needs investment. I don't fully understand minor league baseball, but I've heard that minor league teams can move from one major league team to another. They are independent organizations, but they are the players who will eventually fill your roster. So, while the team may not be directly affiliated, they are certainly incentivized to support the players striving to make it in the big leagues. Want that team anymore, do they take all the players? Yeah. That's basically what they're fighting for, to fill out this roster. Owning a minor league baseball team sounds like it's hard, but you also have a built-in safety net of being able to establish a team. So if the Reds want someone as a minor league affiliate where they can call someone up and have them there within a couple of hours and be able to send people back and forth. So you do have some competition from, say, a team in northern Kentucky or something like that where they could possibly work out a deal, but they're incentivized to keep that regional kind of affiliate. I'm high on the high single level, the Tigers feed, and they'll have like two or three different teams around the state of Michigan, let alone the players that they send to California leagues and such. And the Mud Hens, well, that's a Triple-A team. I don't know what the difference is. I don't know much about minor league baseball. Clearly, I'm sorry, I feel like this has become a lesson for me to learn about minor league baseball. It's the world, you know? That was all I had on it. I just don't understand why it's not a bigger issue in general and why hasn't the union taken this up? Well, I mean, if you think about it, what incentive is there for major league reps to advocate on behalf of minor league players because the pot of money is finite, right? We're essentially operating with a projected revenue share, and a bunch of that goes to stadium maintenance and other expenses. So there's only so much for player salaries. If you're a major league advocate, every dollar you advocate for minor league players is a dollar you cannot get to a major league player. So really, the fixes minor league players need their own union or representation in the players' union so someone can negotiate for them. Because it doesn't sound like anybody is. Yeah, and they're basically not in the union. Essentially, they're without that representation. That's right. Effectively, that's how it is. They just get whatever league-wide or organization-wide benefits that come with collective bargaining agreements, but without player-specific reps, no one's there to say, "Hey, there needs to be a high minimum wage for anyone affiliated with your clubs." But yeah, that's all I really had on that one. But you're right, it's pretty messed up. If you ever wanted not to be romantic about baseball, that's how you do it. Well, I'll do it. Not to be romantic about baseball, you pay people non-living wages and do it on their face. It's incredibly hard, Chris. But thanks, see, now I know a whole lot more about minor league baseball. Well, I really baseball is awesome, bro. I'll keep us on sports for a second. And I think you guys know where I'm going with my head; it's been fully locked in since Monday. I've got nothing done, the only thing I can do is sit on the ESPN free agency tracker and keep refreshing it to see what's going on. For anyone who doesn't pay this much attention to sports, I hope you have more life. But if you're like me and you do, free agency opened for the NFL on Monday, and over the weekend, let's start there. The weekend was crazy. Miles Garret is like, "I wouldn't play for this team for any amount of money," and his representatives shut down all extension talks; he really wants out. We talked to LeBron James about leaving Cleveland, like what? There was a big rumor that he requested a meeting with ownership, and they told him to talk to the GM. They said they didn't care about him, he's a portfolio addition. Then less than 48 hours later, they offered him $40 million a year. That's disgusting. People were discussing whether he was worth first and second-round picks to the Cleveland Browns; what are they doing with their minds? How was the defensive end market? Like 35 tops, right? Max Crosby had just signed for 34 or 35 a year, shout out to Eastern Michigan. Max Crosby had just signed; he became the market standard. Market. And then immediately the Browns were like, "Ha ha, no," says I. How about we clear it by five million dollars a year? And in a capped league, what are they? They have to play 21 other players. It's incredible. I don't know how they manage. And they have a hundred million dollars a year wrapped up in Deshaun Watson. I don't know how this works. It's baked in. They can't get out of it. They've already paid him. So in that weekend though, we got Myles Garrett. We got Max Crosby. So we got these two massive end contracts that I don't know that any of us really thought that we were in the mid-thirties with ends yet. Like I think