Nick Schlemmer 0:13

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Jack McFarlane 1:16

Hi everyone, and welcome to the HR Happy Hour Network. This is The Play by Play podcast hosted by myself, Jack McFarlane, and Nick Schlemmer.

Nick Schlemmer 1:23

Hey guys, how's it going?

Jack McFarlane 1:25

Well, guys, welcome to a brand new year. Nick and I are so excited to bring you this episode. It's always one of our favorites. And not just excited for the episode, but we are excited for 202. We say it every year, you know everyone, oh, this year is going to be our year, but we really mean it, guys, we're excited to bring you a ton of new content and a ton of new segments. And, yeah, we just cannot wait.

Nick Schlemmer 1:47

Yep, and, and just like Jack said, as we talk about the future of our podcast, we're thrilled for what's to come, and we're grateful to have you guys along for the ride, whether you're a first time listener or a long time listener, we appreciate all your support and the continuous tuning into our shows, and we're excited to see what kind of content we can create this year. So we'll take a quick break and then jump right into the first segment of the show.

Jack McFarlane 2:18

All right, guys, just like every year, we're gonna start this first half of the show going back looking at what happened in 2024: all the major events, the popular movies and music and podcasts and major championship winners, all that fun stuff. So let's kick it off, Nick, with the major events that happened in 2024. For me, the first one I think of is the 2024 Summer Olympics, right? I mean, I'm sure a lot of people would think that too. I mean, did you watch a lot of the Olympics? Did you get to see, like, what was kind of your favorite parts from the Olympics?

Nick Schlemmer 2:52

No, this was probably the first Olympics in quite some time where I've actually watched a majority of the events, which was a lot of fun, by the way; and, I'd say my favorite event was probably the three on three basketball, men's basketball, and the sharp shooting; whether it was archery or the pistol sharp shooting. But yeah, those two were probably my favorites. What were your favorites? As far as like watching goes?

Jack McFarlane 3:18

Definitely basketball, the team basketball. The championship match against Serbia was so much fun to watch. I was actually at work when it was going on, so I kept popping up in the pro shop to watch it a little bit. That's always fun. I've always loved basketball. This year, which I think a lot of people would agree with, break dancing was pretty entertaining. We all know about the Australian break dancer [Rachel Gunn "Raygun"] and her "moves", right? And they were very good, I'd say. And, those were some of my favorite; but, also the shooting. Now, the one guy, do you remember where he was from that he just went up there, no equipment, nothing. [Turkey's representative Yusuf Dikec] One Eyed closed, one eyed open, just kind of aimed his pistol and let it fire. And he was very entertaining to watch too. Yeah. There was a lot of lot of good stuff at this Olympics.

Yeah, especially the sharp shooting guy, like you said he had no special glasses, no ear protection, and he still got, I think, third place overall. All, all he had was just his, you know, his gun.

Yeah, I was reading when it was going on, It was a big story. They were saying that all these people use, like, 1000s of dollars worth of equipment, the special focusing and zoomed in, eye goggles, ear protection, all this really fancy high-tech stuff. And he just went up there with his glasses on, literally closed one eye, one handed, and shot the target. It was a very impressive. It shows you that you just need skill. You don't need all the fancy stuff, right? Like that was inspiring.

Nick Schlemmer 4:47

That's a great word for it. And in the break dancing, you know, I didn't get to see that live, I just saw clips of it. You know, it was a very interesting portion of the Olympics. [It's] better than [what] I could do. I'll just put that out there. I won't be break dancing like they can, you know?

Jack McFarlane 5:06

I think you should give yourself some credit. I do think you would have done better than, uh, the one lady that everyone has seen [Raygun]. I don't think she was very good. She was entertaining. But I seriously think maybe for a Game Time loss, or a Game Time win, Nick, you're gonna have to break dance live and show us what you've got, because I would love to see it!

Nick Schlemmer 5:28

That that would be a fun, you know, a fun punishment to do.

Jack McFarlane 5:33

Well, moving on, what was another big event that happened that sticks out in your mind from this past year?

Nick Schlemmer 5:39

I'd say another one would have to be the total solar eclipse, and Jack, I don't know how much you know you got to witness it; but, as far here in the Midwest goes, it was pretty much completely dark outside for just a minute or two. It was really cool to see.

Jack McFarlane 5:56

Yeah, unfortunately, up here in Utah, it got dark for like 30 seconds. It wasn't even like nighttime. It was more like a sunset. You couldn't see anything. But, I do remember when it happened, probably six or seven years ago, when it happened in the Midwest. I was at school, and they brought us all outside on the baseball field, and then we got to watch it. I remember that was super cool. So, I was jealous when it was happening, because I know what it looks like. So yeah, we didn't get anything out here. It was sad.

