



The Blazer



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Fiat Veritas

WINTER IS...HERE?

IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS

BY SCARLETT FOULSHAM & LEXA HONECK '21

Camden is known as one of the most dangerous cities in the world, and it will continue to have that same negative reputation unless people take a stand. With danger comes poverty, and roughly 42 percent of Camden's population lives below the poverty line with an average household income of 26,000 a year. Loyola hosts two trips to Camden each year. One to CFET (Center For Environmental Transformation) and one to the Romero Center. Students from Loyola have been going to the Romero Center for over 15 years and to CFET for around three. Even though both centers are located in Camden, they each offer different perspectives on the city. The Romero Center teaches about the cycle of poverty, the circumstances that lead to people falling below the poverty line, and how our system makes it extremely hard for anyone to break the cycle. On the other hand, CFET focuses more on environmental racism and how businesses are able to take advantage of poor

communities who don't have strong political voices. It also addresses unfairness in the criminal justice system, specifically how minorities are punished more severely for the same crimes that white men and women commit. We are able to learn about these injustices by going around the city of Cam-

den, working at soup kitchens, going to events in the local community, and talking with Camden residents who experience it first hand. We were able to really immerse ourselves into the community of Camden even in just a few days. We bring all the lessons that we learned in Camden back to

Loyola and teach our peers. Overall, this trip was a great experience and really allows students to change their perspective on low income communities and the cycle of poverty. If you're interested in going on this trip in the future, email Ms. Morano for more information.



Lexa, Natalia and Liam with their Carrots!
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Instagram.

LOYOLA'S BRITE OUT!

BY GRACE COPPS '22



"Shiny Happy People Laughing".
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Instagram.

THE PLAYERS STRIKE AGAIN!

BY ALEXANDER DELFRANCO '20

A wise man once said, "We create our own demons." This year the Loyola Players demonstrated just that in a theatrical performance about misguided wonder, farcical superstition, and ever-present fantastical intrigue. No matter the act, scene, or character, the performance was stunning and the execution rivaled that of professionals. For three nights the players dazzled audiences of aghast theatergoers. For three nights the cast demonstrated their ability to captivate and motivate, drawing us all into a world full of ghosts and ex-

wives. The story revolved around a couple who taunts the unknown land of ghosts and people-past: the supernatural land of the dead. They partake in a seance where a spirit from a world beyond makes contact them and, with showmanship worthy of a cameo appearance in a Taika Waititi film, enters into their lives to make everything a living nightmare.

One-sided conversations occur, leaving all the parties confused and exhausted. The problems which bourbon cannot solve are usually not problems of the mind.

This year's Student Government Dance was definitely one for the books! The high-energy electric atmosphere of the dance was well-represented by the neon theme. Attendees lit up the night in neon clothes and accessories like earrings and glasses made out of glow sticks. Some even went the extra mile and put on face paint! Students from all grades came together to tear

up the dance floor to current hits and oldies-but-goodies like "Hey Ya," "Baby," and "Poker Face." I don't think a single attendee went home without a smile on their face or a hoarse throat from screaming the lyrics to every song. It was... dare I say...drumroll please...the highlight of my life! Shout-out to our Student Government leaders for organizing the dance!!!

They attempt to ignore her, but the spirit stays. They attempt to avoid her, but the spirit stays. They attempt to destroy her, but the spirit stays. Finally addressing the translucent, selectively-visible elephant in the room, the couple agrees to converse with the ghost. It is hard to put into words the pure shenanigans that follows. Some would say it would be easier to outrun a Von Braun V-2 than explain the post-intermission actions of the players. To attempt the impossible I would hazard a claim: the twists will surprise you, the tempers will barrage you, and the dialogue will sweep you off your feet into a mid-century, British escapade

worth its weight in weapons-grade Uranium-235.