we were like, we're probably getting there, but not yet. So we got both those. Then we get the trade that sends DK to the Steelers. The Steelers. That sucks. I hate that. Which is now the most violent receiver core in the NFL. I don't know if it's the best, but it's certainly the most violent. They will lead the league in personal fouls easily. It's not even going to be close. They are two straight crazy people. They are nuts. They're crazy. Have you ever watched DK just go ape? You just lose his mind mid-game. He just they don't mic him up for a reason because he just loses his mind mid-game, decides, "Oh, I'm not gonna play football anymore. I'm gonna fight you." And somehow his new teammate is even crazier. Like George Pickens is a lunatic. The meme where it was stepbrothers and them got to meet each other. That was so perfect. "You have to call me dragon. You have to call me." And I mean, DK is the crazy thing is that you would be like, man, DK is so much better for the field and the locker room than George Pickens is. And you know what they're saying? They traded for him and then they extended him at 33 years, 33 million dollars. And they do not have a quarterback on the roster. They don't. Justin Fields is in New York. Russell Wilson is a free agent. Who is the quarterback? It's incredible. I've heard Aaron Rodgers. That's what the rumor is. But we're not going to know for two months, because he wants to play games. I'm pissed DK's there, but please God, please sign your name. Please. That would be so awesome. My dreams come true. Do you think do you two, and I think I know what to eat, that things do? Either of you think that Aaron Rodgers has any more juice? No, or do you just think it's clear? Because he does not. He had a worse year than Zach Wilson did last year. Did you see Zach Wilson sign another contract? Yeah. Good for him. Where? Dolphins? Who cares? It's Zach Wilson. It does not matter. But this brings us into. So all of this happens, right? And then free agency opens and historic amounts of money start being spent. The New England Patriots spent $280 million on the first day of free agency. They got everybody. And then I will tell you all what's really got me, which is we'll get to everybody else. But I have to sit here while historic spending is occurring with this sad-ass, poverty-ass, broke-ass franchise that is the Cincinnati Bengals. I don't think they signed anybody. What are they doing? We signed a few every single moment. Everything gets more expensive. Everything becomes more expensive, because now, trades going to want 35 at least, trades want 35 now. T ain't taking a dime less than 32 million dollars. Jemar's going to want 40. He wants 40. What are you do? Like how many times do you have to let the waiting game kick you? And they could have had. I just got to have. Do not agree with this line of thinking like if I'll even you guys could have had. Jemar said, like the rumors out of his camp were that Jemar Chase wanted 35 a year last year before he went and balled out of control. And then the Bengals said after the season, I said, "All right, we're ready for 35 a year." And Jemar was like, "Uh-huh." And again, those were rumors. If you were Jemar Chase, what would be your incentive to sign that contract? Why would you sign it before the season started this year? Well, wasn't this his fourth year? They were trying to get a contract done. They wanted to sign an extension. But why would you sign that 35 million a year? If all you see are record contracts going up, the market being reset again and again, why would I sign my contract before I basically have to? You could get hurt. Like, you could get. But that would all make sense. He, but he sat out practices because he wasn't getting a new contract. So what would lead to a negotiation contract? Contact a tactic. I understand it's a negotiation contract, but if I'm, if I'm... A player, why would they sit out in that moment? If I'm not looking to have a new contract signed, why wouldn't I just say we'll sign this contract next year? I'm not saying you're not trying to have it signed, but I'm not going to sign basically the market value contract at that point. It doesn't make sense for me. What do you think they're saying? What Ethan is saying, but what I'm saying is, if you're sitting there and you're the Cincinnati Bengals, if you were even aggressive in that moment, and let's say you offer 36, 37, 38 million dollars a year at that moment, you have now outpaced Justin Jefferson by three and a half million dollars a year, who was the highest-paid player in on quarterback at that point. Now, you're sitting here at 42 million dollars a year, five million dollars a year. You just caught yourself. You don't know that. That is a hypothetical situation. You do not know how those negotiations went. We always have our rumors until we thought Trey was being offered a lower amount until we figured out that he was being offered 32 million. And it was a very reasonable number. So, who's