

Lakers, Knicks close out worst seasons in franchise history

4/15/2015 - NBA LOS ANGELES LAKERS,
Baxter Holmes, NBA Writer

LOS ANGELES -- The 2014-15 season is officially the worst in Lakers franchise history. The team set that mark with Wednesday's 122-99 loss in their season finale to the Sacramento Kings at Staples Center, giving the Lakers a 21-61 record.

Their .256 winning percentage this season is the lowest in franchise history. The previous low was the .264 winning percentage set by the 1957-58 Minneapolis Lakers, who finished 19-53. "It obviously doesn't sit with me well," Lakers coach Byron Scott said after the game. "Don't like the sound of that. But I also think it makes for a very remarkable story when we turn this thing around as well."

The Lakers' franchise-worst 61st loss of the season officially establishes the 2014-15 squad as the most futile in club history.

The Lakers were not alone in their unprecedented misery Wednesday. The New York Knicks finished the season at 17-65 -- the second-worst record in the NBA and the worst in franchise history. New York is guaranteed to land a top-five pick in the NBA draft and also will have a 19.9 percent chance of getting the No. 1 pick.



Kirby Lee/USA TODAY Sports

This season marks the second straight in which the Lakers will miss the playoffs, a rarity since the team has reached the playoffs 60 times over their 67-season history.

The Lakers also set a franchise record for most losses in a season, topping last season's mark of 27-55. "I'm not going to remember that I was a part of the worst team in Lakers history," forward Ed Davis said. "Obviously we don't want it to happen, but you've got to move on and take the good out of the bad."

This season, the Lakers clinched the league's fourth-worst record. They'll enter the May 19 draft lottery with a 37.9 percent chance of vaulting into the top three picks in June's NBA draft, and an 11.9 percent chance of landing the top overall pick.

However, the Lakers could lose their lottery pick if it falls outside the first five slots, in which case it would then go to the Philadelphia 76ers, as per the protection rules assigned to the pick. The 76ers acquired that pick from the Phoenix Suns at the trade deadline; the Suns acquired it through the 2012 Lakers trade for Steve Nash.

As it stands, the Lakers have an 82.8 percent chance of retaining their top-five pick this season. Injuries have also contributed to the Lakers' back-to-back historically bad seasons. For the second consecutive season, the Lakers led the NBA in most games lost due to injury. Their players 339 missed games, topping last season's league-leading mark of 319.

All told, the Lakers lost eight guards to injury or retirement this season: Kobe Bryant, Steve Nash, Nick Young, Jeremy Lin, Ronnie Price, Xavier Henry, Dwight Buycks and Wayne Ellington. They also had only eight available players Wednesday, with Jordan Clarkson and Wesley Johnson each missing the game with sprained left ankles. Meanwhile, the Knicks will find out where they select on May 19 when the NBA conducts its draft lottery.

For much of the season, it seemed as if New York would finish with the league's worst record and obtain the best odds to land the top pick. But the Knicks won two of their final three games to close out the season, allowing Minnesota (16-66) to finish with sole possession of the NBA's worst mark. The Timberwolves are guaranteed to pick no lower than fourth and will have a 25 percent chance of landing the top pick.

Information from ESPN.com's Ian Begley contributed to this report.

THE FIVE W'S:

Who:

What:

Where:

When:

Why:

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT A NEWS ARTICLE: WRITE AT LEAST THREE OBSERVATIONS.

WRITING YOUR ARTICLE

Most newspaper articles break down into two categories:

- News articles
- Feature articles

You will also find opinion pieces, like editorials and book and movie reviews, but this lesson deals strictly with news and feature articles.

Here's how you can tell the difference between a news story and a feature story.

- *News articles cover the basics of current events.* They answer the questions: who, what, where, how, and when?
- *Feature articles are longer and more in depth* than regular news articles. They cover one subject from multiple angles and are written in a more creative, entertaining format. Although a news story can be creative and entertaining, too! Check out the examples below.