Speaker 1 5:57

Yeah, no, I was in class too, and we all, like, kind of just paused class and went outside because we realized-the teacher was just presenting and doing his thing- and we were like, "Wait, it's like, prime time for the Eclipse." So, we all went outside. He had glasses for us, so that was nice. And then, yeah, we got to see a little bit of it. But that was really cool. I would have loved to be, you know, like, playing golf or something during that time when it just completely goes black. So, when it comes back...

Jack McFarlane 6:47

Next time there's an eclipse, we have to go find out where it is, book a tee time and golf in the middle of it. I remember, like, you put your glasses on when it's happening, right? And it l doesn't really look like much, because the glasses make it look like a little circle; but, then when you take them off, when it's at totality, it is the coolest looking sky ever. It doesn't even look real. Yeah, that would be awesome, imagine hitting a drive up into the Eclipse. That'd be so cool.

Nick Schlemmer 7:18

I know we've got a good amount of time before the next one, I think. So, we'll have to plan that out a little bit.

Jack McFarlane 7:24

Yeah, we could start planning. Well, moving on from the Eclipse, we won't talk about this much, but it was a major event, maybe the biggest event in the year: the presidential election. We have a whole episode on it, and we will definitely talk more about it, but we did want to mention it. You know, Trump beating Kamala [Harris] was a big deal.

Nick Schlemmer 7:41

Yeah, we talked a little bit about, you know, the election, and everything; but Jack, I want to talk about some major sports championships that happened in 2024. I'll kind of start us off with, you know, three or four, and then if you want to take us through the rest. So we got MLB starting up first: we got the LA Dodgers, you know, that was just a super team. I feel like they had a lot of great players, very hard to beat them. One of the best records in baseball as well. And then for NBA, we had the Boston Celtics. And that one I really liked, because the hometown kid St Louis area, Jason Tatum, that was cool to see him finally get a ring.

Jack McFarlane 8:19

Yeah, I agree. I didn't necessarily won Boston to win, but it wasn't like I was rooting against him just because of Jason Tatum. It's really nice to see someone from the Lou, you know, win something that major. And it's crazy, because in the NHL, the Florida Panthers won the Stanley Cup; and Jason Tatum, who's like, the star of the Celtics and then one of the Florida Panthers, like captains, I don't remember his name [Matthew Tkachuk], they are the same age, went to the same school. They went to Chaminade [Chaminade College preparatory School, Frontenac, MO] and won a championship, their first each, in the same exact year. So, I remember that happening and that was crazy. It was big for St Louis.

Nick Schlemmer 8:55

Yeah. It was the year of Chaminade.

Jack McFarlane 8:57

Yeah, year of Chaminade. There you go. Moving on from the NBA, let's talk golf for just a quick second. You know, Nick and I, you guys know, we love golf. So Scotty Scheffler won the FedEx Cup-the season long race- t hat's a big deal. A lot of money comes with that, like $18M/$21M for 1st place, crazy amount. And then the majors, Scotty Scheffler at the Masters. Xander [Xander Schauffele] winning the open and the PGA, and then [Bryson] DeChambeau Winning the US Open, with that incredible bunkers, that incredible bunker shot! I thought that was the shot of the year. When I think back to 2024 golf, if you have to pick one moment, that's probably the moment I'd pick, because that was such a close major. Him [DeChambeau] and Rory [Mcllroy] were just going back and forth.

Nick Schlemmer 9:43

Yeah, strictly golf, it was a must get up and down. And he did.

Jack McFarlane 9:49

From a really hard spot. From a really hard spot. So, we won't, we won't nerd out on you guys too bad about golf. We'll keep it moving over to the NCAA, you know, college football. I'll let Nick tell you the winner here, because it still breaks my heart.

Nick Schlemmer 10:06

Yes, we got, yeah, college football with Michigan. It was just another one of those teams, you know, they were just really good the entire year. They were one of the hardest teams to beat. I got to see them play. They came to Nebraska and, you know, they whooped up on us. But, you know, that was a fun game to see. I can say I watched the national champion, so that was good.

