# 🎙️ AI-Powered Podcast Summary

## 🎧 Suggested Episode Titles

- 1. "Is Minor League Baseball Dying? The Shocking Reality Revealed

- 2. "Why Are Minor Leaguers Paid $4 an Hour? The Untold Truth

- 3. "Minor League Baseball: A Trade War Worth Fighting Against?

- 4. "The Dark Side of Baseball: Minor Leaguers' Struggle for Survival

- 5. "Minor League Baseball Salaries: Time for a Major Change?

## 🎬 Selected Podcast Clips (with Score Breakdown)

[36:47 - 37:15] But like 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 like a unicorn free agent that is say Quan Barkley, right?

📢 \*\*Hashtags:\*\* #MLB, #MinorLeagueBaseball, #FinancialStruggles, #CostControlledPlayers, #FreeAgent, #RookieScale, #BudgetManagement, #UnicornFreeAgent, #TKB, #TheKnowledgeBar

📊 \*\*Final Score:\*\* 75.25

- 🧠 \*\*Sentiment Score:\*\* 1.10

- 🔑 \*\*Keyword Score:\*\* 26

- 📊 \*\*Stats & Figures Score:\*\* 84.67893251014968

- 🏢 \*\*NLP\_relevance:\*\* 1.5

## 🔍 SEO-Friendly Tags

podcast, interviews, storytelling, trending, discussions, expert insights, minor league baseball, NFL free agency, trade war, sports podcast, baseball finances, minor league wages, professional sports, player salaries, sports industry, podcast analysis, player unions, talent development, sports diversity, player struggles, sports economics, sports commentary, podcast recommendations

## 📜 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 tag line. That was, we're elevating Bartov, and we are bringing it up, y'all. You know what? 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. We do want to remind you before we get started, please remember to subscribe, rate, drop us a five-star review, leave us a comment, let us know how it's going, and you can always find additional content at the Knowledge Bar. And if you have questions, comments, or you want to send in a topic that you want us to go over here on the pod, you can always email us at podcast@theknowledgebar.com. We're going to get started with another fun episode here, fellas. But while we're jumping in, let's make sure everybody's got a drink in front of them. Let's do a quick, what are we drinking tonight? Chris, what's in the glass? Drinking a little Four Roses Single Barrel Barrel Proof. Pretty good. I love it. That's like one of my favorite bottles, to be honest. Yeah. And I got this bad boy added on a deal in Chicago for 99 bucks. 99 bucks? Not bad. In the wild. Yeah, in the wild. I remember when I went and got my first bottle of it at the distillery, and it was one of those like I asked the guy at the front. This was at the beginning before it really got crazy. And I was like, should I get it now or will it be there after the tour? And he was like, get it now. Carry it with you. Not a game. Ethan, what are you drinking? I have a Starman Pale Ale from Black Rocks Brewery, a little brewery up in Marquette, Michigan. Pretty solid. I've had a couple beers from them now, took a couple camping with us on one of our trips last year. I remember and really liked them. So pick that up today and really enjoying it for sure. Saw a little brewery and I am having a cocktail called Cut the Chase. This is a cocktail that I actually had at a bar, and I'm trying to recreate it. But it's a milk-washed bourbon, ginger syrup, lemon juice, amaretto, and Peychaud's bitters, and it is pretty fantastic. I haven't mastered it yet. I'm not copycatting it all the way, but everybody's got a drink in front of them. We'll get ourselves started with what's got you. Let's just jump right in. Ethan, why don't you kick us off this week, man? What's got you?  
  
So I hate to bring back-to-back fiascos that have got me pretty worked up in back-to-back weeks. But this has been something that I have been aware of in the past, and then it was kind of brought back to my attention this week. And it's the fact that Major League Baseball has a revenue of around $9 billion, billion with a B. That's a B. Seems low somehow. Doesn't that seem kind of low for a major sport? Like all 30 of the teams, the total revenues are $9 billion. If you check out episode 14, we discuss baseball's financial situation. In 2014, it was $12.1 billion. In 2024, it is projected to be even higher. Despite this growth, minor leaguers are not paid a living wage, increasing just 75% since 1975 compared to a 400% increase in MLB salaries. At the lowest levels, they make around $4 an hour based on a 60-hour work week, forcing them to take on part-time jobs or go into debt. It would only cost $4 million to provide a living wage to every player in the farm system, equivalent to an average major league player's contract. This investment would lead to a better on-field product and benefit both players and owners. It's baffling why this issue is not a priority.   
  
