

Pinaki Mazumder's posting at Yahoo on tennis, soccer, and basketball

-----> TENNIS <-----



Pinaki
on January 23, 2019

[Genuine sportsmanship is rare, but Serena Williams displayed it in Australian Open exit](#)

Once Serena twisted her ankle that had a previous surgery, her game definitely showed the effect of the incident. It is inane to say that she was not affected and therefore did not call for medical help. Perhaps, it was clear to her that she would not be able to win the next match on the very next day, even if she had made a desperate effort by calling a doctor and disrupting the momentum that Pliskova was building in her impossible come back bid. If Serena had managed to win after taking the medical break, she would have to face a far more agile and hard-hitting opponent, who had beaten her in 2018 US Open Final. It was a calculated decision to underplay the impact of the on-court injury giving credit to the deserving opponent. That was a good decision and only Serena could make that decision, as she was familiar with lingering handicap due to her ankle injury from past matches. The thing that matters is the opportune times running out on Serena to break the all time winning record and be unanimously recognized as the Greatest of All Time (GOAT) in Women Tennis or perhaps in all women sports.

USA v. Switzerland in Hopman Cup 2019 at Perth, Australia



[Pinaki Mazumder, February 2019](#)

This match evidently falls short of all the pre-match hypes and wide media publicity. Neither Serena Williams nor Frances Tiafoe has significant experience in playing doubles, let alone mixed doubles where perhaps the net game of every player matters more than in regular doubles. The US pair appear to be completely bamboozled by the Swiss reigning Hopman Cup (1918) champion duo, displaying Federer's deft net game and a steady hand of Bencic. The USA pair lost in all of their round robin matches because of their poor preparation in the mixed doubles format, although Serena had had an upper hand in the women's singles event in all those matches. Perhaps, John Isner and Serena Williams combination would have been much more successful in winning many round robin matches and the USA could have advanced to the Final to contend for the Hopman Cup in 2019.



Pinaki
4 years ago (2014)

Tennis, when it transcends physical fitness, repertoire of strokes, and hand-eye coordination, it is all about one's heart and brain -- the resolve to fight till the last ball is played and the ability to think smartly under pressure and exhaustion. Monfil should learn from yesterday's match that he has talent and physical gifts, but he needs to work on mental side of the game and not masquerade that by clowning around and attention gathering antics.



Pinaki

5 years ago (2013)

Grass courts have changed since the days when serve and volley used to dominate in Wimbledon and players like Becker and Edberg who are now coaches of Novak and Federer, respectively used to play scintillating tennis with booming serve and deft volleys at the net with occasional lunging and rolling over to return screaming passing shots. Wimbledon has now become like other Grand Slam tournaments with protracted baseline rallies and very rarely players dare to rush to the net for volleying right after serving. Perhaps, the sophisticated racket technology, ball pressure, and the engineering of grass courts have combined to morph Wimbledon now, thereby enabling players like Novak and Rafael to demolish their opponents combating from the baseline. Perhaps, if the Center Court had retained its pristine lush green sleek grass surface where ball stays low and skids, Federer might have won at least a couple of more Wimbledon trophies.



Pinaki

2 years ago (2016)

[Federer win ends greatest-ever debate](#)

Greatest of all time (GOAT) is a player who (i) displays every shot in tennis in his arsenal and is backed up by (ii) the highest (or nearly) number of grand slam titles. With his single-handed backhand that seems to have improved with his new racket, Federer is certainly the GOAT of the open era since players prior to that were eclipsed by restrictions on pro-tennis players, inferior racket technology and impoverished earnings that precluded having personal trainers and coaches.

-----> **SOCCER** <-----.