Jack McFarlane 10:28

That's a good point. See, you got to think positively. I'm a big Ohio State fan. It's the one team I root for that isn't, you know, Utah. So, watching them [Michigan] win all season long and then win the natty was tough. Luckily, you know, (Preview for Next year's episode) when we talk about this, we will be saying Ohio State has won the National Championship. So, I do feel better about it after that. We won't get into it right now. That does make me feel better, but Michigan was just a boring team to watch, I felt like. Maybe it's part of my hatred for them coming out, just because they're such big rivals [of Ohio State]. But they were a running team. They were a power-run team, and it worked. But, it wasn't like watching the Joe Burrow led LSU team where they would just air the ball out the whole game. But like, Michigan, I remember there was a game, I think it was the Michigan, Penn State game, JJ McCarthy through like two passes the whole game, and they won. It was crazy. Moving on from football over to men's and women's basketball, for the men, UConn ended up winning it [the NCAA Tournament] again. They went back to back. They're looking for a three peat. I remember their coach, Dan Hurley, had a chance to go coach the Lakers this year, and he turned it down just to chase the three peat. So maybe, yeah, maybe they'll get it done. And then basketball for the women's side, we should have brought Steve Bose on for this one, right? I mean, South Carolina dominated all season long. How many games did they even lose last year? A very, very small amount, if any.

Nick Schlemmer 11:55

For almost all the season, they had zero losses and only lost one or two games towards the end of the season.

Jack McFarlane 12:01

Yeah, they dominated. But Go Gamecocks. Go Cocks! We're big South Carolina fans, at least I am. I like to see them succeed, just for Steve's sake, you know. Just for Steve. Well, let's move on to music, Nick. Before we get into it, all the music data is from Spotify. So, if you look at Apple Music, it might be slightly different. Spotify is what we go with here. Take us through some of the top artists globally (All these [numbers] are globally, not just U.S.) Start us off Nick.

Nick Schlemmer 12:32

Yeah, so starting off at number one, Taylor Swift. Not much of a shocker. You could have guessed that one, yeah. Coming in at number Two: The Weekend, Three: Bad Bunny, Four: Drake, Five, Billie Eilish, and then, I'll say Six as well with Travis Scott; but, I think that's a pretty solid, you know, top six. Most of those names you probably could have guessed.

Jack McFarlane 12:55

Yeah, I'd agree with that. Running through the rest of the list, I'll just read them off real quick. Seven through 10 Is Peso Pluma, Kanye West, Ariana Grande, and Feid. Two of them I have no idea who they are, so those are some shockers for me; but, it is globally. Like Nick said, though, pretty much names you've heard of. I think that Drake surprises me a lot, actually. I thought he was losing popularity, so to see him at number four does shock me a lot. What are your thoughts on that? Does anyone shock you on the list at all?

Nick Schlemmer 13:26

Not necessarily shocking. I wish I would have seen, I feel like the last few years, we've always had, you know, Post Malone on the top ten list. So, as far as the global artist goes, to see him not on here, that's kind of shocking; but, since it was globally, we have, you know, three or four Spanish artists in there with Bad Bunny and and Peso Pluma. So, you know, it makes sense. And Bad Bunny, I just started actually listening to his music.

Jack McFarlane 13:51

I've been listening. He's pretty good. Yeah, I don't know what he's saying, but his music is good. Like I agree, and I hear it all the time out here in Utah, there's a lot of Spanish speaking people. So, Bad Bunny is played all the time, and I don't hate it, like, I really enjoy his music. I could see him going up the list next year, definitely, even two or maybe one. We'll see if Taylor Swift kind of falls off a bit. But let's, let's move over to songs. The Songs chart did surprise me a lot more than the than the artist chart. I'll get us going. I'll go one through five here. I'll go fairly quick, starting at one going to five. So number one was Espresso, by Sabrina Carpenter. Then, you have Beautiful Things, by Benson Boone. Birds of a Feather, by Billie Eilish. Gata Only, by FloyyMenor and Cris Mj, okay, and Lose Control by Teddy Swims. So, of the five, I do know four of them. Do you know that fourth one? I don't know, it might, might be good, might not be good.

Nick Schlemmer 13:51

Yeah, I'm not sure. I mean of the of the top five I only know Sabrina Carpenter and Billie Eilish.

Jack McFarlane 14:57

So yeah, I bet you would know the [Lose] Control one. That was on the radio a ton. I bet, like, if you heard it, you would know it. Yeah, and probably same for the Benson Boone one.

Nick Schlemmer 15:07

I'll have to check those out. I'll wrap up with six through 10 here: we got End of Beginning by DJO, Too Sweet by Hoozier, uh, number eight was One of The Tirls by The Weekend, number nine: Taylor Swift Cruel Summer, and coming in at 10, was Die With a Smile: Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars. You know what, that number 10 spot, Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars? I'm gonna make a prediction here: I think Bruno Mars is gonna be on one of these top 10 lists next year, whether it's a song or an album. I feel like he's got some good music coming up.