It is important to remember that both news and features demand the same level of research and reporting.

The Basic Story Outline:

The best way to structure a newspaper article is to first write an outline. Review your research and notes. Then jot down ideas for the following six sections. Remember, this is just a foundation upon which to build your story!

I. Lead sentence

Grab and hook your reader right away!

II. Introduction

Which facts and figures will ground your story? You have to tell your readers where and when this story is happening.

III. Opening quotation

What will give the reader a sense of the people involved and what they are thinking?

IV. Main body

What is at the heart of your story?

V. Closing quotation

Find something that sums the article up in a few words.

VI. Conclusion (optional—the closing quote may do the job)

What is a memorable way to end your story? The end quote is a good way to sum things up. That doesn't always work. If you are quoting more than one person with different points of view in your story, you cannot end with a quote from just one of them. Giving one of your interviewees the last word can tilt the story in their favor.

(Courtesy of scholastic.com)

APRIL 12, 1861: FORT SUMTER

THE FIVE W'S:

Who:

What:

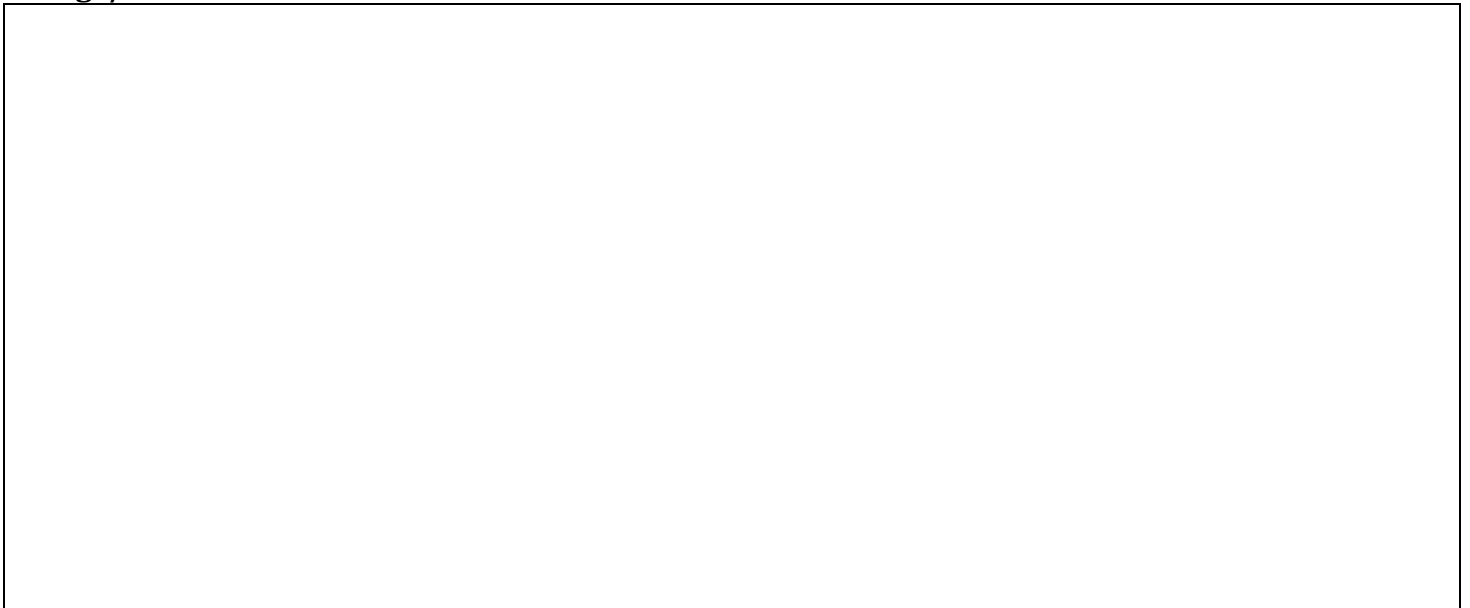
Where:

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Why:

Quotes:

Image/Visuals for Your Article:

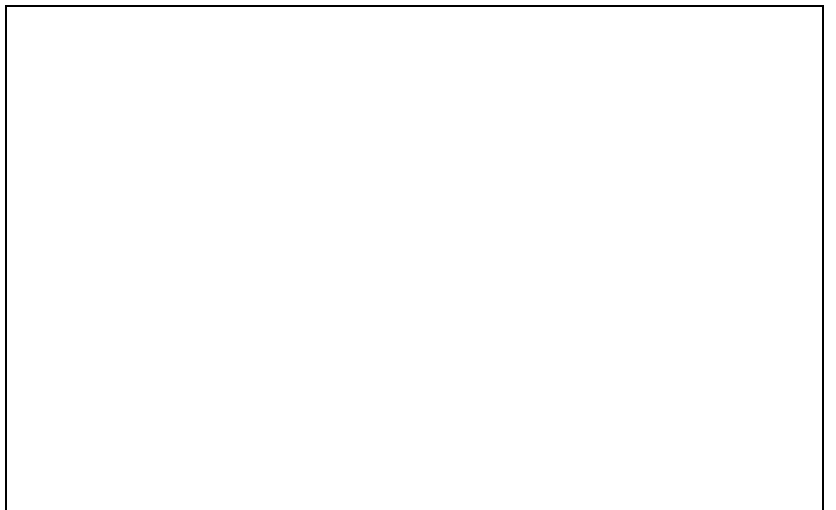
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(Title)

Date:

Author:

Story:

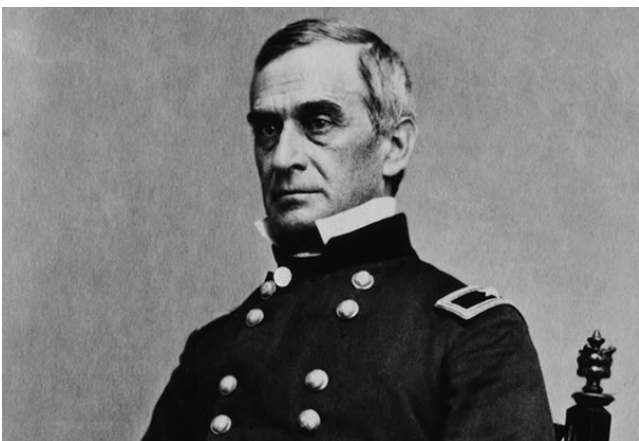


Fort Sumter

Abner Doubleday: My name is Abner Doubleday. I am a Union captain that was stationed at Fort Sumter in South Carolina (*image of Doubleday will appear on the screen*). As a result of the secession that was taking place in the Southern states, the Confederacy began to take control of any federal property. The first thing the Confederates wanted control of, were forts. Forts are a permanent army post.

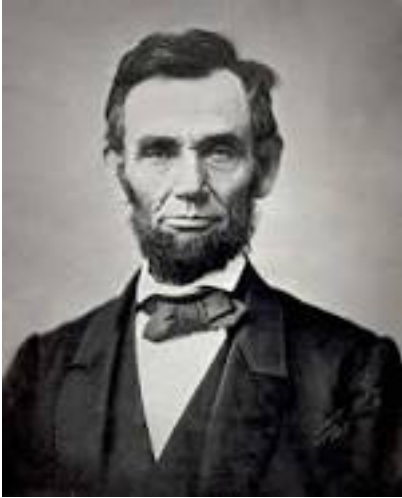


Major Robert Anderson: My name is Robert Anderson and I am a major who is posted at Fort Sumter (*image of Anderson will appear on the screen*). This fort is located on an island and guards the Charleston Harbor. Although I am happy that Abraham Lincoln has been inaugurated as President of the United States, I am worried. The day after President Lincoln's inauguration, I sent a dispatch, a message sent quickly, to the President. I informed the President that we were low on supplies and that the Confederates were demanding our surrender.