Not in the least apologetic, the hectic, eclectic aesthetic made me apoplectic; the play was acatalectic. The beat and the rhythm drove the story home. No more was there a silence in the sea of eager faces, no more was there a stammer behind the stage, for when the players ventured out in front of the loving admiration of all their supporters, their work was that of legend. A legend that shall now be told: The outlook was quite brilliant for the Yorkville nine that day: the stands stood full from front to back, all ready for the play. And then when Daniel went out first Arabella did the same, a stunning

SCHOLARLY SECRETS

BY KATE LUI '20

- A school in India has over 32,000 students attending it on a daily basis
- In Russia, all schools begin on "knowledge day" (September 1) even if that falls on a weekend or holiday
- Didaskaleinophobia is the acute fear of going to school
- Kids in Finland don't start school until they are 7
- Why do we give our teacher an apple? The tradition goes back to 16th century Denmark, where teachers didn't earn enough for food so parents would send their children to school with an apple for them
- In Los Pinos, a remote area of Colombia, kids must travel to school by zip line. Otherwise they would have to walk through the rainforest, which would take hours.
- The word "school" comes from the ancient Greek word meaning "free time"
- Before the invention of erasers, people used white bread to remove mistakes
- At first, teachers didn't like erasers because they thought it would encourage kids to make mistakes.
- Erasers encourage mistakes.

CARA'S CONUNDRUMS

BY CARA MULROONEY '20

Operation Snow White: In the 1970s, Scientology was under investigation by the FBI and the IRS. In response, Scientologists worldwide took government jobs in order to wipe out all information released about Scientology. L. Ron Hubbard's wife and other Scientologists went to prison for their part in invading the U.S. government and illegally passing along information. With 5,000 undercover agents, Scientology accomplished the largest infiltration of the government in history.

The Miscavige Disappearance: No one crosses Scientology without suffering the consequences, even the leader's wife. In 2006, Shelly Miscavige, the wife of David Miscavige who the current head of Scientology, mysteriously disappeared soon after she started a few jobs without her husband's permission. The spokespeople of scientology deny Shelly is missing, but she has yet to appear in public since she disappeared. Some former Scientologists thinks Shelly could be being held against her

silence did run through the Gannon theatre main.

Then Grace was marked a hero for the enjoyment of the crowd, and Eugenie stood out on the stage to look at them and bowed. For a moment all was silent as the tallest one arose, then cheers from all erupted as Mr. Donacik struck a pose.

From the background very nimbly, Emily set out the props, while Arabella stood out front, right across from Copps. Then it only took a second, a momentary pause, for all invited to accept the talent of both Haughs.

Then from a hundred mighty throats, did up rise such a yell. It was heard in

every valley, it was heard in every dell. They knew of only one more soul who could match the plutocrat, for Adams, mighty Adams, was advancing to the bat. There was calm in Adams' manner as she strode upon the stage, there was zeal left unguarded as she mimicked fearful rage. And when the dust had lifted, and when the score died down, not one old soul could doubt that Adams won the town.

Oh somewhere in a far-off land, the Yorkville nine still dance, somewhere in a far off land where no one looks askance. But as for now in their small home, they have turned a bend, for in its haste and in their joy, their play had reached its end.

PUZZLES!

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A NEW CADVENTURE!

By Sofia Pastore '22

"You learn something new everyday," is how the saying goes. School is a great place to do so. One of the most exciting parts of high school is that students can take an array of classes which will help further their success in the future. The STEM classes at Loyola are fairly new. They offer unique opportunities to students where they can learn how to use technology in ways they may not have thought were possible before.

The sophomores at Loyola take two classes per year, one per semester. One of those classes is Computer-aided Design, or CAD, taught by Mr. Howell. The purpose of this class is for students to learn how to create models on a computer in 2D and 3D. These designs can be transformed from the screen into tangible objects that are then printed from a 3D printer. Some of the projects that the sophomores have done include learning how to

navigate the Inventor software where the models are made, create a household object, a 2D floor plan, a 3D floor plan, and now the sophomores are re-creating objects that will be 3D printed to replicate their original model.

Overall this class is well liked by the sophomores who are taking it this semester. One sophomore said, "When it comes to the structure of the class Mr. Howell does a great job guiding us through the software and overall making the class a very smooth learning process." Another sophomore said, "Mr. Howell makes the class run very smooth and understandable." This class could be very useful to someone who would want to pursue a career involving architecture or engineering, but some sophomores who are not interested in following those career paths do not find the class very useful. One flaw that sophomores

find in the class is how homework works. Although there is not much homework given, it must be done using a PC. Some sophomores find not being able to complete the homework assignments at home to be an inconvenience when managing time and doing the assignments. Many sophomores do not have a PC at home, so they cannot access the program at home and then they end up having to spend much free time trying to finish assignments. Some sophomores also feel that more time needs to be given to complete given assignments. A lot of sophomores like how in CAD one learns how to manipulate 3D objects on a computer and then have the opportunity to print them. Another thing that the sophomores like is that CAD class offers students an opportunity to learn something new that they have not seen in previous classes.