Minor leaguers make just $240 a week, around $1,100 a month, with additional pay per game at lower levels. Despite potential signing bonuses for top prospects, most players struggle to make ends meet. While there is no official minor league players union, the main players union represents them but has not prioritized their financial struggles. Only about 10% of minor league players ever reach the major leagues, leaving the majority to face uncertain futures. League career? That's what I'm wondering because 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 have to figure out something else to do. Not only is it financially unsustainable, but how long can you stay in the minors at this wage? Players on the practice squad in the NFL make real wages, giving them a reason to keep playing. It seems like in the minor league, if it's not looking good in the first few years, you might as well move on from baseball. This could result in losing valuable talent that could improve the game on the field, making it more diverse and better overall. It would enhance the league with minimal investment.   
  
It doesn't make sense why clubs wouldn't invest more in their farm systems since there is no cap on spending for minor league contracts. By investing more and developing talent, the farm system and the team would benefit greatly. Minor league players' net worth ranges from 3 million to 25 million, and they can generate revenues exceeding 10 million dollars annually. This revenue generation from farm systems is astounding.   
  
Minor league baseball games may struggle with attendance, but they excel in providing a fun fan experience. The revenue seems to be there to support higher-paying players, so it's questionable why they aren't compensated better.   
  
Regarding the connection between minor league teams and major league clubs, they are independent organizations, but players signed with the major league clubs play in the minors. The major league clubs have an incentive to support these players, as they are potential future roster members. Want that team anymore, do they take all the players? Yeah. Yeah. That's basically what they're fighting for, to fill out this roster. Dude, owning a minor league baseball team sounds like a lot. But you also have a built-in safety net of being able to establish a team. So the Reds want someone basically 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, there is that team in northern Kentucky or something like that where they could possibly work out a deal. But they're incentivized to keep that regional affiliate. Yeah. And I'm on the high single level, the Tigers feed and they'll like two or three different teams around just the state of Michigan, let alone the players that they send to California leagues and stuff like that. 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. No, I'm sorry. I feel like this has become a lesson for me to learn about minor league baseball. Eat the world, she got. That was all I had on it. I just don't understand how 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? Like 12 billion, nine billion, 13 billion, eight billion, right? We're essentially operating with a projected revenue share of 11 billion. And then also a bunch of that is going to stadium maintenance and all kinds of other things. So there's only so much money for player salaries. And if you're a major league advocate, every dollar that you advocate for minor league players is a dollar that cannot go to a major league player. So really, the fixes the minor league players need to have their own union or they need to start getting representation in the players' union so that someone can be in the room to negotiate for them. Because it doesn't sound like anybody is. Yeah. And I think they're basically not in the union, essentially. That's how that representation goes. That's right. Effectively, they just get whatever league or organization-wide benefits that come with the collective bargaining agreements, but without player-specific reps, like no one's there to say, "Hey, there needs to be a higher minimum wage here for anyone affiliated with your clubs." But yeah, that's all I really had on that one. But you're right, that's pretty messed up. If you ever wanted to not be romantic about baseball, that's how you do it. Well, I'll do not be romantic about baseball. You pay people non-living wages and do on their face. That's how you do it. It's incredibly hard, Chris. But thanks, see, I know a whole lot more about minor league baseball now. Well, I really do. Baseball is awesome, bro. I'll keep us on sports for a second. And I think you guys know where I'm going to be. My head has been fully just locked in since Monday. I know I've got nothing done is the only thing that I can do is sit on the dumb ESPN free agency tracker and just keep pulling it down and checking to see what's going on. Because for anybody out there who does not pay this much attention to sports, which you shouldn't, I hope you have more life. But if you're like me and you do and these guys, free agency opened for the NFL on Monday. And over the weekend, let's start there. Let's start with the weekend. The weekend was crazy. I mean, yeah, before we get into us hitting free agency, one, we see Miles Garret over here is like, I wouldn't play for this team for any amount of money. We're like, Garret's representations are shutting down all extension talks. Like he really wants out. Yeah, they talked to LeBron James about leaving Cleveland like, what? And there was a big rumor that apparently he requested a meeting with ownership, right? And they told him to, "Forget off and talk to the GM." They were like, no, we don't care about you. You're a portfolio addition, bro. Then less than 48 hours later, they were like, how about 40 million dollars? 