exactly that's what I'm saying. We don't know. So how can we say Bengals, you dumb dipshits, you should have signed them before? We don't know that the player would have signed that contract because the player has the leverage there. Unless what you're telling me, why would he hold out if he likes... I think what Alex is getting at is he held out because he said he wanted a new contract. And if he was getting that offer, why would he hold out holding out for it? I'm going to them and saying, basically, I'm not saying this number, but I want 45 million dollars a year. You put me at 45 million dollars a year; I'll sign it right now. If not, I'm going to sit out and not get hurt. Come on. Let's call it 40 million, but call it whatever you want. Call it whatever the market is right now. Say that that's what his agent and his people projected a market reset being, why would I sign it then? So, I get your point, but I think what I guess I'm asking is, are you recommending or suggesting that Jamar is going to behave unlike any other player that's ever done this and that the one that's unlike any other. No, no, no, because you're suggesting that Jamar would not be willing to reset the market and that he would just... yes, you are because. What would Ethan have said, I know what you're saying. You're saying, why wouldn't he know how we know he didn't demand 42? He knows that 42. No, no, no, wait, what he knows, he's going to reset the market before this year starts. No matter what, he knows I'm resetting the market, right? He knew that. That's basically what he is holding out for, right? So why would I sign it ahead of time before I have basically a slew of contracts that are going to reset the market for me? What incentive do I have to do that? Injury, yeah, that's the incentive. An injury. Because you're not going to win the Triple Crown and tear my ACL. Sure. That's why you sit out practice. That's why players sign the contracts. The logic and then the amount of bet on himself that that would be is asinine. Asinine, that's ridiculous to say. So if he got hurt last year, he's going to just sign what a 30 $35 million contract... he's not going to... It's not going to be like, Oh, Jamar Chase isn't a wide receiver anymore. It's the NFL. Like what happened to Brandon and I, I understand. And look what happened. I mean Chris, I have no problem... and again, we don't know. This is all hypotheticals. I'm just saying that the flat-out assumption that the Bengals are... I can be completely wrong. Again, I don't know the answer, but I do not think that it's fair for us. And I don't think people should get so worked up and say, well, the Bengals could have had Jesse Bates for $12 million. No, they couldn't have because he was going to hold out and sign for more. It's not true. So, that's where I think that there is more leverage on the player's side that they're not being given credit for. And it's basically painting the Bengals in a bad light. Again, I can be completely wrong. And the Bengals could be a poverty franchise. Here's the deal. Here's the news. But based on Trey's offer, I think I lean a little bit more that they're being pretty reasonable. Well, here's it. Here's like, here's the thing. If Jamar is really willing to disregard the very real risk of injury, I mean, next year is the fifth-year option, right? I'm not lying, right? Like, this is the last year without. Well, I mean if he gets to free agency, it might be 46 million a year. Well, yeah, I don't think he's going to get to that. I think that he knows he's going to reset the market here. So I think it's reasonable for him to... Be like, I'm going to bet on myself and I'm going to wait until that market resets before I'm not going to be the market resetter. I just think I'm hearing you. I just, I think that's why I'm coming in like this whole like disregard the injury, bet on himself to that level. Like, I think that's where I was coming from when I said, I think that that's suggesting that this player is doing something that players have not done. It's just not how players have behaved. And the question that I would push on the Bengals is, and the reason I get mad at the Bengals is, how come everybody else gets it done? How come not the guaranteed money? I don't give a shit. He has billions of dollars. He owns an NFL franchise. Shove that shit up your ass. If you don't want to play at this level, sell the team and let somebody else do it. True. I don't have time for that bullshit. But my question, and like I said, that's why my push is like, I hear you. I'm not suggesting that the players don't have enough or don't have a lot of leverage. I am impressed by the offer they made to Trey. How come everybody else gets it done? And not them. I don't know that everybody else gets it done, but I do think that they don't get it done at the level that they like they have not done well in free agency. Oh, they had one good offseason in free agency that really hit on. And we took that to the Super