Pinaki

4 years ago (2014)

“The German team embodies many of the qualities that typify Germany today: commitment, discipline, technical skill and tactical know-how”, he (Germany's top bank Deutsche Bank, Juergen Fitschen) said. Moreover, there was no hype (like Brazil), no individual hero adulation (like Ronaldo and Messi), and no let up from the ultimate goal to score GOALS and WIN playing attacking type soccer. Klinsmann-initiated the transformed German soccer team came short in 2006 and 2010 to win the FIFA trophy, and prized themselves in 2014 by playing as a solid team and not as a motley of well-heeled professional players anxious to display individual flares and earn kudos. Perhaps, having rich clubs like Bayern

Munich and Borussia Dortmund in German soccer league is a major factor behind German team's WC 2014 victory, as Barcelona FC had cast a long shadow with its tiki-taka style in Spain's WC 2010 victory.



Pinaki

4 years ago (2014)

Messi v. LeBron. Two global sports icons, presently the best in their sports and are waiting to be anointed to be GOAT (greatest of all time) in their own sports that are so radically different. Soccer is notoriously low scoring in the midst of action-packed drama evoking a range of emotions of the animated spectators. Basketball is galore of scores with spectacular acrobatic movements, although the last few milliseconds frequently differentiate between the winner and the loser. LeBron did not win the NBA Championship ring in 2010-11 when Miami Heat lost to Dallas Maverick (coincidentally led by a German), partially because LeBron passed the basketball too many times to other players (perhaps for good reasons) instead of charging to the basket and scoring himself. Messi played somewhat tentatively in both the semifinal and the final games of the World Cup without displaying the vigor and aggressiveness of Maradona who is now considered the soccer GOAT. LeBron learned from the 2010 championship loss and transformed himself into a much improved and decisive player that fetched him two championship rings and the playoff MVPs. Messi needs to step up in 2018 WC and go all alone if he is to be remembered as the soccer GOAT. The somber look of Messi while collecting the best footballer award carried the wanting feeling of not delivering to his team and the nation as well as the significance of today's final in his football dossier. Marios Kempes and Diego Maradona had delivered the World Cup for Argentina, as did Pele of Brazil who is hoisted to the regal status by universal soccer fans. Messi excels in Barcelona, as he is surrounded by other stars. The present Argentina team needs more strikers like Germany and Belgium. Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero played sub par throughout the WC and did not complement well with Messi.



Pinaki

4 years ago (2014)

Soccer has gained universal appeal because it is an ultra-low-cost sport in its bare form and can be played over a bare stretch of land without requiring much paraphernalia like baseball, hockey, and tennis. Though glitz and glamor of English Premiere League and Spanish La Liga dazzle fans by producing magical moments by superstars like Ronaldo and Messi, less glamorous events like FA Cup flock ardent soccer lovers in smaller cities and remote country sides to root for their unheralded local clubs when their impoverished players match their soccer skills against multimillionaire players of big clubs. Last year's Premiere League champ, Manchester City and this year's League championship contender, Chelsea got booted out of FA Cup today by two low-profile clubs, Middlebrough and Bradford, respectively. That is what FA Cup is all about, a stark reality check for those urban cash-laden soccer clubs and their prized acquisitions.



Pinaki

5 years ago (2014)

Are those Yahoo bracket points indicated for the experts? If so, these experts did not do that well because the highest score is 180 in Yahoo brackets. My Yahoo brackets score is 26/48 (group) + 14/14 (knockout) fetching a total points of 148.

Predictions: Germany v. Argentina: 3-1 and Brazil v. Netherlands: 2-1.

Reasons: Messi will be contained effectively by German wall of defenders as it happened in Champions League in last two years, while the German offense has at least 3 or 4 potential scorers.

Brazil will regroup their defense with their regular skipper at the helm and their offense will salvage some of their wounded pride of 1-7 show against Germany. Netherlands is exhausted after two 2-hour back-to-back quarter and semi final matches that were both decided by penalty shootout. Their standout star Arien Robben must be tired now after giving everything to win both the matches for 4 exhausting hours. He is the forerunner for the best player of the WC along with Lionel Messi, perhaps the best football player in last 4 decades.



