# 🎙️ AI-Powered Podcast Summary

## 🎧 Suggested Episode Titles

- 1. "Is Major League Baseball's Revenue of $9 Billion Enough?

- 2. "What's Really Going on with Major League Baseball's Finances?

- 3. "Will Major League Baseball's Revenue Hit $10 Billion Soon?

- 4. "Are Major League Baseball's Financial Struggles Cause for Concern?

- 5. "The Truth Behind Major League Baseball's $9 Billion Revenue

## 🎬 Selected Podcast Clips (with Score Breakdown)

[11:31 - 12:55] We would see a better game. We would see a more feel good stories. Like it would just be an overall plus for the league at such a minimum investment. It doesn't make why wouldn't you do it for no reason? Like I just also like aren't the aren't like the aren't the clubs incentivized to invest in their farms in that way? Right? Like it's it's it's not capped. So the owners can spend however much they want on minor league contracts. And if you invest more and develop more talent than your farm system is just better. Your team is just better. Like what Alex is out here making wild faces. As far as net worth goes, this is from somebody that has dot library in their name. As far as net worth goes, minor league or right there range from 3 million to 25 million and can earn revenues in excess of 10 million dollars a year. So you're also telling me that the farm systems are generating an excess of 10 million dollars in revenue. That is wild. Oh yeah. I didn't think of it from that way. Because that's immediately what I started thinking was, well, I've been to some minor league baseball games and I know that they struggle like I had a friend who worked in minor league baseball for a while and he did ticket sales and he was like, Hey man, it's hard out here.

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 64.44 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 13.76 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.17 | Measures topic alignment |
| Sentiment Score | 1.76 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 26.5 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 8 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 0 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 2 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 1.63 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #MinorLeagueBaseball, #NFLFreeAgency, #TradeWar, #SportsBiz, #FarmSystemInvestment, #PlayerDevelopment, #RevenueGeneration, #SportsEconomics, #EngagementAlert, #TheKnowledgeBar

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[4:23 - 5:38] So that's pretty tad. If you're out there, bring that good stuff back, dude. Yeah, wait, Pat, if you are listening, I want I want to bottle a wild turkey 12 year two, dude, like hook me up. You know, I like turkey. Sorry, probably only room for one Ethan. What's got you? So I hate to bring back to back fucked ups that have gotten me pretty pretty worked up in back to back weeks. But this has been something that I have like 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 the 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, all, all, all the 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, but I mean, it's 12 .1 billion. Now it looks like in 2024. So even even more of the point, okay, they do not pay their minor leaguers a living wage.

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 61.44 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 13.82 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.21 | Measures topic alignment |
| Sentiment Score | 0.58 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 21.0 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 12 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 0 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 2 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 1.41 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #TKB, #TheKnowledgeBar, #minorleaguebaseball, #NFLfreeagency, #tradewar, #sportsbiz, #revenuegrowth, #baseballnews, #viral, #breakingnews

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[34:08 - 35:20] But 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 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? Like 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. 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 like happens around here is everyone is like in the Metro Detroit area is so like impatient with Brad Holmes, because he plays it conservatively. They say, Oh, we need to be like the Eagles. How he's been the GM of the Eagles since 2010. They don't make he has they do not make splash. He reads like the the biggest defensive edition they made last year was CJ Gardner Johnson for like on one year.

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 56.80 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 13.79 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.19 | Measures topic alignment |
| Sentiment Score | 1.90 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 19.0 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 8 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 0 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 2 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 1.46 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #TKB, #TheKnowledgeBar, #NFLfreeagency, #trade war, #minorleaguebaseball, #SACON, #splashsignings, #Detroitareaimpatience, #EaglesGM, #breakingnews

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[56:51 - 58:06] It's a quick read. I like reserved my copy like 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 like a couple days of like decent reading, but it definitely is like a quick history. It's probably about Huckleberry Finn size. Maybe 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. I'm so excited. It's a good movie, especially, I think it's 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, you know, kind of a basically post apocalyptic future where a charismatic, 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 an expendable, which means that he's going to do.