Bowl. But I agree, they could do better. I just think that the blanket statement that people have been coming out with among the Bengals fan base is super reactionary. And I don't think, again, it could have gone either way. But I don't think it's fair to just be like, "Troy, Katie, screw you, you guys suck. You guys aren't good at your jobs. We just don't know yet. And I do think the stuff about Jesse Bates, the $12 million loss, that's all garbage, let it go. But the thing that I wanted to get to, and I just want to ask you all one more question though, because the reason I got so frustrated about the Bengals is because there's historic spending happening right now at the beginning of this free agency, like it's incredible how much money people are spending for kind of a lousy free agent class. And the question for you guys is this, do you two think that this is like a reaction or an overreaction to the Eagles' model? Or do you think this is just where we live now? Because it feels like the Eagles a little bit the last couple of years have really gone all out and they've just said, we are going to spend the money. That's not true. And then we will either we'll either make the cuts where restructure deals will do. We need yes, they had some true. That's not true. The Eagles are not a big player this year in free agency. They only made one splash, that being Saquon. And that was at 10 million a year. Like that was a sweetheart deal. But last year they resigned their guys. They signed they resigned Jalen last year. They resigned AJ Brown last year. When you say Jalen, you mean, you don't mean Jalen Carter. Hurts. Oh, well, okay. But like what the Eagles model is is draft and resign your own. But it's kind of not. But it kind of is because like I told you the only real free agent they brought in last year was Saquon. And that's because the Giants totally messed up. Like Saquon Barkley at 10 million a year, whatever it was that they signed him for is nuts. Like everybody was trying to get in on Saquon on that, right? How we just made it happen. But like when's the last time the Eagles went out into free agency and said, I'm going to spend 20 a year over four for an edge? Who's a question? Who on that D-line isn't an Eagles draft pick? Hey, I could be misperceiving you. Dude, this is what I think happens around here is everyone in the Metro Detroit area is so impatient with Brad Holmes because he plays it conservatively, to say, "Oh, we need to be like the Eagles." Howie's been the GM of the Eagles since 2010; they don't make splashes. He has not made major deals. Think the biggest defensive addition they made last year was CJ Gardner-Johnson for like one year. He's not even on the team anymore. So like that's just not how they build. What Howie does is he stockpiles draft picks, spends them on the D-line and the defensive side of the ball in general, lets the guys walk that he doesn't care about, like Josh Sweat, and then he's going to get another third-round pick because of the Josh Sweat signing to Arizona, which he's going to spend on another D-lineman. He drafts into the second and third string so he can let guys walk and recoup comp picks. He doesn't trade his first-round picks almost ever. He's only traded one first-round pick in the last 10 years, and that was. For AJ Brown, and that was the year when they had another first-round pick Jordan Davis. What do you think? Same question. Do you think the overspending is a reaction, or do you think this is just where we're at now? I think it's where we're at because NFL teams have seen the cap go up consistently. So players have seen the cap go up. Yeah, and the agents know for sure. So I think that's why we're living in this, and there's no indication that this train is slowing down at all right now. Yeah, the absolute best way and look like the Patriots are spending this kind of money because they have this kind of right, like they had by far the most available cap in the NFL. It wasn't even close, right? It wasn't super. They have like 100 million on the cap. They were probably in danger of not reaching the cap floor. But in this kind of moment with the cap going up every year but the rookie scale not necessarily adjusting at the same rate, you're actually incentivized to draft as much as possible because those are cost-controlled players for at least four years, so that you have enough room in the budget for when you need to go out and pitch to a unicorn free agent that is happening, players don't reach free agency. But like Joe Shane doesn't know what he's doing. Did you see that he signed Darius Slayton, the receiver for the same cost he wouldn't give it to A.J. Brown when he gave it to who they've been trying to trade for the last four years or something like that? I feel terrible being a Bengals fan. If I was a New York Giants fan, if I was college basketball or something, yeah, I just would watch football. If I grew up in Jersey, I would like, I don't watch football. I guess I'm a Syracuse