The Blazer

Loyola School
980 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10028
(212) 288-3522
www.loyolanyc.org
FAX: (212) 861-1021

The Blazer is the official newspaper of Loyola School, produced and published by the students of the school for the Loyola School Community.

President-----Mr. Tony Oroszlany
Principal-----Mr. James Lyness
Dean of Academics-----Ms. Jessica Holden
Dean of Students-----Mr. Daniel Sullivan

Editor-in-Chief-----Alex DelFranco
Production Editor-----Caroline Adams
Sports Editor-----Chris Burich
Moderator-----Dr. Robert Meade

Students are encouraged to contribute to the school newspaper at any time by sending their articles to: 20adelfranco@loyolanyc.org or 21cadams@loyolanyc.org.

Students should be aware that their contributions, if printed, may be edited to fit the available column space of The Blazer. Content may also be edited to conform to newspaper norms.

The staff of The Blazer holds monthly meetings to plan upcoming issues. Students are strongly advised to attend these meetings to get a sense of what articles need to be written. We are most in need of straight-reporting articles about school life. We are least in need of editorials or other opinion pieces.

Articles of general interest not specifically related to school life will also be considered but will be printed at the discretion of the staff. Such articles include, but are not limited to, movie reviews, book reviews, horoscopes, editorials, and humor. All decisions made by the staff regarding the suitability of an article are final.

"SHE'S GOT HELP"

By ARABELLA FERNANDEZ '21

The Marvel Cinematic Universe, also known as the MCU, is a collection of movies owned by the production company Marvel Studios. They have one of the largest fan bases of any movie franchise, many of whom are young women. When one thinks of "The Avengers", the first names that come to mind are probably Tony Stark (Iron Man) or Steve Rogers (Captain America), but what about the only female superhero on their team, Natasha Romanoff (better known as Black Widow)? Out of the six Avengers, four of the male superheroes have had their own movie trilogies, Natasha Romanoff didn't. That is, until Marvel announced "Black Widow" which is set to come out on May 1, 2020. This excited many female fans as they have waited almost ten years to watch a movie about Natasha. Robert Downey Jr., who portrays Tony Stark, has weighed in on the lack of strong female superheroes in the MCU saying, "There's all these genre movies and you have these capable women and they're like, 'Oh my god, some action is happening, I better step away or get caught in something over here.' It's like, 'Really, is that where we're at in the 21st century?'" A few years ago, Chris Evans, who portrays Steve Rogers, gave his opinion on what the future of female lead superhero movies would look like saying "There's nothing [Marvel Studios] can't do, man. And I'm sure it's gonna have the exact same effect when

Captain Marvel comes out, and then the Black Widow movie comes out. Marvel just has the winning recipe and they're kind of one step ahead of everybody else." Scarlett Johansson has also been pushing for an all female "A-Force" movie for quite some time, though we have yet to see any evidence of its production. It's clear that the cast would support the future of Marvel movies portraying strong female leads. Recently the movie "Captain Marvel", in which Carol Danvers is portrayed by Brie Larson, came to theaters. The movie caused some discord among Marvel fans. Many male Marvel fans described Carol Danvers as unlikable. Her confident attitude and cold behavior alienated the male fan base, and costume, which was not nearly as revealing as some of her fellow female superheroes, confused many as well. Many Carol Danvers fans disagreed, saying that if Carol was a man, her naysayers wouldn't find these issues with her, and there is reasonable evidence for this statement. When one examines other MCU characters such as Tony Stark, one notices that Carol Danvers isn't the first to act the way she does. Both Tony and Carol are confident, egoistic and sometimes stubborn, but Tony is one of the most beloved characters in the MCU. This suggests strongly that Marvel fans have a skewed and perhaps sexist perception of Marvel's characters. Carol Danvers and Natasha Romanoff are not