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 55.25 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 13.90 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.27 | Measures topic alignment |
| Sentiment Score | 2.25 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 23.0 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 4 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 0 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 0 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 1.42 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #TKB, #TheKnowledgeBar, #NFLfreeagency, #tradeWar, #minorleaguebaseball, #RobertPattinson, #postapocalyptic, #quickread, #engagingcontent, #currentevents

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[9:16 - 10:25] I feel really ignorant, but I like have very little interact with minor league baseball other than like I watched dragons games and saw Bull Durham. But like, I guess, guess the question is like, what percentage of or and you might not know this what percentage of players like actually get from the minors to the majors in other words, tiny, 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 like you were talking about like these people who have this dream and they want 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, I think the edge of it is players that are just filling out the league only about we can have our best players practice only about 10 % of minor league minor league baseball players ever make it to the major leagues.

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| Metric | Score | Description |
| Final Score | 54.92 | Aggregated ranking |
| SEO Similarity | 13.77 | Boosts visibility |
| NLP Relevance | 9.18 | Measures topic alignment |
| Sentiment Score | 0.00 | Higher = more engaging |
| Keyword Score | 25.0 | Measures key phrase density |
| Stats & Figures | 2 | Mentions of numbers/data |
| Quote Score | 0 | Detects direct speech |
| Emotion Score | 0 | Exciting/emotional language |
| Rhetorical Score | 2 | Uses rhetorical questions |
| Length Bonus | 1.48 | Longer clips rank better |

📢 Hashtags: #MinorLeagueBaseball, #MLB, #FreeAgencyFrenzy, #TradeWar, #BaseballDreams, #SportsBiz, #PlayerDevelopment, #CareerGoals, #TrendingNow, #TheKnowledgeBar

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## 🔍 SEO-Friendly Tags

podcast, interviews, storytelling, trending, discussions, expert insights, podcast, minor league baseball, NFL free agency, trade war, tariffs, bourbon, cocktail recipes, recommendations, Huckleberry Finn, Robert De Niro, sci-fi movies, Daredevil, Marvel, NFL Draft preview, production efficiency, economic impact, political commentary.

## 📜 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 quote the dumbest trade war ever. No path 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 are bringing it up. 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. You can always find additional content at the Knowledge Bar. And if you have questions, comments, or you want to send in a topic for us to go over here on the pod, you can always email us at podcast@theknowledgebar. 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 at 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 of 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 enjoy it for sure. Saw a little brewery. And I'm 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 copying it all the way, but I'm 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?  
  
