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Hawks Blog (<http://blogs.ajc.com/hawks>)

Hawks on a one-game losing streak – where's the panic button?

1:53 pm December 21, 2009, by Ken Sugiura

Greetings, all-

I apologize in advance. I don't have a ton of material today ("do you ever?" some of you are asking yourselves). I am not with the team – I am back in Atlanta, and the team went from Chicago to Minneapolis – and have been otherwise occupied with shopping for nephews (Clone Wars action figures) (that is to say, I was shopping for action figures, not that my nephews are four inches tall and made of plastic) and spending time with my parents, who are here for Christmas.



Commander Cody. This guy was not easy to find.

Anyway, a couple select thoughts on conversation from the last blog. I don't think **Jeff Teague**, at this point, would be a good option to play defense at the end of a game. If this were one-on-one, then, yes, Teague is a better option than **Mike Bibby** and perhaps **Jamal Crawford**. But he loses his man off the ball often. I didn't get to ask **Mike Woodson** about putting in **Marvin Williams** over Crawford, but I'd assume that the opinions being posited – defense over offense – make sense. (An aside – for reasons I don't entirely understand, in the last few days, when Woodson has been asked about the team's defense, two or three times he's almost gone out of his way to mention that Teague and Crawford need to play better weakside defense.)

I don't know, you can make a case for either lineup and, obviously, in hindsight, it looks like a good decision to stick with Crawford. But given that they were up four with two minutes left, I can certainly see why you'd want to go with defense. Williams, for his faults offensively against Chicago, was having a pretty good defensive game. And, obviously, you all know Woodson is a defense-first guy.

As for the iso-Joe stuff, as someone who likes watching team basketball, I'm not a huge fan of it like many of you. But, as I pointed out in a story I wrote today, I don't think you can make the argument that it hasn't worked this season. At least by the numbers, in the Hawks' two other biggest iso-Joe

games, Portland (home) and Dallas, they won. If Johnson had made one more basket at the end, it would have worked again. Granted, you could make the case that the Hawks would have won, and by more, if they hadn't done it.

As for Minnesota, I'd think the Hawks take out their frustrations of Chicago on them, but I have been known to be wrong.

A few links:

Derrick Rose wouldn't mind **Joe Johnson** as a teammate.

ESPNChicago rated Jamal Crawford one of its top 10 Bulls of the decade. (It states Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf said Crawford would never start for a winning team. It was interesting to me that Crawford was booed when he came into the game. Perhaps this is related? I looked for awhile online, but didn't find a story about what the Reinsdorf quote was about. Does anyone know what the backstory? This doesn't answer it, but is an interesting look at the post-Jordan Bulls.)

I want you to look at this page and, hopefully, you'll see the same ad I did. Look at the bottom of the right-hand column. In my ad, it had jerseys of **Dwyane Wade**, **Kobe Bryant**, **Dwight Howard**, **Steve Nash**, **LeBron James** and ... **Al Horford**.

No disrespect to Horford – he brings it every night, has All-Star potential and is cooperative to a fault with me and other reporters – but it caught my eye, as you might imagine. I'm wondering if maybe the ad leaves that space blank and fills in the spot according to whatever city it recognizes the computer being from. Or maybe Al Horford is a jersey-selling titan and I'm just not aware of it. Maybe some of you from outside Georgia can click on it and shed some light?

Here's a question – name your top five Hawks of the 90's.

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