the only female superheroes in the MCU. Thor: Ragnarok, starring Chris Hemsworth (Thor) and Mark Ruffalo (Bruce Banner aka Hulk) introduces a character named Valkyrie. Valkyrie is played by Tessa Thompson, with whom the fandom has absolutely fallen in love. Valkyrie is an Asgardian warrior who becomes Queen of Asgard after Thor passes the throne to her. This was big news for many long time Marvel fans and most were ecstatic. This revelation was followed quickly by the Disney 23 Expo event in Anaheim. While on the panel for the new Thor titled "Thor: Love and Thunder," directed by Taika Waititi, Tessa Thompson revealed that they would explore Valkyrie's bisexuality in the new movie. Waititi has revealed that it is definitely something that they plan on including, which is quite exciting for Marvel fans, many of whom are part of the LGBT community themselves. Many LGBT fans are also rooting for the idea of Carol Danvers and Valkyrie becoming a couple. This would make them the first major LGBT couple in MCU history. Natalie Portman is also expected to reprise her role as Jane Foster, who will be called Mighty Thor. A new animated series entitled "What If" creates a new storyline for all 23 Marvel movies. Characters will have new identities and storylines will be altered. One episode which has excited many fans is the Captain America storyline. The original storyline is

about Steve Rogers, a feeble and sickly young man, who wants to join the army. He is injected with a "super soldier serum" which turns him into an abnormally strong soldier. During this, he meets Peggy Carter, an SSR agent and founder of S.H.E.I.L.D. He falls in love with her but ultimately sacrifices himself by flying a plane carrying bombs into the Atlantic Ocean outside New York Harbor. In "What If" however, the roles are flipped. Peggy becomes Captain Britain and she gets injected with the same serum that was given to Steve. Fans are incredibly curious and excited to see how the rest of the storyline will play out, especially because Peggy Carter's ending in "Avengers: Endgame" angered Marvel's audience. Marvel produced a series starring Peggy Carter which aired from 2015 to 2016, but it was cancelled after 2 seasons. The show portrays Peggy as a confident agent for the SSR after Captain America's death. There are scenes showing how she was only known as "Captain America's girlfriend," including clips of radio shows where the tale of Captain America is told. In one such scene, Peggy hears an actress playing her as a "damsel in distress", constantly needing Cap to save her. Upset by this, Peggy works exceptionally hard to prove her worth alongside Howard Stark (Tony Stark's father) and his butler Edwin Jarvis. She is seen outsmarting many of the men she works with and defeating male spies and



Girl Power!
Photo courtesy of Pride.

agents that come her way. Carter's niece, Sharon is a S.H.E.I.L.D agent who was romantically involved with Steve Rogers, and her character was not built very much after a scene where the two kissed in "Captain America: Civil War". More and more women are being shown as strong and capable characters in Marvel movies. Characters like Pepper Potts, who is married to Tony Stark, was able to fight in many of their battles. Multiple strong females are seen in Black Panther, such as Okoye, Nakia, Shuri, and Ramonda. Wanda Maximoff a.k.a Scarlet Witch is even getting a series on Disney+. Disney+ will also include new female lead shows and movies like "She-Hulk" and "Ms. Marvel." While Marvel has made mistakes when it comes to female representation in their movies, it seems that the future holds many new inspirational female superheroes to inspire girls across the world. A woman starring in a Marvel movie may struggle but, with such a supportive cast and many female fans, "she's got help."

DR. SLEEP REVIEW

By DYLAN BOUSQUETTE '20

If you've ever wandered into the guidance suite during a free period you may have seen me passed out on Ms. Gilfillan's couch. That's why, when it came time to write another review for the Blazer, I decided on the titular Stephen King sequel *Doctor Sleep*. A follow-up to *The Shining*, this movie focuses a lot more on Danny's ability to shine itself, as opposed to the insanity-inducing Overlook Hotel. The movie is very thematic, almost campy, which makes it more of a thriller than a horror movie. The movie's plot revolves around a cult that consumes one's shine which, although interesting, makes the movie very convenient. The complete set of powers that *Shining* encompasses is never explained and it sometimes felt as if the writers used the ability as a plot device.

The movie opens on Danny Torrence who, like the boys locker room, has seen better days. A depressed alcoholic, Danny spends his life listening to the advice of Dick Halloran the friendly ghost. Spliced with flashbacks of Danny as a child, we come to see how Danny now keeps all the spirits of the Overlook in mental lockboxes in his head, using his shine to imprison them. There seems to be a message about Danny having PTSD and the clear traumatic toll that hiding his shine took on him following the events of the first film. The movie, however, centers on Abra Stone, another *Shining* child who is being hunted for her immense power and "mist." *Doctor Sleep* appears to use "shine" and "mist" interchangeably throughout the film, making it