fan now. You know, I would jump off a bill. You made a face. Z, New England had 17 million dollars more cap space than the next team, and that's the call to Davis project. They got Carlton Day. They were Carlton Davis's contract more cap space than everybody else in the NFL, that you just get that for free and then start a go, yeah. The reason that I asked that question is because them, the Bears, there's been a couple of teams like I think there were four teams north of like 200 million dollars in commitment. So on the first day of free agency, it was incredible. Yeah, the Bears spent a lot of money on the trenches too. They also made two trades. They traded for Joanna Jackson and Joe Tunney and then signed all in in free agency. So the whole interior, their offensive line is completely rebuilt. The Lions are really making the NFC North react, my dude. Yeah, stop the run. Well, anyway, NFL free agency has got all of my attention. I hate the Bengals, and I'm pretty fascinated by all the money that's going around, but that's what's got me. Chris, bring us home today, man. What's got you? What's got me? I'm messed up about this trade war. Is it the dumbest trade war ever? Ramping up tariffs on Canada to 50% because Donald Trump doesn't like the trade deal that he negotiated five years ago? This is bizarre. I've been doing my intentional best to not pay as much attention to this. What are the SparkNotes on what's going on right now? The SparkNotes are Donald Trump has got in his head that tariffs are good for the economy. So he's levied 25% tariffs across the board on stuff coming in from Canada and Mexico. Those got put on pause temporarily because Canada said, hey, we'll do what we committed to doing last year. It was really weird. They didn't actually move, but then those tariffs kicked in. So Canada, in response, has levied tariffs against the United States. They've been pulling bourbon off the shelves. The only good thing that's happened here. The bourbon's coming up. The province, one of the Doug Ford, the guy who is like the head guy, the chief executive in Ontario, Canada, supplies electricity to some states, including Michigan, Minnesota, New York, a lot of electricity. Do you have to place like New York and in the Northeast? He's increasing. He's like, I'm going to increase the price by like 25%. I'm going to shut it off if you're really pushed me, right? Now he since temporarily said, oh, I'll come to the negotiation table, but like, why would he bid against yourself? No, nothing has changed since last year. So the reason why I'm ultimately messed up isn't because this is dumb. I mean, it is dumb, but I'm kind of messed up about what might happen in this particular region. The through line here behind the tariffs is basically, yes, we know it's expensive for companies to bring things over the border. So they'll be incentivized to keep things in the United States. So they'll take that money, invest in American companies and American suppliers to make more of the car or the house or whatever, building manufacturing in the United States. But okay, so here's why that's dumb. Here's why that doesn't work. If there were a lower cost option to build the car in the United States, American automotive would be building the car in the United States. The supply chains between American auto, Canada, and Mexico are hyper-efficient because it's an economy of scale, right? Every penny is like millions of dollars in profit. So everything has been hammered out, hammered out, hammered out. They've been building and optimizing the supply lines through Canada and Mexico for decades. What happens is some of these parts cross these borders multiple times. For example, Ford is the major brand, and a subsidiary brand is Lincoln. A lot of the parts in a Lincoln car are also parts in a Ford car. So for example, we drive a Lincoln Corsair. It's just a gussied-up Ford Edge. It's just that I'm bougie, and I wanted nice features, but I could have saved some money and bought a Ford Edge because it's the same car. They don't make parts unique to Lincoln cars. Certainly, maybe some of the panels on the front, but internally, it's the same engine, leather, consoles, basic components, windows, and frame. What the automotive does is they say, "Okay, I'm going to build this part using Canadian steel here. I'll bring it into the United States, add some more stuff here. Let's say it's a part for a sedan like a wire harness that's going to go in a sedan. I'll ship some parts to Mexico where they can assemble the sedan for cheap. I need them to assemble the sedan inexpensively because the sedan can't be sold for much money. If you bring in all these jobs to the United States and Americans say, "Okay, we get the point. We're going to invest in American supply lines, buy American steel instead of Canadian steel, do all this," the only thing you've done is make every single car in the United States more expensive. You've put American auto at a competitive disadvantage. Other car