

Untraditional Achievers

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article on under and over achievers



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What would you rather have? An overachieving team or an underachieving team? On one side, you have a team with little talent and on the other is a team full of talent. On one side you have a team that plays as a team and works their tails off, and on the other you have a team that is mostly content just to earn a paycheck. On one side you have a team that just plays the game and on the other is a team that talks a lot and makes excuses but doesn't back it up. One of the team wins, the other team doesn't.

Each year, in all sports mind you, many teams are labeled as over-achievers and more often under-achievers. This term is reliable when a fan is able to boil a team down to the inner sanctum of its entire edifice. Once a team is designated as an under-achiever, the label sticks, and spreads like wildfire. If a team is comprised of highly-paid 1st round draft picks and performs at .500 or sub-.500 then they will most certainly be voted as an under-achieving team. Most under-achieving teams, and for the sake of arbitrariness well call them losers from here on out, can be attributed to management and owners. Many "losers" have a bunch of talented players that are flashy and might not exactly be a saint when it comes to off the field antics. Too many of these on one team can invoke bad work ethic even into previously diligent players. Another common factor among "losers" is that they try and do too much. Let's say, for example, your football team has 4 offensive weapons. If you try to "spread the love" just to make everyone happy or for the sake of utilizing all your good players out of sheer impulse, you will undoubtedly be a loser. Too many good players on a team is almost as bad as too many bad players. A universal aspect of all under-achieving teams is that they don't stick to the basics, and let the guards down too easily when they play bad teams. In professional sports, it's unfair to say any game at any time is a gimme. Unless of course it's patriots vs. lions, but in all other cases there is still a chance of the infamous "upset." In lament terms, an upset is when a bad or mediocre team beats a good team. Whether it be lack of game planning or execution, the bad teams will always be taken for granted, as will the execution of the good teams.

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