unclear what the specific nature of the gift is. While this did maintain a certain mystery, it also made the movie more complicated than necessary. Danny comes to Abra's aid as the cult The Knot, a group of Shining people transformed into monsters by their cannibalistic ways, comes for her. The climactic section of the movie was very well organized. The sub-climax of the film saw the entirety of a superpower cult being taken out by two dudes with rifles, which was severely disappointing and also probably metaphorical about gun laws in the States. The real climax was much better, as the characters returned to the Overlook hotel and did battle using all their Shining abilities against one another. In the end, the ghosts of the Overlook are what saved

the heroine, but not without costing Danny his life. The conclusion of the film saw Abra begin to lock ghosts away in mental boxes, a chilling demonstration of the cycle of abuse *Shining* puts people through. *The Shining* ability itself is also never fully explained, which is why it could make the movie confusing or unsatisfying at points when characters would use their powers selectively. I'll admit it did add some excitement in the form of awesome abilities that were continuously revealed throughout the movie but my inner critic would've liked a little more explanation. Overall this supernatural sequel was interesting. The campy style and continuous references to *The Shining* will make this film enjoyable to all Stephen King fans. If you haven't



Dr. Sleep
Photo courtesy of Fandango.

seen the original, I'd recommend you witness the horrors of the Overlook Hotel before diving into *Doctor Sleep*.

The Knightly News

MORE RUNNING? OK.

BY CHELSEA CAMPOS & VALENTINA MARINI FICHERA '21

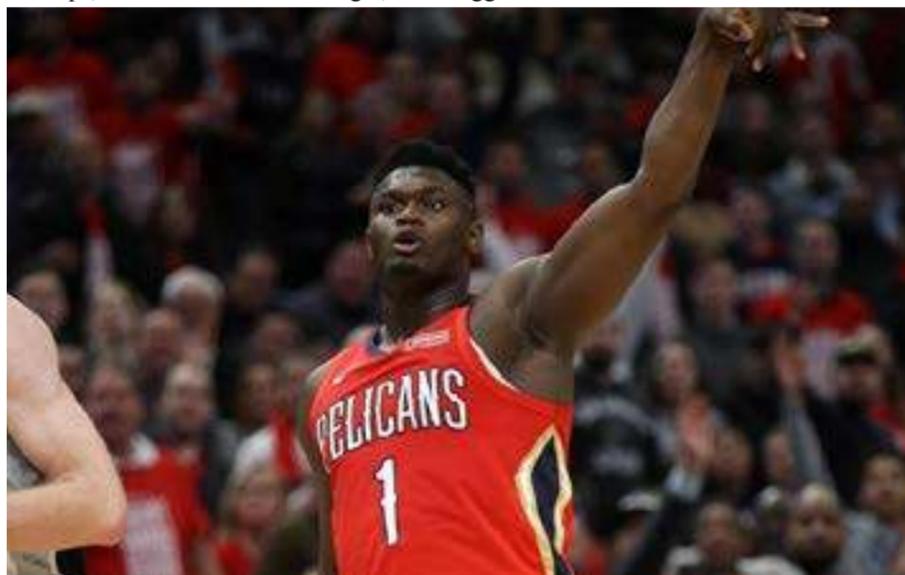
On Tuesday October 22, the Loyola Varsity Cross-Country Team travelled to Van Cortlandt Park to compete in the NYCAL Champs. The entire fall season had been leading up to that meet, especially considering we had competed there every week. Team members ran every day, pushing themselves to run faster and to improve not only physically, but mentally as well. The entire team competed in meets each Thursday of the season in an effort to qualify for NYCAL (league) and NYSAIS (state) Champs. Although not every member went to NYCAL Champs and will be attending NYSAIS Champs, all of the runners

worked their absolute hardest this season.

The members who attended the meet were freshmen William Froehlich, Matteo Kryzypow, Ishan Parasher, and Emma Petrucelli; sophomores Mary Addison, Emma Anderson, Miguel Davis, Nicholas Fox, John Lambiris, Tristan Mateo, Andrew Naber, Sofia Pastore, Sara Spinna, and Reilly Teefer; juniors Miranda Baez, Chelsea Campos, Dayelin de la Cruz, and Valentina Marini Fichera; and seniors Elias Almarty, Patrick Bader, Hannah Cavanaugh-Gouvea, Dennis Coppin, Sidney Essex, Ryan Hogan, Max Lewis, Daniel Pramberger, and Maggie Tween.

