

The Soap Box (7/18/02)

Darryl Kile died. 33 years old, he goes to sleep and doesn't wake up.

What the hell?

I'm 33 years old. I have to figure that Darryl Kile is in better physical condition than I am. Turns out it was some sort of heart condition, but it still makes you think about your life. I have to admit, I'm not the best at dealing with death, whether it be someone I know, or someone who I know in the public eye.

The list is long of people taken away before their prime, to name a few off the top of my head, or at least the ones that I remember having an effect on me:

Thurman Munson, Len Bias, Hank Gathers, Robin Harris, Sam Kinison, Tupac, Jimmy Ellison, Chris Farley etc.

But it makes you think about what you've done and what you're going to do. I'm sure Darryl Kile, had he known, sure would have said some things or made sure he did certain things. I don't know . . . my dad says "life isn't a dress rehearsal" and I tend to believe that. My buddy Rob died of cancer when he was 30. Fucked me up. I mean really fucked me up. Watch him die in like two weeks. Shit, we wrote a whole movie about it.

Don't be unhappy, don't work in a fucking cube, taking orders from assholes, don't put off what you can do today . . . ask that chick out that you like, go eat at that restaurant you've always wanted to try . . . go to fucking Europe, shit, stop talking about it and just do it.

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We had a card game the other day and this guy in the game, Pedro, hits a Royal Flush. Which made me start thinking about how hard that is to do, or where it ranks with other tough things to do in sports.

I asked my old man about it and he is pushing 60 years old and he has been playing poker for 40+ years and he said he has never been in a game where someone had a Royal Flush. A legit Royal, no wild cards etc.

So I ventured out . . . Golf: A hole in one? Baseball: A perfect game? Bowling: A 300 game?

What is the equivalent? I don't know, but I do know, I know I saw one.

I was trying to think of my personal greatest sports/gaming achievement, and I came up with this one:

I once threw a shut-out in the Wiffle Ball World Series against the Garden State Gophers in Trenton, NJ. The shut-out wasn't the best part, but it was that I was pitching with the second worst hang-over I ever had.

The Worst: My wedding day.

Until next time.

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