

Written by

Tuesday, 01 April 2014 11:00 -



Recapping the week that was, reviewing the news & notes, taking a look at Suns history, updating the 2014 NBA Draft Watch, and previewing the week ahead... Welcome to the Center of the Sun.

This week the [Phoenix Suns](#) said "Hello" to three exes in [Marcin Gortat](#) , [Amare Stoudemire](#) , and Mike D'Antoni. In two out of those three encounters they came out on top, looking better over time ellapsed since they were together. Then there was round three, and, well the Suns were a hot mess around their flamboyant thin mustached ex that was a catalyst in making them who they were...

Game Recaps

@ [Washington Wizards](#) - W (99-93) [Full Recap](#)

vs. [New York Knicks](#) - W (112-88) [Full Recap](#)

@ [Los Angeles Lakers](#) - L (99-115) [Full Recap](#)

It is easy to look back at last week as being a bit of a letdown after that clunker of a loss to the Lakers who are in the midst of one of their worst seasons every, but it was another winning week.

Don't forget that.

Written by

Tuesday, 01 April 2014 11:00 -

The Suns continued their winning streak taking it to six games and like everything else it came to an end. They beat the Knicks about as badly as one could beat another while handling the playoff bound Wizards as well. Eric Bledsoe is back and playing well. The defense is improving and when things were bleak the team rallied to turn things around. One loss, no matter how apathetic and brutal it was, does not define the week. Focus on the positives.

At this point the Suns in a three-way tie for the seventh seed in the Western Conference and are on the cusp of winning 20 more games this year than last year. Focus on the positives. The team has a rough road ahead, but they are on the road this year driving with the best teams in the NBA.

The loss to the Lakers was just a pit stop after a flat tire with eight more laps to go. It is time to... Look on the Bright Side.

P.S.

Bright Side, are you as sick of Chris Kaman's mug on the homepage as I am? I figured...

Key Stat

359-233 (61.7%)

That is the winning percentage (and overall record) for the final opponents on the Suns schedule. Not a walk down the Red Carpet. It does not help that three out of the next four opponents are also the best three teams in the NBA today record wise and the fourth is the fifth team in the Western Conference. The Suns did what they were supposed to going 6-1 in a stretch of winnable games against bad teams and now they have to go out there and win games.

As they say, anything worth having is worth fighting for. A playoff spot is worth fighting for.

Written by

Tuesday, 01 April 2014 11:00 -

Quote of the Week

"We didn't know how to stop them. Our intensity was really bad. I don't know why but it's like nobody wants to play playoffs. It seems like that."

"Our schedule gets a lot harder after this. Play all the top teams now in the next six or seven games, so that's why this game was so important. I mean, if this happens against Oklahoma City or the Clippers, then fine. But this team is not a playoff team, so that's why it's disappointing."

Goran Dragic after the loss to the Lakers

2014 [NBA Draft](#) Update

Surrogate Watch continues and the Suns have three first round picks with the current projections, with their own pick landing in the lottery. Sort of what most thought in the pre-season, but not quite the pace from those projections. Here is the update on how the three picks look right now:

[Minnesota Timberwolves](#) (36-37) -- No. 13 Overall (Pick stays in Minnesota based on Protections) - Rondae Hollis Jefferson, Freshman Wing Arizona

Phoenix Suns (44-30) -- No. 14 Overall (Pick stays in Phoenix based on Protections) - Jerami

Written by

Tuesday, 01 April 2014 11:00 -

Grant, Sophomore Forward Syracuse

Washington Wizards (38-36) -- No. 17 Overall (Pick goes to Phoenix based on Protections) - Clint Capela, Swiss Forward

[Indiana Pacers](#) (52-23) -- No. 26 Overall (Pick goes to Phoenix based on Protections) - Jabari Bird, Freshman Wing California

Keep [following along here](#) to get updates and information on the 2014 NBA Draft Class and more.

News & Notes

- The six game winning streak was the longest since a nine game winning streak in the 2009-2010 season.
- Since coming back from injury [Eric Bledsoe](#) is averaging 16 PPG 5.6 RPG 5.3 APG 1.5 SPG and the team is 6-3 with him. In the nine games before his return the Suns were struggling going 3-6 in that span.
- Oh, and [Chris Kaman](#) is still in the NBA after a brief run in the WWE under the pseudonym "Erick Rowan"



Suns History Lesson

Written by

Tuesday, 01 April 2014 11:00 -

This Week in Suns History: April 6th, 1995 -- Once upon a time there were only three players in NBA History to have made 1,000 three-point field goals. Dale Ellis, Reggie Miller, and... The Suns Danny Ainge. Since then 70 more players reached that mark, all surpassing Ainge (1,002, 73rd All-Time). [Mike Dunleavy](#), Ron Artest, and Mo Petterson all have more threes than Ainge for their career. Yup.

Previewing the Week Ahead:

Wednesday, April 2nd vs. [Los Angeles Clippers](#) (53-22)

Friday, April 4th @ [Portland Trail Blazers](#) (48-27)

Sunday, April 6th vs. [Oklahoma City Thunder](#) (54-19)

Deep breath..... Now exhale.

This is going to be a tough week where winning games equals earning them. The [Spurs](#) have won a franchise best 18 games in a row. The Thunder are right on their heels with the MVP Front Runner, Kevin Durant. The Blazers are getting back on track after a tough stretch where they really struggled.

Silver Lining? The Suns have beaten all three of them this season.

So far they are 2-1 against Portland, 1-1 against Oklahoma City, and 1-2 against San Antonio giving, at the very least, hope that they can go out there and earn wins. Because they have done it before.

This week I am going with a 2-1 week for the Suns. Not necessarily because I think it will

Center of the Sun: Two weeks left and anything but a Red Carpet laid out in front of the Phoenix Suns along

Written by

Tuesday, 01 April 2014 11:00 -

happen, but because it needs to happen. Good Luck.