So I also, for those wondering, Pat is in Japan right now. Couldn't even tell, totally just ignored it. You're going to tell them. Wow, Pat, if you're listening, I'm your best friend. These are like the first things you said when Chris was gone. You're like, "Hey, everybody, calm down, Chris. Chris is gone, but it's fine. Don't worry. They're gone back." We went right to the first segment. No mention of Pat. People are going to realize quick, pretty quick, Pat's not here when it's just anti-intellectualism from here on out. But yeah, everybody, Pat is not with us this week. It's just the three of us. Sorry, you're stuck with us or next week because Patrick is on an adventure all the way around the world. He's in Japan for two weeks. He is posting. You probably saw on our Instagram, if you follow us, that he is over there just drinking all the bourbon that you can't find reasonably in the United States, and he's drinking all of it in Japan. He runs like a random liquor store and saw like 10 allocated bottles. I was like, yeah, this is nuts. I know. I know. Ethan, what's got you? So I hate to bring back-to-back messed-ups 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 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 teams, the total revenues are $9 billion. If you go check out episode 14, you'll learn how baseball is thriving. It looks like it was at $12.1 billion in 2024. The issue is that they do not pay their minor leaguers a living wage. MLB salaries have increased by about 400% since 1975, while minor league salaries have only increased by 75%. At the lowest levels of the minors, based on a typical 60-hour work week, they make around $4 an hour. They have to take on part-time jobs, use signing bonuses, and even go into credit card debt. It would only cost $4 million to pay every player in the farm system a living wage. This fraction of a percent would be like an average contract for a major league player. It's ridiculous that this is still an issue. Paying minor leaguers fairly would lead to a better quality product on the field. Many players are just one adjustment away from making it, but lack the financial resources. It's mind-boggling how owners hesitate to address this issue when it could benefit everyone involved. The minor league players make around $240 a week, which is incredibly low considering the hours they put in. This issue needs more attention, and it's surprising that it's not a bigger focus. The majority of minor league players do not make it to the majors, with only about 10% reaching that level. The average minor league player's career has a limited shelf life. 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 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 wage? Guys on the practice squad in the NFL are making real wages, giving them a reason to keep playing. The minor league, from what you're telling me, seems like if the first couple of years don't look good, you might as well cut bait and get out of baseball. We're likely losing a lot of talent that could improve the game. With a minimal investment, the league could benefit from more diversity, better gameplay, and heartwarming stories. The clubs are not capped in their spending on minor league contracts, so investing more can lead to a stronger farm system and team. You mentioned minor league players can have a net worth ranging from 3 million to 25 million and generate revenues exceeding 10 million dollars a year. Minor league games may struggle with attendance, but they focus on enhancing the fan experience. Teams can change affiliations, but ultimately, it's about supporting the players who will eventually fill the rosters. Want that team anymore, do they take all the players? Yeah. Yeah. That's basically what they're fighting for, the players to fill out this roster. Owning a minor league baseball team sounds like yeah. But you also have like a built-in kind of safety net of being like, it's hard to establish a team. So if the Reds want someone basically a minor league affiliate where they can call someone up and have them be there within a couple of hours and be able to send people back and forth. So that you do have some competition from like, say, who is that team in Northern Kentucky or something like that where they could possibly kind of work out a deal, but they're incentivized to keep that regional kind of affiliate. Yeah. And I'm high on the high single level, the Tigers feed and they'll like two or three different teams around 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 how minor league baseball. Clearly. No, I'm sorry. I feel like this has become a lesson for me to learn minor league baseball. It's the world we 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, 9 billion, 13 billion, 8 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 of all kinds of other stuff. So there's only so many billions for player salaries. And if you're a major league advocate, like if I represent major league players, every dollar that I advocate for minor league players is a dollar that I cannot get to a major league player, right? So really, the fixes minor league players need, they 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 they're like, that's how that's how that representation is. That's right. Effectively, how it is like they just get whatever league or organization-wide benefits that come with the collective bargaining agreements, but without player like class-specific reps, like no one's in there to say, Hey, there needs to be a high 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. I know a whole lot more about minor league baseball now. Well, really, 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 locked in since Monday. I know I've got nothing done is the only thing that I can do is sit on the ESPN free agency tracker and just keep pulling it down and just check 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, like before we get into us hitting free agency, one, we see Miles Garrett over here is like, I wouldn't play for this team for any amount of money. We're like, Gary's representation is shutting down all extension talks. Like he's not and 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 like, forget off and talk to the GM. They were like, no, we didn't care about you. You're a portfolio edition, bro. Then less than 48 hours later, they were like, how about 40 million dollars? 40 million a year. That's disgusting. People were talking about like whether or not this guy was worth first and second round picks to the Cleveland Browns were like, well, how. What are the Cleveland Browns doing with their minds? I don't know. How was the defensive end market? Like 35 tops, right? Like that was, like, like Max Crosby had just signed for 34 or 35 a year shout out Eastern Michigan. Max Crosby did just sign he was like, 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 wrapped up into Sean Watson. I don't know how this works. It's baked in. They can't get out of it. It's baked in. They've already paid him. So in that weekend though, the craze, we got Miles Garrett. We got Max Crosby. So we got these two massive end contracts that I don't know if any of us really thought that we were in the mid-thirties with ends yet. Like I think we were 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? You just lose his mind like mid-game. He just like 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 main where it was "Step Brothers" and they 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 million a year. 