Pinaki

5 years ago (2014)

It was a sad day for soccer to witness the most decorated, the most respected, and the most popular soccer nation in the world, Brazil was in stupor and total disarray in the first 30 minutes of the much-heralded World Cup Soccer Semifinal match conceding five embarrassing goals in front of the stunned, devastated and weeping spectators. In Yahoo brackets, I picked Germany to win by 2-1 since in my evaluation Germany is a better team and deserved to be in the Final. From 2006 World Cup, Germany had morphed from traditional defense powerhouse into a balanced team with strikers like Klose, Podolsky, Ballack, and Mueller relentlessly launching blitzkriegs on the opponent's goal box. So far I am 13/13 in prediction of knockout matches and overall 39/61 with 140 points in Yahoo brackets. Therefore, I was not expecting Brazil to win today especially after the setbacks Brazil suffered in the quarterfinal against Colombia, but it was painful to witness the free fall of Brazil from the soccer summit it had scaled since 1954 as Pele's wizardry with soccer ball mesmerized the whole world. Brazil retired the Jules Rime Trophy after winning the world cup three times in 1970. It won the FIFA World Cup in 1994 and 2002, an unprecedented five times. Therefore, it was shocking and numbing like witnessing the assassination of Julius Caesar in Shakespeare's play, as Brazil's Julio Cesar helplessly succumbed as German strikers again and again dented the porous Brazil's defense and pierced the soccer net in front of felled Cesar. It was a tragedy that must have shocked even German fans. It was a fall of an emperor stunned and bleeding. On Sunday, there will be a new Kaiser donning World Cup crown.



Pinaki

5 years ago (2014)

USA has perhaps exceeded expectations of the most optimistic soccer experts by beating their nemesis Ghana for the first time in World Cup, holding off FIFA #4 Portugal (or rather winning against them until the last few seconds when the world's best player Ronaldo produced a miracle set piece to tie the game), and pushing the aggressive Germany on its back foot for the good length of the match before yielding a goal. Though the first 90 minutes against Belgium was a bit drab, but the extra time produced excitements, suspense and enlivened the match. The final score is perhaps justified considering that

Belgium has at least three stellar players including Vincent Kompany the skipper of Manchester City that won Barclay's Premiere League in this year. The US coach had trained the team to play attacking style of soccer of which Klinsmann himself is the finest exponent as well as coaching the German team in the 2006 World Cup. It worked well for Germany since traditionally Germany is a listless defense powerhouse and has won three world cup championships by shutting out firebrand opponents like Brazil and Netherlands. What is needed for the future US team to move deeper in the World Cup brackets is to build a solid defense along with Klinsmann type offense. The fact that Tim Howard had saved 16 point blank shots to set up a new record in goal keeping speaks itself for shortcomings of the defense.



Pinaki
last year (2017)

[Manchester United star Juan Mata laments painful derby defeat](#)

Manchester City breaks record in the hallowed Manchester United arena to the dismay of MU fans. Post-game celebration by MC leading to fist fight only heightens the derby hype soccer thrives on. The game itself did not rise to high level of soccer artistry though two clumsy and one avoidable goals were scored to inject some excitements.



Pinaki
July 2018

[Here's the most painful part of England's World Cup semifinal loss](#)

This World Cup is thrilling and nerve racking even for a neutral fan like me, because every team in the playoff stage was capable of beating the other team. There was not a single boring match and the final results were so close often with a heart breaking penalty shootout loss. Though the decibel levels in the stadium and gathering arena were deafening, fans behaved maturely and there are hardly any proverbial soccer hooliganism. Three cheers for soccer



Pinaki
June 2018

[Why soccer players flop, and why divers themselves aren't the only ones to blame](#)

Perhaps, FIFA loves to linger controversies in refereeing and theatrics of players - feigned or genuine. 32 years after one only talks about Hand of God goal by a Diego's freakish handball that earned a goal for Argentina. One talks about unsettled controversies in 1966 world cup soccer that England won. Because of multitude of cameras, bogus flops get caught now a days that were not possible 3 decades ago. There should be a post match review like in NBA for bogus claims of fouls by flopping and appropriate retrograded penalty must be imposed in the form of post-match yellow card. Also, VAR technology can be leveraged by appointing additional officials to help curtail flops and fake fouls.