40 million a year. That's insane. People were talking about whether or not this guy was worth first and second-round picks to the Cleveland Browns were like, well, what are the Cleveland Browns doing with their mind? I don't know. How was it in the defensive end market? Like 35 tops, right? Like that was, like Max Crosby had just signed for 34 or 35 a year, a shout out to Eastern Michigan. Max Crosby did just sign, he became he was the market. He was the. 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 racked up into Sean 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, the crate, 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 easily. They are two straight crazy people. They are nuts. They're crazy. Have you ever watched DK just go ape? Just lose his mind mid-game. They don't mic him up for a reason, because he 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 main 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 year, 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. Well, 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 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. \*Who he dolf\* is my making that up? 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 like 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 do not think they signed anybody. What are they doing? We signed with you every single moment. Everything gets more expensive. Everything becomes more expensive because now Trey's going to want 35, at least Trey wants 35 now. T ain't taking a dime less than 32 million dollars. Jamar's going to want 40. He wants 40. What are you doing? 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 you all even you guys could have had. Jamar said like the rumors out of his camp were that Jamar Chase wanted 35 a year last year before he went and balled out of control. And then the Bengals said after the season, "All right, we're ready for 35 a year." And Jamar was like, "Uh-huh." And again, those were rumors. If you were Jamar 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? This was, 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, but that would all make sense. He sat out practices because he wasn't getting a new contract. So what would lead to negotiation contract? Contact a tactic. I understand it's a negotiation contract. But if I'm, if I'm... A player, why 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. So what do you even say? I know what Ethan is saying, but what I'm saying is, 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 at that point. Now you're sitting at 42 million dollars a year, five million dollars a year, you just call 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 figured out that he was being offered 32 million, and it was a very reasonable number. So, 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 liked—" 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 for it? Like I'm going to them and saying, basically, I'm not saying this is the number, but saying 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. Okay, what, call it 40 million, but call it whatever you want. Call it whatever the market is right now. Say that's what his agent and his people projected the market reset being, why would I sign them? 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 in the world? I don't know that's unlike any other. No, no, no, no, because you're suggesting that Jamar would not be willing to reset the market and then he would just—yes, you are because no, even to say, 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 in the end, no, no, no, what he knows is 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? No, the injury. Yeah, that's the incentive. Injury. Because you're not going to win the triple crown and then 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 would be is asinine. That's ridiculous to say. So if he got hurt last year, he's going to just sign, what, a 30, 35 million dollar contract and say, "He's not going to be like, 'Oh, Jamar Chase isn't a wide receiver in the NFL.' Like what happened to Brandon Iyue? I understand. And look, what happened to Chris? I mean, Chris Godwin will probably be okay. 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 could not 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 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 party for you. Here's the deal. You can use it. But based on Trey's offer, I think I lean a little bit more that they're being pretty reasonable. 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. Like, 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 think that's where I'm coming in, like this whole like disregard the injury bed on himself to that level. Like, I think that's where I was coming from when I said, I think that 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 it's the guaranteed money? I don't give a shit. He has billions of dollars. He owns an NFL franchise. Shove that crap up your ass. If you don't want to play at this level, sell the team and let somebody else do it. I don't have time for that crap. 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 have had one good offseason in free agency that we're really head 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 law, that's all garbage. Let it go. But the thing 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 historic spending happening right now at the beginning of this free agency. It's incredible how much money for kind of a lousy free agent for a crummy for 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 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 not true. Then we will either we'll either make the cuts where restructured 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 was SACON and that was at 10 million a year. Like that was a sweetheart deal. But last year they reached they resigned their guys. 