

The Nightmare Is Over  
By Jesse Almeida 6/2/21

The dreadful season is finally over. The Boston Celtics have been knocked out by the Brooklyn Nets 4 games to 1 in the first round of the playoffs. Even though it was obvious that the Celtics were overmatched by Kevin Durant, James Harden, Kyrie Irving, and the Brooklyn Nets, the season already before this was a failure. It was very hard to watch and cover this Celtics team this year as it was obvious that the team was not together throughout the season.

The Celtics finished the regular season this year at an even 36-36. This was the worst finish since the 2013-14 season when they finished 25-57. Yes they finished 40-42 in the 2014-15 season but played phenomenal in the second half of the season to get them a playoff spot where it almost did not feel like they were under .500, and no one expected them to make the postseason that year so the fact that they made it seemed like they overachieved. But when you have as good of talent as Jayson Tatum who is a superstar, Jaylen Brown who is a star himself, Kemba Walker who is supposed to be a top 10 point guard in the game, Marcus Smart as the vocal leader and grinder on the court you should be better than the 7th seed and at an even 36-36. To add on to that, the Celtics added Tristan Thompson to fix their center issue, replacing Hayward with Evan Fournier at the deadline, a lights out shooter. This team was very talented and very drastically under-achieved.

The Celtics have already begun a new shakeup that is absolutely needed for this team. Danny Ainge has resigned from his role as the President of Basketball Operations. This is a good thing for the Boston Celtics and a lot of people may disagree with this. This is good because now Brad Stevens is being promoted to fill in for Danny Ainge. Danny Ainge has been a great in the front office for the Celtics, however he has not been as great as you think he is. You want to say that he has the most wins in the postseason as a GM fine, you want to say that he found star talent in the draft after the Pierce, KG trade fine. Here's why he has not been the "GOAT" of GM's. He had chances to make the Celtics a championship contending team and he blew it multiple times. He had the chance to trade picks and Jae Crowder for Jimmy Butler. Thankfully he hit on Jaylen Brown with one of those picks however Jimmy Butler is a top talent and a dawg like KG and that could have elevated you to the next level. The Celtics were in on Paul George in the 2017 season as well. At that time Paul George was a top 10 talent but the C's never entertained the idea. Danny could have moved up for Luka Doncic for straight up picks in 2018 and Danny was not willing to get rid of his picks. He failed to keep Kyrie happy by not putting the pieces around him that he wanted and made the organization a coach and front office staff first organization rather than a players first organization. The NBA is now a players

first league and no one wants to play for the coaches and the front office. Let's not forget that Danny had chances to upgrade his team at many trade deadlines and stayed put while teams competing got better. Danny has won only 1 championship in his 18 years of being the Celtics GM.

A change was absolutely needed and Brad Stevens being in the front office staff is great. He knows what this league is and what this team needs. Now he has a say of what needs to be done. Now the downside is you need a new head coach. Who do you bring in? Honestly, this may be a long shot, but I would love to see Paul Pierce as the next head coach. He has that energy that the team needs when they are struggling, he has the competitiveness that this team needs, and he has that kick in the behind attitude when things are going wrong. There are some candidates out there that have coaching experience out there however this would be huge for the organization to have.

I feel like more moves are coming based on the players' side but the fact that they already got a head start on fixing this team is huge.