

Back in late November, 2016 Marcia and I were getting ready to head to Vegas for a couple concerts when EZ\$ popped in and asked if we'd put a \$100 bet on Martin Truex Jr. to win the NASCAR Championship. Because of all the team changes and such that occur during the off season I was pretty sure that the 2017 odds would not yet be up but that I'd check. I did check and, sure enough, they weren't available. But...it sure as shit would have been worth the drive back to Vegas to make that bet! I can't remember what the odds came in at but I'm pretty sure that Honey Bee would be worth about 15 Honey Bees today. Son of a...

Anyway, congratulations to Truex for turning in a stunning Monster Cup season of 8 Wins, 19 Top-5s, 26 Top-10s, and 3 poles, culminating with the big Homestead victory. What a shame it would have been for the dominant driver of the season not hoisting that Monster Cup Championship trophy. And what a year for Furniture Row Racing! Not only did the driver of the #78 take the Cup but the driver of their other car, Erik Jones and the #77, was awarded Rookie of the Year! Jones ended the season in 19<sup>th</sup> place with 5 Top-5s, 14 Top-10s, and 1 pole and, on top of that (just to make all you crusty fuckers feel old) he was born in 1996! As a comparison, our favorite jizzbag Danica in her 6<sup>th</sup> year of Cup racing posted the phenomenal 2017 stat line of: 0 Top-5s, 1 Top-10, and 0 Poles, finishing 26<sup>th</sup> in the Chase. Now she's "retiring" after 190 Cup races in which she NEVER cracked the Top-5. Damn I'm gonna miss her...not!

The Chase in our league also stayed true to form with all of the Top-7 teams maintaining their position, meaning...that Jim & Judy's Lap Dawgs are the 2017 Champions! As all of you know, it takes a little luck to hang on all season to win this league and the Fuckin' JimJudes had it in spades: The Dawg Lappers ended the season with only 3 finishes of 30+ against 16 top-10 finishes. The Dawg Lickers had a couple A-list drivers on their squad with Kyle Busch and Truex but, surprisingly, they ended 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in their team rankings with a 4-race average finish of 7.75 and 10.5, respectively. But then comes the real value on their team in Lamie McMurray posting an average finish of 6.5 and Ryan Newman scoring an astonishing 5 points per race average! Yup, the best driver on the Championship team was Ryan Fuckin' Newman! That just goes to show ya that Judy could run headlong into a pile of shit and come out smellin' like...well, shit, but at least with \$600. Congratulations!

One great benefit of the Dawg Slappers winning is that Jenn and her "Go Kyle's" did not! Trust me, she's being a big enough pain in the ass after taking 2<sup>nd</sup>! She was absolutely chomping at the Baby Busch chub waiting to get her \$300 prize so she could run out, get a mani/pedi, a Brazilian wax, three Big Macs, a couple PBRs...and then wonders where all her damn money goes! Then we go from a Kyle Lover to Sandy and her Dale Jr. loving Hairy Sandy's. After watching Baby J end his pathetically bad career in Homestead she wasn't even interested in the \$125 that came with holding on to 3<sup>rd</sup> place in our league. For fuck sake, she was so distraught after the race that she didn't even realize that Dale Jr. wouldn't know that she was throwing her panties at the TV screen! It was after this little episode that all of us in Starters really found out why her team name is the "HAIRY Sandy's" (if ya know what I mean). Hmmm, Jenn ya might want to give Sandy some advice as to how to control a Busch! Anyway, you can just imagine how embarrassing it was for Harry to have to run around trying to cover his wife with a bar towel. All ended well as the crowd was able to restrain her in Starters patented #88 straightjacket and usher her to the short bus.

Starting from the top of the league, let's take a look at some of the notable events of the season...

Justin's St. Thomas Ho's ended in 5<sup>th</sup> place, 39 points from the championship. As most of you know, thanks to hurricanes Irma and Maria he will probably be changing his name to the Tucson Ho's. He is

now a Senior Event Manager at the Ritz-Carlton in Marana and lives a mere 90-minute drive from our house. Yay!

Last years winners, Ernie & Sandra's ESP Racing, after giving it a hell of a run, ended up in 6<sup>th</sup>. Sandra always seemed all butt-hurt when I was rooting for them to lose. There are a couple reasons: the least of which is, that Sandra is a huge Joey Logano fan and his career seems to be waning along with his testosterone. J-Log has been in the Cup series for 10 years. During his first 5 years with Joe Gibbs he only managed to score 2 wins. In 2013 the Log was picked up by Penske and went on a 4-year roll tallying 15 wins and 76 top-5s! This year: 1 win, 10 top-5...the worst year since he signed on to Penske. Hey Joey, talk to Dale Jr. and ask him for advice as to what to do when your nuts shrivel up, suck back into your body, and turn in to a vagina; however, the main reason I was rooting against ESP was that we have not yet had a double winner in our league let alone a back-to-back winner. Why the hell do you think I called you guys the Evil Empire?