companies in Japan and Europe don't deal with this problem. For American auto, the concern is how many factories will halt production because they can't compete in a segment. How many shifts will stop? How many people will be laid off because we can no longer compete in a hyper-competitive market? That's what worries me; people don't understand. GM gets it, but they're not explaining it to everyday people. The average person walks around thinking, "Don't worry, jobs will come here. Three percent unemployment, who's really looking for work?" It's pretty good right now, but it's going to be a bit of a transition period as we make America rich again. We're making America wealthy. The whole thing seems dumb. It's got me messed up. I have family in Canada, and it's just stupid. The whole Canada 51st state idea is ridiculous. Just seems like flooding the zone with nonsense. Dealing with it on a day-to-day basis is difficult, especially with things done that feel challenging. How to make an impact on tariffs? I suppose call my senator, but executives have the power to choose what they want to do, making decisions over the border. So, what's the result? If you're in the market for a car, avoid getting a 2015 model for sure. The economics of this can be complex if not paid attention to, but even at a simplistic level, it's hard not to see that things will become more expensive. If you voted out... A guy who was like a halfway okay president because things were too expensive. And now they're going to get even more expensive. It's going to get so expensive. And this guy stands up there, and the only thing he has to say to you is there's going to be a period of transition. Dude, it's going to get much worse. Have you looked at your 401k or 403b recently? No, I don't even want to open it. Don't look at it. It's brutal. I mean, I'm not retiring anytime soon. But my God, if you were planning on retiring, that's the other thing. Forget it. Peter Doocy. Peter Doocy. Who's that? That's about as stereotypical of a person as you can get, a guy like him named Doocy. That's how much of an asshole he is. Peter Doocy was on Fox News and literally said, "Yeah, they want more people to retire, to shrink the federal workforce. But when the Dow has fallen 1500 points over the last three days, it's kind of hard to get people to retire. It's messed up. Yeah, it's crazy. I mean, we are plunging headfirst into a recession. And I'm like, when do I buy the dip? Like, where's the bottom here? It can't be too much further down, right? No, it totally could. You do find yourself wondering, though, is it really Amazon trading at 119? I started thinking the other day about the fact that when the recession happened in like '08, we were pretty much clueless. We don't really know what's going on. We're 17 years old. Don't really know what's going on. I got no money. I know I'm thinking about it, and I'm like, man, this is what adults were doing in 2007, 2008, they were just... They were just doing this. I got some liquidity. Maybe I just, you know, get in here real quick. You know? Yeah. What happens? Oh, you just looked like you had a thought, man, like you had something to say. Yeah, I don't know. No answers. I don't know, man. I'm just kind of keeping an eye on some stuff. But these tariffs are so stupid. It's unbelievably stupid. Chris, is my attorney? Can we sue them? No, you're not my attorney. Even if I was, my advice to you is we can't sue them. I mean, you could. Let me think about it. This is not a legal podcast. It's not a legal podcast. If you wanted to be a real jerk and you didn't mind spending a little bit of coin to get your behind kicked out of court and you found an attorney willing to maybe suspend his ethics, you could file a frivolous lawsuit. I don't recommend you do that. Judges do not like that. So I'm not going to do that, but like, you could. Alright, my attorney has said that we can't sue anybody. So I guess we're just going to have to deal with these tariffs. Alright, guys, well, get your maple syrup right now. That's crazy. I actually met somebody who makes maple syrup in their backyard. Oh, if you want the hookup, Chelsea is one of her best friends. They have a maple syrup operation. They make maple syrup by tapping the trees. It's legit, like it's out of a tree. And I just learned from this person that right now is the time. You go find a maple tree right now and tap into it, collect its sap, and it's sweet. Apparently, when it's below freezing at night and warm during the day, that's when the trees are ready for tapping. Like they beckon you. I don't like that at all. Well, lively conversation today, guys. But hey, nipples. Can you milk me, Greg? Great movie. Excellent. They don't make movies like that anymore. Kids don't know about them, the parents. Even the second one was not that bad. It was pretty good. I like the Fockers. Yeah, it was pretty good. Well, the third one was awful. I don't even think I saw it. They did a third. What was it called? Little