Abraham Lincoln: My name is President Abraham Lincoln and I was recently inaugurated as President of the United States (*image of Lincoln will appear on the screen*). Throughout the election, I emphasized the importance to keep the Union intact. However, South

Carolina among other states, are not happy with me being in office. They worry I will not give newly admitted states the opportunity to adopt slavery. I received a dispatch from Major Robert Anderson, who is stationed at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. He has informed me that they are low in supplies and are being pressured by Confederate forces to surrender. I in no way want to start a war by trying to take forts back, but ignoring the issue will give Confederate states the idea that they had a right to secede.



Abraham Lincoln: I have made the decision to send a message to Governor Francis Pickens of South Carolina (*image of Governor Pickens will be projected on the screen*). I have informed him that I plan to send an unarmed group of men to deliver supplies to Fort Sumter. In my message to Governor Pickens, I have promised him that union forces would no “throw in men, arms, or ammunition,” unless they were fired upon.



Jefferson Davis: My name is Jefferson Davis and I am president of the Confederate States of America (*image of Davis will appear on the screen*). Previous to the secession, I was the senator of Mississippi. Governor Francis Pickens has informed me that President Lincoln has sent him a message. Lincoln states he plans not to initiate any combat. It is then up to me to decide, if the Confederate States of America should initiate war with the Union. I have spent a lot of time speaking to my advisors and have made a difficult decision. We will open fire and attack Fort Sumter.



(Background screen of Fort Sumter will be projected)



Abner Doubleday: It was early in the morning on April 12, 1861, when Confederate troops opened fire on the fort. “Showers of balls...and shells...poured into the fort in one incessant [continuously] stream, causing great flakes of masonry [constructed material] to fall in all directions.

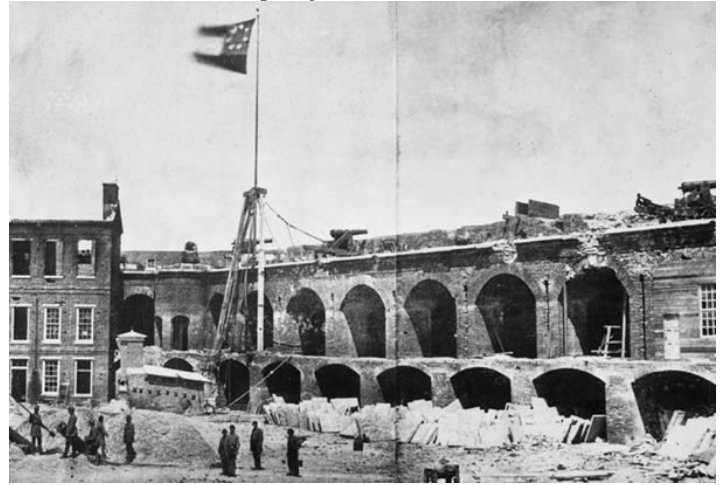
(Image of Fort Sumter being attacked will be projected)



Major Robert Anderson: Because of the high seas, the Union relief ships could not reach the fort and aid us. We could only hold up for 33 hours before I had to surrender on April

14, 1861. I'm surprised that no lives were lost! Thousands of shots were exchanged during this battle.

(Image of Confederate flag being hoisted in Fort Sumter will be projected)



Major Robert Anderson: As the Confederate forces hoisted their flag over the fort all the guns in the arbor sounded a triumphant salute.

Abraham Lincoln: The attack on Fort Sumter has forced me to take action. We are in war with the Confederate states. I have called for 75,000 troops to fight and save the Union. Luckily, many have also signed up to volunteer to aid in the war.

Jefferson Davis: This was a very successful attack on Fort Sumter. Now that we have officially entered a war with Union forces, many have signed up to fight. Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas have voted to join the Confederate States of America.