Again, for longer than my Bud Light-addled brain can remember, I lost to me nephew - Ryan's rotten son-of-a-bitchin' Big Dogs...by 8 goddamn points! For much of the year I thought I had that fucker by the balls only to find out, AGAIN, that they're detachable like a lizard's tail as he scurries away. Mother Fucker...it just ain't right!

In the Tranny toss-down we had Bruce's LGBTQ Queens up against Reece's Kiss My Ass Mother Fuckers. Unfortunately for Reece, it's gonna be a little worse than kissin' ass! Since Bruce ended in 13<sup>th</sup> and Reece finished the season in 16<sup>th</sup>, Reece must: don an Atlanta Falcons black and red jersey, smear on some non-transferable lipstick, purchase a significant amount of Adam & Eve Anal Lubricant, and bend the fuck over! He also probably owes Bruce a drink...but that can happen post-coitus.

Gary and his Old Phart Racing scored an 18<sup>th</sup> place finish, which ain't bad considering his early-onset Alzheimer's started when he was about 35 years old (like, almost 80 years ago). What's unfortunate is that Gary passed on the entirety of his NASCAR "wisdom" to his wife Judy, who proceeded to driver her Princess Racing Team into the 32<sup>nd</sup> place ditch. That's really good for me 'cause I had a couple bets going with the duo I affectionately refer to as The Princess and the Pea Brain. Judy bet me that her team would end the season in better than 30<sup>th</sup> place – oops, five dolla! Gary bet me that at least one of Judy's drivers would win a race while she was running him – oops, five dolla! Oh well, now Gary can go back to reminiscing about how he loved it when Buck Baker won the Cup...last year!

For the first time since we bought the bar, the "Q" led his FedUp Lots to a top-20 finish (actually 18<sup>th</sup>). Paul really doesn't have a bad method of placing his drivers. He simply goes from his least expensive drivers at the beginning of the season to his best drivers during the Chase; as he would say: "makes sense". Paul's problem is that he has some trouble distinguishing between "cheap" drivers and "good" drivers. For example, while we had a freshman class consisting of Erik Jones, Daniel Suarez, Ty Dillon, and Gray Gaulding, who do you think Paul picked with his \$300K...rookie of the year Jones? Nope Gray Gaulding who proceeded to dump a steaming pile on the Feed Lots before getting kicked to the curb about six weeks in. The "Q" started after week #1 tied for 1<sup>st</sup> with a Logano 6<sup>th</sup> place finish. Then, guess where he was after week #6 and a four-week scalding by the Gaulding? Yup...shitter, 22 points behind 40<sup>th</sup>! But I do love Paul's eternal optimism. His response to taking an ass-whoopin' by Gaulding: "at least I used him before he got booted and didn't have to make a trade"!

In 21<sup>st</sup> we have Mercedes and her “I’m Shoeless” Racing. Now Mercedes is a real dog, and I don’t mean a dog like the crack whores we have running around the bar looking through the butt cans, I mean an actual canine. What’s funny is that she owns Carroll...or maybe Carroll owns her, not quite sure...but Carroll’s Baby Needs New Shoes team limped their way all the way up to 31<sup>st</sup>. I’m not quite sure what it means when your own dog whoops yo ass, but I’ll let you guys think that one through. Maybe that’s where the expression “whoop ya like a dog” came from.

Pete’s “It’s Too Hard” proved after his first season that, yes, it IS too hard. After finishing 29<sup>th</sup> in the league, Pete went into a fit of depression during which he would eat anything that wasn’t moving (and even Tinker has a suspicious chunk out of her left haunch). He insists that he WILL NOT play again next year because...duh, it’s too hard! We’ve tried to explain that the only way out of this depression is to try again - and succeed! For fuck sakes, he started the 2017 season at a strapping 170lbs and...well, maybe that was the 1917 season...anyway, Pete, ya gotta come back!

The final match-up pitted Marcia’s Lucky Hunks against Huck’s La La Bedwetters for the coveted “Shiny Penny”. The Unlucky Chunks gave the La La’s a great shot at winning by finishing a putrid 34<sup>th</sup> but what do you think Huck did? Yup, pissed the bed! Not only was he the worst team in the league, he was the WORST TEAM in the league. Big Bob and his incredibly Bad Doggies ended the season in 40<sup>th</sup> but were still an unbelievable 61 points above the Mattress Soilers! Huck’s team ended with 741 points, which is an average finish of 20.58. Mother of all that’s Holy, that’s worse than fuckin’ Danica! Oh, wait...sorry, Danica ended her final year with an average finish of 23. 8. Redemption! Anyway, Marcia has presented Huck with the shiny 2017 Penny of Suckiness which will be passed on to the worst team in perpetuity.

It’s been a hell of a fun year and we hope to see you all back for the 2018 season which will be sans Jr., Kenseth, and some bitch that used to drive the #10...I can’t remember. There’s a bucket load of changes that will occur during the silly season so pay attention to what’s going on. We’ll be firing up the 2018 league sometime the end of January.

Marcia and I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I know we will with Justin home for the foreseeable future.

Gentlemen, the black flag is out...