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 think that Aaron Rodgers has any more juice? No, or do you just think it's clear 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 did he sign? Dolphins. Who cares? It's Zach Wilson. It does not matter. But this brings us to 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, poverty-ass, broke-ass franchise that is the Cincinnati Bengals. I don't understand. They 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 Trey's going to want 35 at least. Trey wants $35 now. T ain't taking a dime less than $32 million. 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 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? This was his fourth year. They were trying to get a contract done. They wanted to sign an extension. But why would you sign that for $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 make all sense. He sat out practices because he wasn't getting a new contract. So what would lead to negotiation contract? I understand it's a negotiation contract, but if I'm, damn it, it's a contract. You're negotiating contract before the playing contract. I think I get what you're saying, but I think my, my thought process is, but 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 think 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, at this point, you have now outpaced Justin Jefferson by three and a half million dollars a year, who was the highest paid player in quarterback at that point. Now you're sitting here 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. We do not know how those negotiations went. We always have our rumors until we found out that 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 to say 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 why would he hold out if he like, 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 to the number, but saying I want 45 million dollars a year. You put me 45 million dollars a year. I'll sign it right now. If not, I'm going to sit out and not get hurt. Let me come on. Okay. We 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 ball? I don't know if that's unlike any other. No, 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 no, even is saying, 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 the end of this. No, no, no, 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? The injury. Yeah, that's the incentive. Injury. Because you're not when the triple crown and I tear my ACL. Sure. That's why you sit out practice. That's why players sign the contracts. The logic that like the amount of bet on himself 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 and he's not going to be like, Oh, Jamar Chase isn't a wide receiver. It's the NFL. Like what happened to Brandon Ayuk? I understand. And look what happened to me. Chris, Kevin 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 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 side that they're not being given credit for. And it's basically painting the Bengals in a bad light. Again, I could be completely wrong. And the Bengals could be hard one. Here's the deal. The news is 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, next year is the fifth year option. I'm not lying. This is the last year of the video. Well, I mean, if he gets to free agency, it might be $46 million a year. 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 think that's why I'm coming in like this whole 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 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 guarantee money. I don't give a shit. He has billions of dollars. He owns an NFL franchise. Shut that shit 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 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 have one good offseason in free agency that we're really head-on. And we, 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, fuck 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. Like, 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. Like it's incredible how much money for a shitty free agent for a crummy 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, like the Eagles in 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 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 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 what, but what, 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 Saquon. And that's because the Giants totally shat the bed. Like Saquon Barkley 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 Saquon on that, right? Like Howie 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, and this is the problem. I think that happens around here. Everyone in the Metro Detroit area is so impatient with Brad Holmes because he plays it conservatively. They 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 splashy reads. Like 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 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 this 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 consistently go up. Players have also seen the cap rise, and agents are aware of this. That's why we're currently in this situation, and there's no indication that this trend is slowing down. We're moving ahead full steam in the best possible manner. The Patriots are able to spend this much money because they have significant cap space compared to other teams. They had by far the most available cap in the NFL. It wasn't even close; it was substantial. They had about 100 million in cap space. They were possibly at risk of not reaching the cap floor. In this scenario, with the cap increasing annually, while the rookie scale may not adjust at the same rate, there's an incentive to draft as much as possible. Drafting allows for cost-controlled players for at least four years, leaving room in the budget for pursuing high-value free agents like Saquon Barkley. Players like Saquon Barkley ideally should not even reach free agency, unless there is some mismanagement. For instance, Joe Shane signed Darius Slaton for a similar quantity that he wouldn't offer to Saquon. This decision doesn't make sense, especially when they had been trying to trade Slaton for years. As a Bengals fan, or if I were a New York Giants fan or a loyal football fan, I'd consider switching allegiances. New England had 17 million more in cap space than any other team due to the Carlton Davis project. The Bears, among a few other teams, had commitments exceeding 200 million dollars on the first day of free agency, which was remarkable. The Lions are making significant changes in the NFC North. NFL free agency has captured my attention lately; the intriguing shifts in money flow have caught my eye.  
  
