

# Don't rely on high expectations



By Seth Wolfmeyer  
Staff Writer

If you follow baseball at all, then you probably know the Chicago Cubs are expected to do well this year. Many actually consider the Cubs the favorite to win it all. From statistical projections to expert analysis and the average fan making small talk, everyone agrees the Cubs are among the strongest teams this year. As a Cubs fan myself, I feel the excitement and joy at the potential of this year. At the same time, however, I am absolutely terrified.

Sports fans and the media that cover sports often place incredibly high expectations on teams, something typically called "over-hyping" a team. We do this when we get so excited about a team's potential that we begin to see anything short of the loftiest goals as a disappointment. The sad and simultaneously most thrilling part about sports is the unpredictability. We fell in love with the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" USA Olympic hockey team, not because it was the favorite, but rather the classic example of an underdog. The flip side is the teams we are most excited about, the ones that seem the most invincible, sometimes are not the ones that win. It is an obvious fact, one we see evidenced constantly, but we still show disappointment for teams who do not live up to everything.

Consider the 2010-11 Miami Heat, one of the most hyped teams in recent history. The Heat had just signed forward LeBron James and center Chris Bosh, adding to a roster that already included guard Dwyane Wade. Many fans and media expected nothing short of a championship from the team. The Heat went on to lose to the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA Finals, in what was consid-

ered a disappointment by many despite how much the team had succeeded.

The danger of high expectations on a team is not so much that it might cause a team to underperform, it is that what the team accomplishes will be compared to those lofty goals regardless of what its achievement is. A great season can forever be remembered as a disappointing one, simply because the team was not as good as the hype people placed around it.

## As fans, we should not avoid creating expectations for our teams.

However, this idea often works in reverse. A team that comes from nowhere to succeed is remembered fondly by history. A name that makes every Cubs fan cringe is the Miracle Mets of 1969. The Mets started the season with few expectations of success, only being a major league team

for eight years and yet to become a serious competitor. The team went on to end the season with 100 wins and a World Series championship, earning the title the "Miracle Mets."

This is why I am so terrified about this season as a Cubs fan. The chances of the Cubs having an unsuccessful season are slim — they have a well built and talented team but they might not go on to win the World Series. This is a perfectly acceptable thing, and should not diminish what they will accomplish. If the Cubs earn a spot in the playoffs, win the National League Central division or even win a pennant, it would be a great accomplishment for a young team that still is growing. Unfortunately, not everyone will see it that way. Fans will be upset that the infamous losing streak continues, angry that the curse of the billy goat still holds power.

As fans, we should not avoid creating expectations for our teams. We should get excited for great years and great players, but we have to be careful. Careful not to let our highest hopes control our judgments, and enjoy success even when it is not quite all we wanted.

## MAKE-A-WISH | Women's soccer faces UCM for charity game

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Although the Truman State women's soccer team is currently in its offseason training, that didn't stop them from playing an exhibition match for a good cause. The Bulldogs faced the University of Central Missouri Saturday and gave the proceeds to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Missouri.

Truman came out on top of the charity game with a 2-1 victory. Junior midfielder Kelsey Murphy scored the first goal off of an assist from freshman midfielder Isabel Kurzban. Senior forward Stephanie Williams scored the second goal.

"This game was pretty competitive because Truman used to be rivals with UCM in the [Mid-America In collegiate Athletic Association]," senior midfielder Megan Whitehead said.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Missouri, which began in 2006, aims to give kids between the age of 2-18 with diseases or life-threatening illnesses the chance to live out their dream and have the best day of their lives, according to wish.org. The foundation is able to make kids' dreams come true through the donations it receives. While some people would lighten the action for charity, the Bulldogs took a different mindset into this game.

Junior forward Delaney Kooken said the team looked to play even harder for the organization.

"It was different because we wanted to play harder for the cause and not just our own team," Kooken said. "We wanted to win more for the Make-A-Wish kids

than for us. And we wanted to show all the people who came to the game that the cause was important to us."

**"It was different because we wanted to play harder for the cause and not just our own team."**  
-Junior forward Delaney Kooken

Murphy said she thinks the Make-A-Wish Foundation was more than worthy to play for. She said seeing the joy on the kids' faces

makes all the work you did worth it tenfold. That is exactly why the soccer team chose that charity, she said.

"We decided to donate the money to this organization because they rely entirely on donations to grant the little kids' wishes, and I feel honored to help out," Murphy said.

Murphy said this was the first time the soccer team hosted a Make-A-Wish game, but it does host a game to raise money for cancer research during the fall. She said the team raised more than \$400 to donate to the organization. The team will also host a karaoke night charity event later this semester. Murphy said the Bulldogs are hoping to raise more than \$700 in total with both of these events.



Jack Derback/Index

Above: Members of the Truman State women's soccer team defend a player from the University of Central Missouri. The former conference rivals competed to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where they raised more than \$700.



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