In the Girls 5K, Loyola came in 2nd place, bringing home a trophy and silver medals. The girls' team captain, Hannah, led the girls race and came in 2nd overall, beating both her personal and school record with her time (20:50.5). In the Boys 5K, Loyola came in 4th place. Dennis came in first of the Loyola boys and 6th overall with his time (18:26.8). Multiple runners on the Loyola team ran their season and personal bests at Champs.

It is always important to remember that what we haven't achieved, does not define who we are as athletes.



Zion Williamson: a Force to be Reconciled With.
Photo courtesy of slate.com

ZION WILLIAMSON'S DEBUT

BY BRAD BOTKIN OF CBSSPORTS.COM

In the most anticipated NBA debut since LeBron James first suited up for his hometown Cavaliers in 2003, Zion Williamson, after sitting out the first three months of the season with a torn meniscus, took the court for his first regular-season game with the New Orleans Pelicans on Wednesday. And he put on a three-minute show that nobody, in a million years, could've ever expected.

It took a while for Williamson to find his way. He scored two points in the first half and looked supremely out of sorts, playing in choppy four-minute stints that stunted any semblance of rhythm he might've been able to establish. But then came the fourth quarter, when Williamson exploded for 17 consecutive points -- including four 3-pointers -- in 3 minutes, 29 seconds of action.

Obligatory mention: The Pelicans lost the game 121-117 to the Spurs. Nobody cares about that.

Well, surely the Pelicans care. They came in hav-

ing won 10 of their past 14 games and were, and still are, within reasonable range of a playoff berth. But if they wanted to win that bad, they probably should have let Zion stay in the game. Instead they strictly adhered to a minutes restriction and sat him for the final five minutes right when he was in the middle of burning the Smoothie King Center to the ground.

Count me among those highly frustrated by this decision. I understand taking the long view and all, but if a 19-year-old can't play a few more minutes when he's in that kind of rhythm, he probably shouldn't have been playing in the first place. Per ESPN's Marc Spears, Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry wanted to leave Williamson in, and you could see him call a presumed sub for Zion back from the scorer's table on multiple occasions. But New Orleans' medical staff wanted Zion to come out, and ultimately their word won.

But not without

Zion pleading his case. Regardless of who's call it was, the Pelicans pulling the plug on that performance might've been the biggest buzzkill I've ever witnessed watching an NBA game. Of course the fans were chanting "We want Zion!" as he sat on the bench watching the Spurs reestablish control of the game down the stretch. He's the No. 1 reason they paid good money to be there in the first place. But I digress. There's a bigger picture to keep in mind here, and the Pelicans' thousand-watt future can't get here soon enough. Brandon Ingram is a star. Lonzo Ball is becoming the player he was supposed to be with the Lakers. This is what it felt like when Zion was coming out of summer league, where he played like a man among boys and the Pelicans were everyone's favorite playoff dark horse.

They may have dug their hole too deep this season, but assuming Zion remains healthy (say your prayers), it's impossible

HOUSTON ASTROS' CHEATING SCANDAL

BY KATHRINE ACQUAVELLA OF CBSSPORTS.COM

Dallas Keuchel became the first former or current member of the 2017 Houston Astros to offer a public apology for the team's sign-stealing scandal when speaking at a fan convention for the Chicago White Sox, his current team, on Friday. Here's what he told reporters, courtesy of the Associated Press:

"First and foremost I think apologies should be in order for, if not everybody on the team. It was never intended to be what it is made to be right now. I think when stuff comes out about things that happen over the course of a major-league ball season, it's always blown up to the point of 'Oh, my gosh, this has never happened before.'"

"I'm not going to go into specific detail, but during the course of the playoffs in '17, everybody was using multiple signs. I mean, for factual purposes, when there's nobody on base, when in the history of major league baseball has there been multiple signs? It's just what the state of baseball was at that point and time. Was it against the rules? Yes it was, and I personally am sorry for what's come about, the whole situation. It is what it is, and we've got to move past that. I never thought anything would've come like it did. I, myself, am sorry."

Manfred later said that the league has no plans to vacate the Astros' 2017 title or the Red Sox's 2018 title. Boston is also currently under investigation for an electronic sign-stealing scandal of its own. As a result of the Astros investigation and subsequent report,

not to be downright giddy about what this team has a chance to become in almost the immediate aftermath of losing Anthony Davis -- which would normally cripple most franchises, let alone the smallest market in the league, for years, if not a decade.