Chris, what's on your mind today, man? The absurd trade war escalating tariffs on Canada to 50% because Donald Trump is unhappy with a deal he made five years ago. It's a baffling situation, and I have been consciously trying to avoid dwelling on it. The gist of it is that Trump believes tariffs are beneficial for the economy, leading to 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico. There was a temporary pause, but Canada retaliated with tariffs on the US. One notable outcome is the rise in bourbon sales in Canada. Ontario's Doug Ford has threatened to increase electricity prices by 25% for states reliant on Canadian electricity. Despite a temporary negotiation table offer, no substantial changes have occurred from last year. What worries me is the potential repercussions in this region due to the trade war and the underlying logic behind the tariffs. The idea is to incentivize companies to keep production within the US, investing in American suppliers and boosting domestic production. Or whatever, build 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, 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. And so they've been building and optimizing the supply lines through Canada and Mexico for decades, decades. And what happens is some of these parts that cross these borders multiple times, right? Like, 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 that are in a Ford car. So for example, we drive a Lincoln Corsair. It's just a gussied-up Ford Edge, right? It's just that I'm bougie and I wanted nice features, but I could have saved some money and bought a Ford Edge, be the same car, right? So they don't make parts unique to Lincoln cars, right? Like, certainly maybe some of the panels on the front, but internally, it's the same engine. It's the same leather. It's the same consoles. It's the same basic stuff that you don't see the same windows, right? It's the same frame. And what the automotive industry does is they say, "Okay, I'm going to build this part using Canadian steel here. I'll bring it into the United States. I'll add some more stuff here. And then like, let's say it's a part for a sedan, maybe like a wire harness that's going to go in a sedan. Well, I'm going to ship some of these parts to Mexico where they can assemble the sedan for cheap. And I need them to assemble the sedan for cheap because I can't sell the sedan for much money, right? If the only thing that you do, let's say you bring in all these jobs to the United States, and American auto is like, "Okay, we get the point. We're going to invest in American supply lines. We're going to buy American steel instead of Canadian steel. We're going to do all this stuff." The only thing you've done is made every single car in the United States more expensive. And the only thing you've really done is put American auto at a competitive disadvantage because for the other car companies in Japan and Europe, they don't deal with this problem, right? So, for American auto, the thing that kind of worries me is like, "All right, how many factories are just going to have to halt production because we can't build certain lines of cars because they can no longer compete in a segment, right? How many shifts have to stop? How many people get laid off because we can no longer compete in a hyper-competitive market, a hyper-competitive market, right? So that's the thing that's kind of got me messed up. And it's just like people don't get it. Certainly GM gets it, but they're not out here explaining it to people, you know? So the average person just walking around like, "Well, don't worry, the jobs will come here. It's three percent unemployment. Like who out here really looking for work? Pretty good right now. Pretty good right now. But it's been good. Well, it's going to be a bit of a transition period, Chris, that we're going to have to deal with here as we make America rich again, right? Like it's, I don't know. So it's just kind of got me messed up. I have family in Canada and really, it's just stupid. The whole "Canada 51st state" thing is just like, come on, serious. Like, so I don't know. Yeah, that man, it's just another one of those flooding the zone with stuff. Yeah, it's just dealing with it on a day-to-day basis is difficult, especially something like this where any of the things that have been done, it feels like it's difficult to be like to know what to do, but something like this, like how do I make an impact on tariffs? I guess call my senator. I mean, yeah, but like, right, like it's the executives, it's the choice of the executive. The executive gets to choose what they want to do here. They have plenary power over the border. 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, 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 are pretty complex. If you don't 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 things were too expensive. And now it's going to get too expensive. It's going to get so expensive. And this person stands up there. And the only thing he What 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. 