Fockers? Little Fockers. Yeah. Oh, do they have kids? Yeah, they have kids, and the movie's trash because they're little Fockers. Hijinks ensue. That was the trend back then when they were making movies. Hey, guys, check this out. I have an idea. Ben Stiller. Robert De Niro. Hijinks ensue. Do you remember that time when Robert De Niro was only doing comedies? And they were all terrible, like bad grandpa and stuff. Little Fockers, I think, was the start of that phase. Thankfully, that phase is over. Someone must have told Robert De Niro, "Hey, man, it's tarnishing your legacy." It was funny being like, "He's not a comedy actor." And then he was in 12 comedies, and people were like, "It's not that funny." It evolved, right? Because it started with. Me to Parents. Like Me to Parents was the moment we were all like, is Robert De Niro funny? Yeah. Because he was just young. Like he was just Vito Corleone as a dad. Well, that's who he was, right? Young Vito. But then it kind of stopped working. The family comedy stopped and all those old guys got into doing the family comedy for that. Like Eddie Murphy was doing it and Robin Williams was doing it. And it just wasn't going well. And then Robert De Niro was like, I'm going to kick it up a notch and do dirty grandpa. And everybody was like, okay, maybe that's the line that we found. That's the line. I never saw it. I never saw it. It didn't do well. I've seen it. It has moments that are actually pretty hard. But it's all just based on the fact that like Robert De Niro is just saying absurd things. Like, wow, Robert De Niro said that. Yeah, like Robert, you can't believe Robert De Niro said such a thing. Anywho, enough about Robert De Niro. We got to wrap up and let's get on our way. But before we do, we got time for just one more fellas. Let's leave everybody with a recommendation and Ethan, kick us off. This is my just one more. It's been a pretty popular book over the past year. A lot of people have been recommending it. I will throw my hat in the ring as well. It is James by Percival Ever. I didn't recall if it had been recommended before because he was discussing it with me. I couldn't remember. I went to look through the notes to see if it had been recommended, but I didn't see it yet. So I did want to. Like, if he has, again, a lot of people have been recommending this book and I really, really enjoyed it. If you're not familiar with it, it is a retelling of the adventures of Huckleberry Finn through the point of view of Jim. James, the titular character, and it is excellent. It kind of deviates from Huckleberry Finn a little bit, which I wasn't expecting, but the way that they handle everything and address one of the big issues I personally had, and I'm sure has been a big issue with Huckleberry Finn, that's the way Jim talks. And I think that is addressed in such an intelligent way. It is portrayed so well throughout the novel. It was very interesting to see all the different ways, and there's a huge twist that gets dropped in there as well. Chill, chill, chill, just telling your twist. There's a huge twist that gets thrown in there. I mean, can't tell people there's a twist. That's, then you've ruined it. Now we know there's a twist. I'm gonna let you in on a little secret. Every story, there's a twist. There we go. But like I said, a bunch of people, it's a hugely popular novel, so I'm not necessarily saying anything different. But if you haven't heard of it and you haven't thought to give it a chance, highly recommend it. I also recommend the adventures of Huckleberry Finn. I thought it was an excellent kind of fun adventure novel, very different. Very different than James, obviously. A lot more inward in that one. So much more. Yeah. Aggressive. Yeah. I'm reading it as we speak and I looked at Ethan the other day and I was like, when does it get good? Like, you know, let's tell Ethan. I was like, maybe it's just because, like, I suck and maybe I'm not perceptive. I'm not getting it. I'm reading this book and we're not down the river yet. Dude, we're down the river. I thought it was such a fun adventure. About spoilers, because the statute of limitations has gone off and it's gone for spoilers, we already ditched the bad guys. Like, it is. We're, I'm not getting it. I mean, maybe it's not for everybody. I absolutely loved it. I had a lot of fun with it. A little more inward in Huckleberry Finn. Than there is in a freaking Straight Outta Compton, bro. And I will say you do not need to read Huckleberry Finn before you read James to get it and enjoy it. I do think it kind of adds to it and it's fun to see where it branches off and what they do with it, but it's definitely not required reading. James stands on its own really well. But I will say, even though I'm not, I'm at the 13-week waitlist at the library to get my copy of James so I can read it. It's a quick read. I reserved my copy the first or second week of January. Oh, I saw a copy of it at the bookstore and I was like, oh, that's the perfect