Williamson finished his debut with 22 points on 8-of-11 shooting, including a perfect 4 for 4 from three, to go with seven boards and three assists in 18 minutes. Per ESPN, the 17 fourth-quarter points are the most any player has scored, in any quarter, while playing in his first game over the past 20 years, while the 22 total points are the most any player in the shot-clock era has scored in his debut while playing fewer than 20 minutes. In fact, Zion is now the only player in NBA history, debut or otherwise, to record at least 20 points and seven rebounds with four or more made 3-pointers in fewer than 20 minutes. He is also the first player in history to shoot 100 percent on at least four 3-pointers in an NBA debut.

That's a long way of saying Williamson was electrifying, and I don't use

Kechuel, 32, was drafted by the Astros in the seventh round of the 2009 MLB Draft and spent seven seasons (2012-2018) before signing as a free agent with the Braves in June. He finished his abbreviated 2019 season with an 8-8 record and a 3.75 ERA (121 ERA+). This offseason, Keuchel signed a three-year deal with the Chicago White Sox.

Allegations against the Astros illegally using a center-field camera to steal signs and relay the signs in real-time to batters were first brought to light by former Astros pitcher Mike Fiers in a bombshell report from The Athletic. After Major League Baseball's investigation, commissioner Rob Manfred announced punishments for the Astros stemming from the club's alleged sign-stealing scheme in a nine-page report. Astros manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were each suspended a year from baseball, and later fired by Astros owner Jim Crane.

Manfred later said that the league has no plans to vacate the Astros' 2017 title or the Red Sox's 2018 title. Boston is also currently under investigation for an electronic sign-stealing scandal of its own. As a result of the Astros investigation and subsequent report,

that word lightly. In those three minutes and change, he showed just about everything in his arsenal. He posted up and made quick, decisive moves to the basket. He flew in for boards and scored off quick-second-jump put-backs. Obviously he shot the lights out, and while he clearly won't shoot like that most nights, he established right away that if you sag off him he can make you pay.

People love to talk about his power and athleticism, for obvious reasons, but he's such a smart player, too, who consistently exhibits a great court sense and feel for what's happening around him. Teams are going to have to pack the paint when he's flying downhill, similar to the way they have to with Giannis Antetokounmpo and Ben Simmons, meaning that kick-out pass to the shooters those defenders desert is going to be a major weapon. In the second half, Williamson did it again, when he soared in for the rebound before he immediately turned and started his own break, ultimately finding Moore at the perfect

Red Sox manager Alex Cora, who was heavily implicated in the investigative report on the Astros' cheating scandal, was fired by Boston. Keuchel pitched the following games during the 2017 World Series run: ALDS Game 2 vs. Boston (8-2 win) ALCS Game 1 vs. N.Y. Yankees (2-1 win) ALCS Game 5 at N.Y. Yankees (5-0 loss) World Series Game 1 at L.A. Dodgers (3-1 loss) World Series Game 5 vs. L.A. Dodgers (13-12 win) With his public apology, Keuchel becomes the first for

With his public apology, Keuchel becomes the first former or current member of the 2017 team to offer a public apology for the team's sign-stealing scandal.

Although Keuchel is the first to publicly apologize, he might not be the last in the weeks and months to come. Last week at the Astros' FanFest event, Alex Bregman, usually one of the most outspoken players in the game, didn't have much to say about the club's sign-stealing scandal. Bregman's teammate Jose Altuve, however, was a bit more defiant, declaring the Astros would return to the World Series this coming season.

angle for an easy finish.

That is elite point guard stuff. Keeping his head up, the willingness to pass ahead rather than keep the ball in his hands, splitting two defenders at an angle with the in-stride dime that leads Moore right to the basket. With Ingram, Ball, Zion, Jrue Holiday, any one of these guys can lead the break. They can all handle. They can all pass. They can all get to the rim.

Which one do you converge on? The Pelicans are really talented, and the core is young. But Zion is the one that puts it over the top. You never want to go too far after one game, just as everyone tried to hold off anointing Zion after his dominant preseason. But he's making it hard to maintain perspective. Every time we've seen him on an NBA court, from the preseason to Wednesday night, he has been nothing short of electric. Almost revelatory. As a 19-year-old kid, you would've thought it impossible for Zion to live up to the extraordinary hype that surrounded him coming into this debut. Somehow, in a little over three minutes, he exceeded it.