



941 Days.....

Imagine if you had to miss work, (a job which you LOVE), for 941 days. And during that time you had to go through day after day of intense PHYSICAL and EMOTIONAL rehabilitation? Sure, you were getting paid, and obscene salary, but it's for a job you would perform for close to nothing, because you love it so much. In addition to all of that, mid-way through the process of returning to work, you suffer ANOTHER HUGE setback, and basically had to start the rehab process all over again.

That's what Klay Thompson endured.....941 Days.....

My first interaction with Klay was way back in the summer of 2010 at the Kevin Durant Skills Academy in Chicago. He was a college player at Washington State attending the camp and I was one of the coaches running the workouts. He immediately stood out as such a confident player. There were several players there who had more impressive "credentials", and media coverage, but it was clear that Klay was going to be a very good pro by the way he carried himself and how he worked. No one could foresee what he would become.

In my 13 years in the NBA, I have NEVER heard a player, coach or executive say a negative word about Klay. He is one of the most beloved players in the league, not just because of his offensive prowess, but also due to the fact that he guards the opponents BEST perimeter player, never complains, is a great teammate and carries himself as a professional on and off the court.

What he has overcome in the past 941 days is remarkable. His return last week was an emotional one for him, the Warriors, and all their fans. What you see with him is what he truly is.....no phony in that guy.

This past summer, I ran into Klay on the Strand in Manhattan Beach. He was by himself (no entourage with this guy, except occasionally his dog). We had a brief chat, and I wished him good luck on his return. He was heading to the ocean to do some sort of water rehab....alone.....no trainer, no coach. One of the most unpretentious and confident players in the league.

His return has been encouraging, although the shooting has been below what we have come to expect from him. As his conditioning improves, those numbers will come up.

Here's a big congratulations to Klay for his return after all the work he put in.
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