Pinaki

June 2018

[Why soccer players flop, and why divers themselves aren't the only ones to blame](#)

It is a probing and nice article attempting to educate the spectators about fouls in soccer that spectators often react emotionally and not objectively. All contact sports are controversial and subject to criticism by fans who see things with polarized lenses. Soccer officials have learned to protect players through yellow and red cards after ignoring for decades numerous crippling injuries suffered by legends like Pele, Maradona, Cryuff, etc.



Pinaki

June 2018

[So, 'football's coming home' ... what does England's World Cup song/slogan mean?](#)

Club football is about superstars: Messi, Ronaldo, Neymar, ... who thrive in the company of multi-million dollar worthy cluster of teammates. World Cup soccer is all about heart and hard work. That makes the game so special, and so universal. It does not matter which teams are competing on the arena for many of us, who love this sport. The whole spectacle of ecstasy and agony displayed by colorful banner waving spectators, the beauty of aerodynamic trajectory of the soccer ball kissing the net, and the grit and toil of 11 players on the ground who bear the weight of their nation are what World Cup is about.

Pinaki



Pinaki

July 2018

[Belgium blitzes Brazil, then hangs on for World Cup quarterfinal upset](#)

Brazil should be proud to have fought hard and lost due to too many misses and a few bad luck compounded by outstanding goalkeeping by Belgium. On paper, Belgium is a better team, just by counting the star quality players. Neymar's antics against Mexico might have cast shadow on some close calls preventing Brazil from getting benefit of critical foul calls. Nevertheless, better two teams (France and Belgium) will meet in the semifinal and the winner may win it all. The other side of brackets look weaker, though soccer is a crazy sports where #1 Germany went down against #60+ Korea.



Pinaki

8 months ago

[How do the World Cup quarter-finalists compare?](#)

Two sides of the brackets are skewed in terms of merits of the teams. Brazil (FIFA ranking is #2), Belgium (#3), France (#7) and Uruguay (#14) are in one side of the bracket for only one of them to meet in the Final a relatively weak team on the other side. Ranking of England is #12 (shared with Denmark that already lost), Croatia (#20), Sweden (#24) and Russia (#70).



Pinaki

July 2018

[Japanese team leaves dressing room spotless after devastating loss to Belgium](#)

Japan has elevated the stature of Asian soccer by dominating over #3 ranked Belgium until the 70th minute. The last minute goal was a strategic error where all defenders accumulated near the Belgium goal area leaving themselves open to a blitz by decorated Belgium marksmen, who toiled with grit and plan to wipe out the two goals deficit that could have ended most other teams. Belgium and France are expected to meet in the Semifinal if they can keep up with their level of play. Again, Asian soccer countries like Korea and Iran did quite well though they fizzled out in the group stage. Korea had lost in group stage by bringing down the mighty #1 Germany stunning the soccer world.



Pinaki

June 2018

[In probably his last World Cup, Lionel Messi is fizzling out](#)

It was a sad show of highly hyped Argentina being crushed by a disciplined and energetic Croatia. The rot in Argentina soccer was covered up for a long time. They struggled in World Cup Qualifying stage and barely making it at the end along with Peru and Colombia, all of them won 7 matches out of 18 matches. So rightfully Argentina's performance is comparable with Peru and Colombia, who lost all their matches so far in the World Cup. What is glaring is that Messi could not create a single magical play that his ardent fans are so badly craving for to rave about much beyond the World Cup 2018.



