

THE ROUNDTABLE



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FIRST QUARTER: Were the Orioles' weekend woes a blip, or sign of things to come?

Their starting pitching isn't playoff quality. The starters are 13th in the AL in ERA, 14th in innings. They don't just need Tillman back, they need Palmer and McNally, too.

It was just a minor blip on the season. Everyone knows the Yankees, well, you know, so they'll be waiting for them when they come to Bawlmer.

Pitching was always going to be this team's weakness, although it's worrisome when it comes from the bullpen. They'll be fine.

Considering it was their first lost series of the season, and that it was late April, I'm leaning toward blip. Although, Zach Britton can't get back fast enough.

The Baltimore Orioles will win the World Series this year. That's my hot take.

SECOND QUARTER: What would you have done differently for the Ravens at the NFL Draft?

With the best (Steve Smith) of a mediocre group of wideouts retiring, hard to fathom how they couldn't find a way to take a single receiver in the draft.

I would have drafted an O-lineman, or since they got all defense maybe a QB of the future since Flacco will be running for his life once again. Looking forward to many 9-7 victories this fall.

Drafted a long snapper, or two. As a Steelers fan, I'm disappointed the Ravens got as many good defensive players as they did.

Sure, I'd have gone after a receiver. But I'd also say their defense let them down more times last season. If it doesn't get better, this will be Harbaugh & Co's final draft together.

I'm surprised they didn't draft an offensive skill position player, so I would have most likely done that. They'll be golden on defense, though.

THIRD QUARTER: Any chance the Capitals come back in their playoff series against the Pens?

You are aware of their history, right? I don't even understand the question.

This Capitals team is different. They'll spot the Pens the first two games but they'll be the ones advancing to the next round. For a change.

I think they'll take 2 of the next 3, because that's how this rivalry usually goes, but Pens win in 6.

Maybe the whole "Give Ovechkin More Ice Time" theory actually makes sense? Either that or a defense letting them down when it matters most, which has become an annual tradition in the nation's capital.

We've all seen this song and dance before. My apologies go to the Caps (and their fans) but my Pens are winning in four or five games.

FOURTH QUARTER: Can the Wizards get to the conference finals?

If they start playing D, if John Wall plays as he did against Atlanta, if they get something out of the bench, yes, they could earn the right to be swept by the LeBrons.

I'm struggling with this series. I've been a lifelong Celtics fan but have been watching a lot of Wizards games with my boys. They'll go to Game 7 and fall to the Celts.

Pittsburgh doesn't have a team in the NBA to haunt Ted Leonsis and D.C. fans' dreams right? Yeah, they're good.

If the Capitals can't make it, the Wizards surely can. Except for the part where they won't make it.

I'm not sure there will be a better answer to this than Wayne's, but blowing early leads in crucial games can't fare well for any team.

OVERTIME: Who would you have picked as Kelly Ripa's new co-host?

Literally anyone who isn't repulsively ugly, isn't incapable of communicating and, most important, isn't named Ryan Seacrest.

I think Pat Stoetzer would have been a great co-host to Kelly. He's a big teddy bear like Michael Strahan that can put up with Kelly's baggage, and have you heard that guy sing Barenaked Ladies?

WWE's John Cena, of course. Have you seen him crush it on "Today" over on NBC?

Our own resident celebrity, Bird Brown. I'm sure he could find a little time in his schedule to tape some talk shows in New York.

Truth be told, I'm more concerned there wasn't a Kentucky Derby question this week. What gives?