library book size because it's not super thick. Like, you can get through it. I got through it in a couple of days of decent reading, but it definitely is a quick history. It's probably about Huckleberry Finn size. It's a little less. All right. All right. Thanks, Ethan. Well, Chris, I'm going to recommend a movie. Chelsea and I had a little date night recently last weekend and we saw "Mickey 17" with Robert Pattinson. Man, that was a good movie, man. So excited. It's a good movie, especially, I think it's particularly timely given the moment that we're in right now. So for those that don't know, Mickey 17 is about a kind of a post-apocalyptic future where a very rich and charismatic politician convinces a bunch of people to get on a spaceship and travel to a new planet. And one guy who's struggling decides he's going to apply for a job to be expendable, which means that he's going to do... Stop telling me too much, you're getting mad at him, you're giving me your critical point. I mean, it's in the trailer. So, I'll watch trailers. Oh, well, okay. Well, just shut up then for those who don't know, Robert Pattinson plays the titular character, Mickey 17. And basically does jobs that are dangerous because they can reprint him. Really good movie, really good commentary on politics and how we treat people, honestly. So, had a good time. Funny story, I suggested it to Chelsea knowing that she doesn't really like sci-fi, and this is aggressively sci-fi. Chelsea saw the trailer and she was like, "Yeah, let's go see that." I'm fairly certain, I'm like 85% certain, the only reason why she agreed to see it is because she still kind of had a Twilight man crush on Robert Pattinson. I think she's still kind of Team Edward. But thankfully, it got her in the building, and she had a good time. She liked it. So, that's how good the movie is, that my wife who doesn't really engage with sci-fi, engages with this movie. I love it. And it's not because Robert Pattinson is sexy in it. In fact, she said, "Wow, this makes me totally rethink all the sex appeal that I had about Robert Pattinson. Like, he's not sexy at all anymore to me." Still liked the movie. That's good. I'm looking forward to seeing it. I'm pretty excited. But for my Just One More this week, I am going to tell everybody that I started watching Daredevil: Born Again. Did you start this? No, not yet. It's good. It's good. Let's go. We're back. Maybe we're so back. I don't know that we're so back. Like, I've heard that a lot from Marvel, and that's not been going super. But I will say that I am enjoying it. I'm through the first two episodes and I do think that Marvel has these characters and has these pieces of this storyline that they're just doing really well and it's good to see them get back to one of these things that was a little bit incomplete, but really just pick up right where it was. It's got that same grittiness that the Netflix version had. I mean, they're bringing back the Punisher too. Charlie Cox could not be Charlie Cox, right? That's his name. He could not be a more perfect person to play this. Get out of here, Ben Affleck. You know what I'm saying? Did they bring back Foggy and Deborah Ann Woll? They did. They did. They bring back Foggy and whatever her name is, Karen Page. Karen Page. And they bring back... I will some fish. Wilson Fisk. And through the first two episodes, they're very clearly setting up this one-to-one conflict, and I'm digging it so far. I'm really enjoying it. If you're like me, where you're kind of hesitant to dive back into the Marvel stuff because it's not been good to us of late, I'm really enjoying this and recommend that you watch it. Well, that's everything for us today, y'all. We appreciate you joining us for yet another episode of The Knowledge Bar. We can't wait to talk to you next week about the NFL Draft, all the crazy storylines this year. Did we decide we're doing the NFL Draft? Yeah, we can't wait to talk about it. So, we're going to do it. No, but we can't do the draft preview, can we? Oh, well, do we know when we're getting the preview? I don't remember when it comes. No, we have to get through all the pro days. Alright, everybody out there, we're probably not doing the NFL Draft next week, but don't you worry. It's coming up. So, we're going to have something. We have to fulfill Chris's need to have a full nerd episode about the NFL Draft. We can't wait. But we will be back next week to talk about more fun stuff. Until then, please don't forget to subscribe, rate, comment, drop us a five-star review. Let us know how it's going. You can always email us if you have questions or if there's something that you want to talk about at podcast@theknowledge.bar. All of our recommendations and cocktail recipes and everything can be found in our show notes. We want to send a special shout out to Ethan for producing and editing all of our podcast content. And until next time, y'all, we hope that you talk to your friends and have a good one. Cheers. Cheers.