Pinaki

3 years ago (2015)

Despite the fact that Big Ten had five teams in the Top 25 list during most of the regular season, the weaknesses of Big Ten has been exposed by inept and poor performance of MSU. Only Ohio State could beat formidable teams like Alabama, Clemson and Oklahoma, but OSU was unlucky to lose against MSU in a well-contested regular season match and being left out. Perhaps, a new scoring metric should be established to count the goal differences and to give partial points to the losing team if the score difference is 3 or less, or the game is decided by OT. The binary point system is somewhat wanting and often occludes the merits of a good team that may lose on a bad day in a close match.



Pinaki

2 years ago

[No Politics, No Controversy, No Frills, No Special Guests: Lady Gaga Brings Together a Nation at Super Bowl LI](#)

Perhaps, the best Half-time show in Super Bowl since the late Michael Jackson and Prince put up memorable displays. Kudos to Lady Gaga for lifting the bar for the future performers.



Pinaki

4 years ago

The run rate is the first factor that may decide the ultimate outcome of the semifinal matches. The run rate statistics is in favor of Australia having +2.26 in 6 Pool A matches against India's +1.83 in 6 Pool B matches. India has barely scored 6 runs/over in Pool B matches, while frequently languishing nearly at 4.5 runs/over in the first 35 overs. India batting first needs to start aggressively and score at least 200 runs in 35 overs, and then add 150+ in the next 15 overs.

The second factor that will matter is the toss and who bats at first. While Australia may overcome a 300+ barrier at MCC if they have to chase, India is likely to succumb under pressure and barrage of wild bounces hurled at them if they are put to bat second.

The third factor is psyche/memories of recent ODI encounters as well as the tete-a-tete playoff results in the past World Cup events where India is clearly at a disadvantage.

The fourth is the home, sweet home factor that gives a big advantage to Australia playing in their hallowed MCC stadium.

The fifth is the pressure to Repeat in the World Cup though it is the penultimate round. Only Australia has done this twice in 1999, 2003 and 2007, ignoring the Prudential Cup results.

-----→ **BASKETBALL** ← -----



Pinaki

on January 10, 2019

[Kyrie Irving candidly details "challenge" of playing with LeBron James](#)

If Kyrie had stuck with LeBron, Cavs could have met Warriors in half a dozen of times, and won a couple of more NBA rings. Perhaps, the controversy fueled by media in 2016 NBA championship that Kyrie should have been awarded the playoff MVP and few other personal reasons propelled him to move to Boston. However, Celtics is unlikely to contend for NBA championship in next few years as the standing in Eastern Conference shows with Milwaukee, Toronto and Philadelphia are likely to be the NBA final contender. It is unfortunate that with Kyrie's departure and Cavs unimaginative response to replenish Kyrie's towering absence by the side of LeBron (those dual 40 point games in NBA finals against Warriors) ultimately broke up Cavs.



Pinaki

3 years ago Replied to a reaction (2015)

[LeBron vs. Steph Part 2: How legacies are defined](#)

Agreed. Last year, I argued that the honor of the playoff MVP should have been given to LeBron since he had outscored, out-rebounded and out-assisted everyone one on both sides. The rationale the NBA pundits used to hand over the prestigious trophy to a bench player who never started for Warriors was that Iggy had prevented LBJ from scoring more points lowering his %'s. That was an inane argument. Aside the fact that LBJ had superior performance, NBA should have recognized that if he had tanked the match in absence of supporting cast, the league would have recognized the meaning of MVP.



Pinaki

3 years ago (2015)

[LeBron vs. Steph Part 2: How legacies are defined](#)

Steph Curry, the current MVP, has delivered without much fanfare by raising the Phoenix from ashes. He regrouped his disarrayed and demoralized Warriors after trailing 1-3 in the Western Conference Finals against Kevin Durant's (the 2014's MVP) OKC. Steph has had Klay Thompson to complete the mission impossible, while Kevin has had Russell Westbrook to materialize an incomplete dream of 2012 Finals.