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. Peter Doocy. Peter Doocy. Who's that about an automatic Pia of a person as you can get? A dude 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 1,500 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 find yourself wondering that though, where you're like, Is it really Amazon? I'm not 119. I started thinking the other day, like, when the recession happened in like, oh wait, we were pretty much on that. Like, we don't really know what's going on. We're 17 years old, we don't really know what's going on. I'm gonna 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 doing this. I got some liquidity. Maybe I just get in here real quick, you know? Yeah, like what happens? Oh, you just looked like you had a thought, man, like you had to look on your face like you had something to say. Yeah, I don't know. No answers. I don't know, man. I'm just kind of keeping my 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. If you wanted to be a real asshole and you didn't mind spending a little bit of coin to get your shit 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. All right. My attorney said that we can't sue anybody, so I guess we're just going to have to deal with these tariffs. All right, fellas. Like, 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, they make maple syrup tapping the tree. Tap like, yeah, it's legit. Like out of a tree. And I just learned from this person that I didn't know that right now is the time. Yes, you go by my tree right now and hammer it, tap that shit, 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 ready for milking the sweet nectar. I like that. It's got a 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 anymore. Kids don't know about it. They don't even know. 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 ass. I even forgot they made a third. What was it called? Little Fockers. Yeah. Oh, do they have kids? Yeah, they have kids, and the movie's trash because they're little Fockers hijinks and zoo. 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, Jinks and Su. Do you remember that period of time where Robert De Niro was just 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 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 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 trend stopped, and all those old guys started doing family comedies, like Eddie Murphy and Robin Williams. It just wasn't going well. Then Robert De Niro decided to kick it up a notch and do "Dirty Grandpa," but it didn't do well either. It has moments that are pretty hilarious, based on Robert De Niro saying absurd things. Enough about Robert De Niro though, let's wrap up. Before we do, we have time for one more recommendation. Ethan, kick us off. My recommendation is the book "James" by Percival Ever. It's a retelling of the adventures of Huckleberry Finn from the point of view of Jim. The book addresses issues present in Huckleberry Finn and introduces a significant twist, but I won't spoil it. It's a popular novel that I highly recommend. I also recommend "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" for a fun adventure. I'm currently reading it and enjoying the journey down the river. You do not need to read Huckleberry Finn before delving into "James" to appreciate it. "James" stands well on its own. Moving on, Chris recommends the movie "Mickey 17" starring Robert Pattinson, which he found particularly timely and enjoyable. Kind of a basically post-apocalyptic future where a charismatic, very rich 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 I don't know, Robert Pattinson plays the titular character, Mickey 17. And basically does jobs that are dangerous because they can reprint him. A 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, and 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, enjoyed this movie. I love it. And it's not because Robert Pattinson is sexy in it. In fact, she said, “Wow, this makes me just 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. 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, baby. 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 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 a more perfect person to play this character. Get out of here, Ben Affleck. Did they bring back Foggy and Deborah Ann Woll? I thought they did. They did. They bring back Foggy and Deborah Ann Woll. Karen Page. Karen Page. They bring back Wilson Fisk. Through the first two episodes, they're very clearly setting up this one-to-one conflict. I'm digging it so far. I'm really enjoying it. If you're like me, hesitant to be back in the Marvel stuff because it's not been good to us of late, I'm really enjoying this and recommend that you watch it. 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. Did we decide we're doing the NFL Draft? Yeah, well, Pat doesn't want to talk about it, so we're going to do it without him. No, but we can't do the Draft Preview, can we? Oh, well, I just want to remember when it comes out. No, we have to get through all the pro days. All right, everybody out there, we're probably not doing the NFL Draft next week, but don't worry. It's coming out, so we're going 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, 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.