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 they 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 SACON and that's because the Giants totally messed up. Like SACON, Markely 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? Like how he just made it happen. But 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 and this is the problem. I think that happens around here is everyone 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 he has they do not make splash. You really think the biggest defensive edition they made last year was CJ Gardner Johnson for like on 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. He spends the draft picks on the D-line and on the defensive side of the ball in general, lets the guys walk the ones 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-line and he's drafting into the second and third string. So he can let guys walk and recoup the 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 that 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 I believe that NFL teams have seen the cap consistently rise. Players have witnessed the cap increase as well. Yes, and the agents are aware of this. Therefore, I think that's why we find ourselves in this situation, and there's no sign of this trend slowing down. We will continue moving forward in the best way possible. It seems like the Patriots are spending a significant amount because they have the means to do so, right? They had by far the highest available cap space in the NFL. It was not even close. And they have around $100 million more than anyone else. They were almost at risk of not reaching the cap floor. In this current scenario with the cap increasing yearly but the rookie scale not adjusting at the same pace, it becomes beneficial to draft as much as possible. These draftees are cost-controlled for at least four years, allowing flexibility in the budget when pursuing high-value free agents like a unicorn player such as Saquon Barkley. It's rare for players like Saquon Barkley to reach free agency. If a general manager doesn't make the right decisions, it can lead to questionable signings like Darius Slayton over Saquon, which can be disappointing for fans. The escalating spending across NFL teams, with New England having significantly more cap space than others, indicates the current trend. Some teams like the Bears have also made substantial commitments in free agency, notably investing in strengthening the trenches. This intense spending in free agency has captured my attention. On a different note, the trade war situation is concerning due to the escalating tariffs between the US and Canada. The spark notes are Donald Trump's belief that tariffs are beneficial for the economy, leading to increased tariffs on goods from Canada and Mexico. Canada responded by imposing tariffs on US goods like bourbon. The trade tensions have escalated, impacting various sectors, including energy supply. The uncertainties looming over this trade war and its potential regional consequences are worrisome. The underlying intention behind these tariffs is to encourage companies to invest in American businesses and suppliers, ultimately boosting the domestic economy. 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 of the economy of scale. Every penny is like millions of dollars in profit. So everything has been hammered out over decades. What happens is some of these parts cross these borders multiple times. For example, Ford is a major brand and a subsidiary brand is Lincoln. Many parts in a Lincoln car are also 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 fancy and I wanted nice features, but it's essentially the same car. They don't make parts unique to Lincoln cars. What the automotive industry does is they build parts using Canadian steel, bring it into the United States, add more stuff, and sometimes ship parts to Mexico for assembly to keep costs low. If all jobs were brought back to the United States and American steel was used instead of Canadian steel, for example, it would make every single car in the United States more expensive and put American auto companies at a competitive disadvantage. Other car companies in Japan and Europe don't face this issue. The worry is how many factories will halt production and how many job losses will occur due to an inability to compete in a competitive market. This lack of understanding is concerning, as people think jobs will return just because of low unemployment rates. The transition back to American manufacturing may not be as smooth as expected. It's a difficult situation, dealing with the impact of tariffs and unclear choices made by executives. When buying a car, it's advisable not to choose a 2025 model. The connection between rising costs and choosing political leaders based on economic factors should be more apparent to people. Going to get so expensive. And this dude stands up there, and the only thing he has to say to you is there's going to be a period of transition. Bro, dude, it's going to get so much worse. So have you looked at your 401k or 403b recently? No, I don't even want to open it. Don't look at it. Don't look at it. It's brutal. I mean, look, I'm not retiring anytime soon. But my God, if you were planning on retiring, that's the other thing. Forget you. Get out. Peter Ducey. Peter freaking Ducey. Who's that? That's about as automatic of a persona as you can get, a dude like him named Ducey. That's how much of an asshole he is. Peter Ducey was on Fox News and literally was like, 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 thinking, when do I buy the dip? Like, at one point, where's the bottom here? It can't be too much further down, right? No, it totally could. You do find yourself wondering that though, where you're like, is it really Amazon trading at that 119? I started thinking the other day about the fact that when the recession happened in like, oh, wait, we were pretty much oblivious. Like, we don't really know what's going on. We're 17 years old. Don't really know what's going on. I don't have any money. I know I'm thinking about it. And I'm like, man, this is what adults were doing in like 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, like what happens? Oh, you just look 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, no, you're not my attorney. Even if I was, my advice to you is we cannot sue them. I mean, you could. 