Now, it is Steph v. LeBron - a 2-time MVP v. a 4-time MVP. It is to create a history by completely eclipsing the achievements of 1996 Bulls v. a third attempt to fetch an NBA championship for Cleveland. It is a grudge match for Cavs that went down enfeebled after two of its star players were sidelined due to injury in 2015 Finals.

The question is who has a better chance? It depends on how Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love raise their games to compensate for somewhat neutralization of LeBron James by Andre Iguodala, who won the 2015 Finals MVP. The playoffs are all about the supernatural talents of MVPs and how they respond to challenges. Cavs defense must put relentless pressures on Steph and Klay to disrupt their trigger-happy rhythms for 3-point baskets. OKC failed to stop Klay in Game 6 after having a comfortable 13 point lead in the 4th quarter, while Durant and Westbrook panicked as the lead vanished by a record high eleven 3-point baskets by Klay. Cavs need to draw their blueprint from failures of OKC. The lesson learned is never to slacken against Warriors at any phase in a game, especially in a season when they broke the NBA record with 73 wins.



Pinaki

3 years ago (2015)

[Klay, Curry save Warriors season and stun Thunder to force Game 7](#)

OKC had a formidable championship team in 2012 with James Harden as the NBA Sixth Player of the Year. They reached the NBA Finals by dominating over three recent NBA champions only to lose rather tamely against a resolute and powerful Miami Heat mainly due to weak coaching and jangling nerves of the fledgling OKC team. If the OKC management had the vision to generously negotiate the contract of Harden who eventually moved to Houston to morph into an MVP quality, stats-crunching machine, presumably OKC would have bagged at least one NBA championship by now. It appears that OKC's hope is now fading fast with Durant and Westbrook encountering increasingly stiffer competitions in the surging Western Conference. If OKC loses tonight after a 3-1 lead, the future of the team will hang in uncertainty unless the OKC management lures back Harden from the malfunctioning Rockets.



Pinaki

3 years ago (2015)

[Kevin Love Owes Some Of His Game 5 Heroics To A Selfless Pep Talk From An Unlikely Teammate](#)

When Kevin Love is mainly used as a one-dimensional perimeter shooter beyond the arc, his confidence and performance waver up and down depending on whether he succeeds in scoring 3 points. However, if he plays an all-round game that also includes attacking the basket and sinking offensive rebounds, he gets his scoring game going in addition to piling up a 2-digit defensive rebounds. Cavs needs those statistics to win. Therefore, Love should not put himself into a problematic situation by trying to chuck half-a-dozen 3-point baskets with waning confidence as the ball resiliently bounces around the rim.



Pinaki

5 years ago (2013)

The hype and notion of Big Three should be reevaluated in terms of stats and performances produced by LBJ, DW and CB over the last 48 months in order to recalibrate their \$ worth in the future Heat team. The Big Three model does not work because of financial constraints it imposes in terms of the overall team composition. Traditionally, teams like Detroit Pistons and Spurs, to a certain extent, have shown that a crop of multiple A-graded players can dominate over traditional championship teams relying on a pair of superstars and a few good players. The fact that Miami did not have hungry new players who were craving for their first NBA ring, while Spurs had too many new players who missed their opportunity in Game 6 in 2013 had provided the psychological impetus for them to play especially well in the 2014 Final. Therefore, in order to recruit fresh bloods in rebuilding the next year's Heat, Miami recruiters should look for players without any championship rings and possessing scoring and rebound stats that may complement well with LBJ, considering that in whatever new regrouping LBJ will lead the Heat drive for multiple championships. Perhaps, within the cap constraints, Carmelo Anthony and Lance Stevenson may be worth considering in addition to infusing the team with some young Turks at relatively low cost.