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 money to get your stuff 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, fellas, well, live, get your maple syrup right now, right now. That's crazy. I actually met somebody who makes maple syrup in their backyard. Oh, bro, actually, if you want the hookup, Chelsea is one of her best friends. They have a maple syrup, like, bomb, like they make maple syrup tap in the tree. Tap like, yeah, like, it's legit, like it's out of a tree. And I just learned from this person that I didn't know that, like right now is the time. Like, you go find my tree right now and hammer it, tap in that and collect its blood and it's sweet. Apparently at this time, when it is below freezing at night and then warm in the day, this is like when the trees are like the sweet nectar ready for milking. Like this kind of twitch there. I don't like that at all. Well, lively conversation today, guys. But hey, nipples. Can you milk me? Great movie. Excellent. They don't make movies like that. Kids don't know about me. The parents, the kids don't know... they don't even, even the second one was not that bad. It was pretty good. I like the Fockers. Yeah, that's pretty good. It was pretty good. Well, the third one was bad. I don't even think I forgot. They made 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. Hi, Jinx and Sue. That was how they used to be making movies around that time. Hey, guys, check this out. I have an idea: Ben Stiller. Robert De Niro. Hi, Jinx and Sue. Do you remember that period of time where Robert De Niro was just kind of only doing comedies? And they were all terrible. It was like bad grandpa and stuff. Little Fockers, I think, was like the beginning of that phase. And thankfully that phase is over. Someone has told Robert De Niro. Hey, man. It's actually tarnishing your legacy. So, it was kind of funny being like, he's not a comedy actor. And then he was in 12 comedies and people are like, it's not that funny. It's not true. And it evolved, right? Because it started with Meet the Parents. Like, Meet the Parents was the moment we were all like, is Robert De Niro funny? Yeah. Because he was 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. 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. It didn't do well. But I've seen it. It has moments that are actually pretty hard. But it's all just based on the fact that Robert De Niro is saying absurd things. Like, "Wow, Robert De Niro said that." Yeah, like, "You can't believe Robert De Niro said such a thing." Anywho, enough about Robert De Niro. We've got to wrap up and let's get on our way. But before we do, we've 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, and I want to throw my hat in the ring as well. It is "James" by Percival Everett. Didn't mention that. Like, I couldn't remember because he was talking about it with me. 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's 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 splits off from Huckleberry Finn a little bit, which I wasn't expecting. But the way that they handle everything and it kind of addresses one of the big issues that I personally had, and I'm sure has been a big issue with Huckleberry Finn, that's the way that 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 that and there's a huge twist that kind of gets dropped in there as well. Chill, chill, chill, chill, just telling yours 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 the 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 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? Let's tell Ethan. I was like, maybe it's just because like, I suck and I'm not getting it. I'm reading this book and we're down the river. Like we are down the river. I thought it was such a fun adventure, about spoilers, because the statute limitations went off and it's gone for spoilers. We already done ditched the bad guys. Like it's, 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 out of Compton, bro. And I will say you do not need to read Huckleberry Finn before you read James to kind of 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 like in Huckleberry Finn, I'm on 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 exciting. It's a good movie, especially I think it's particularly timely given the moment that we're in right now. So for. Those who don't know, Mickey 17 is about a post-apocalyptic future where a very rich and charismatic politician convinces people to get on a spaceship and travel to a new planet. One guy who's struggling decides to apply for a job as expendable, meaning he will do dangerous tasks. I won't say more, as it's in the trailer. For those unaware, Robert Pattinson plays the titular character, Mickey 17. It's a great movie with a commentary on politics and how we treat people.   
  
A funny story: I suggested it to Chelsea, knowing she isn't into sci-fi, but she agreed to see it after watching the trailer. She might have been swayed by her lingering Twilight man crush on Robert Pattinson; she may still be Team Edward. But she ended up enjoying the movie, which shows how good it is. And it's not just because of Pattinson's looks. She said it made her rethink his sex appeal, though she still liked the film.  
  
I'm excited to see it. Also, I started watching Daredevil: Born Again this week. It's good. Marvel is getting back on track with this series. The characters and storyline are well done, picking up where it left off. The Netflix version's grittiness is back, and Charlie Cox is perfect in his role. They brought back Foggy and Karen Page, setting up a clear conflict from the start. I'm really enjoying it, and I recommend watching it.  
  
That's all for today. Looking forward to talking about the NFL Draft next week. Don't forget to subscribe, rate, and comment. Special thanks to Ethan for producing and editing the podcast. Until next time, cheers!