Pinaki

5 years ago (2013)

Spurs is winning because coach GP (pop) had realized from the last year's playoff experience that his aged players tended to fade away in long playoff series. Therefore, he gave younger players enough chances during the regular season to build their confidence and show their potential. This worked in Game 3 and Game 4. Heat coach, on the other hand, had stuck with the same set of players during regular season without creating an alternate line of young players who could surprise the opponents in the playoff matches when big players are stifled by the opponent to upset their scoring rhythms. Heat overly relied throughout the season on Big Three and Ray Allen for scoring, while other players were fielded by fits and starts. In 2012, Heat won NBA because after losing to Mavericks in 2011, the Heat prepared Miller and Battier to rain down 3 pointers that literally broke the back of OKC in NBA Final. By not giving enough chances to younger players like Beasley in regular season, Heat has no rabbits to pull now to surprise Spurs in Game 5. LBJ will make some desperate attempts to create a history; DW and CB may play sub-par again and the bench players will be almost invisible. Check the regular season stats of Spurs young players and compare them with Heat young players to understand why Spurs is so successful in 2014 Final. It is a coaching issue more than anything.



Pinaki

5 years ago Replied to a reaction (2013)

I do not think that there is much of a difference between salt and mineral deficiencies due to profuse amount of sweating that causes involuntary cramps and a player sustains an accidental injury like an ankle sprain. It is not that LBJ cramps out of games on a regular basis. I used to play club and city level competitive tennis matches and had cramps only twice in several hundred matches I had played. Physical conditioning and intake of right kind of fluids can reduce chances of onset of severe cramps, but then when one plays a string of grueling matches in a tournament like in tennis, one may get cramps and other form of muscle injuries as we witness now and then. But for the fact that any anomalous event involving LBJ hogs attention and sports writers harvest on that, this incident would have dwarfed under the last-minute spurt by Spurs to win easily. However, my point is that Heat is riding on LBJ quite complacently and viewers and critics overlook the fact that both CB and DW do not rise to the occasion when LBJ ceases to perform. The flurry of 3 points by Green and Parker started pouring in when James stopped playing. Miami defense caved in as usual and they failed to score too. That is the main reason why Heat lost. Unless the Heat coach can execute a back-up plan to score and shut the opponents when James is not playing, they will lose and the media and critics will sharpen their tools to dissect James, fairly by some metric or unfairly by some others.



Pinaki

5 years ago (2013)

Michael Chang of USA cramped in French Open Final in 1989 and served underhand against Ivan Lendl of the-then Czechoslovakia to win at the end and lofted the Championship trophy hobbling on one leg. However, cramping affects different players in different ways, though the sports that requires more jumping may incapacitate the cramped player more adversely. The real issue is whether LBJ should have hobbled like many others and ended the match. The real question is that why Miami cannot win if LBJ is in foul trouble or hobbling. What are the values of Big Two's? They could not protect the lead against a faltering Indiana in Game 5 of the Eastern Final and could not resist the battling Spurs in Game 1 of the

NBA Final. In stead of unfairly laying the blame on LeBron, both the Heat fans and LBJ detractors should try to find the answers to lack of stellar roles of CB and DW in the Heat squad, or for that matter the lack of contributions of other players when the situation demands them to step forward and get the job done.

A Role Model: My reason for posting on LeBron James's monumental basketball feats is purely personal, as I draw unstinted inspirations to excel in my academic pursuits of teaching and research by watching LBJ's phenomenal performance on the basketball court every night he plays, year after year without showing any sign of fatigue and fading. It does not matter to me what jersey he wears: Cavaliers, Heat, or Lakers, as he moves on in his quest to etch his name in the sports annals as one of the greatest basketball players ever to play. I am not interested in responding to negative postings that his detractors often dwell on to criticize him relentlessly ignoring his towering accomplishments.

My numerous other postings about LBJ's accomplishments over the past 6 years can be found at:

<http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~mazum/Yahoopostings.pdf>