Jack McFarlane 15:42

Yeah. I mean, he's got to release the music. He had that whole controversy about losing a good amount of money in Vegas this year, so he's got, he's got to earn some back. That song is pretty good. Elissa loves that song, so I heard it a lot, and it does shock me it got in the top 10 because that came out late in the year. So, I bet if that came out earlier in the year, it'd be even higher. It'd probably be top five, if I had to guess, just because it is Bruno Mars, and he's got a pretty big fan base. Another shock for me on the list, though, was: Taylor Swift was the number one artist, but only has one song, and it's at number nine. I think last year she had like three or four songs on this list.

Nick Schlemmer 16:20

Last year was a very good year. You know, she had the tour going on, everything else was just a Taylor year.

Jack McFarlane 16:26

Yeah, so, it is nice to see there's a really good mix of artists. I don't think there's one repeating artist on here. No, there's not. So, I like to see that. But, let's take it back for one second, because we did forget this. Let's talk about our own, you know, Spotify wrapped/Apple Music reviews. What was your number one artist and then what was your number one song? Since we're on songs now, do you remember that off the top of your head?

Nick Schlemmer 16:52

Yeah. So my number one artist was Post Malone. That's why I wish I saw him on the list [global artists Spotify list]again. But, my number one song was actually a country song. Oh my gosh, I'm blanking on his name right now. Dylan Marlowe is his name. So, it was a country song. And normally, I will say for the last two years, they haven't been country songs at number one. But this, this past year it was.

Jack McFarlane 17:19

I feel like a gym song is my number one. That's usually how it is for me. So, my artist was Luke Combs, again. I think that's the second time in three years, because, you know, we listen to a lot of country music, and usually my number one song is a gym song as well. But this year, it was Steal My Thunder from the Twisters movie, yeah, such a good song. So, I'm not kidding, after I saw that movie, I think I played that song like 100 times straight. Yep, it was, it was, it's a very good song, I think. And, it was a pretty good gym song too, because it's so upbeat. Let's move on to albums. This is where the Taylor Swift effect kind of comes back in. Take us through some of these top albums, Nick.

Nick Schlemmer 18:03

So, top albums globally: Taylor Swift at number one with The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology, number two Hit Me Hard And Soft by Billie Eilish, number three was Short And Sweet by Sabrina Carpenter, number fiveMAÑANA SERÁ BONITO.

Jack McFarlane 18:23

It's a Spanish album.

Nick Schlemmer 18:29

Yep, Karol G and then number five was eternal sunshine by Ariana Grande. And, like Jack said, he's gonna say these next these next five and it's a Taylor era here.

Jack McFarlane 18:40

So, Taylor had the number one album. She also has number six with 1989 Taylor's Version, number seven goes to Sza with SOS, back to Taylor Swift with Lover number eight. So she [Taylor Swift] has three of the top 10. And then, it ends with Fireworks and Rollerblades by Benson Boone [album #9] and Starboy by The Weekend, which shocks me, that came out years and years ago [Nov 25, 2016]. That's like, "Can't Feel My Face". That's, I don't even know if I was living in Waterloo when this album came out. It's that long ago. I cannot believe that is up on the top 10.

Nick Schlemmer 19:12

And, you know, whenever he released this album, it was probably on this list, and it probably hasn't been back on this list.

Jack McFarlane 19:21

Yeah, I'm shocked. The rest of them, I can understand, like with Taylor Swift. That's not much of a shock, even if it's an older album. All the other ones had a lot of songs that were on the top 10, like Billie Eilish, Sabrina Carpenter, Benson Boone, Ariana Grande; they all had a song up there. But yeah, Starboy is shocking.

Nick Schlemmer 19:39

You know, most out of the artists that we'd named for the top 10 globally [global albums], I'm surprised there was no Bad Bunny; because, he was a top artist number three, but there's no Bad Bunny album from him [on the album chart]. So, he must have a lot of great songs, but I guess album wise, they didn't hit from the same album.

Jack McFarlane 19:59

Yeah, it must be. I mean, I know the one album I listened to a lot from him is from a couple years ago, so maybe he hasn't released, like a major album in a couple years. I Could be wrong, though. We're novice Bad Bunny listeners. We don't know much about him. What was your number one album of the year, Nick?

Nick Schlemmer 20:20

Oh, that's a tough one, number one album... Let me think, it was probably, again, Dylan Marlowe and one of his albums from a few years ago. He's a fairly new country artist. He's up and coming. If I had to guess , that's probably what it was, I can't remember what exactly it was. What was yours.?

Jack McFarlane 20:39

So mine has always been a country album. I think for as long as they've done these rewinds, it has been some sort of country album. And this year, it changed. And, it's not a hip hop album, or gym or metal. This will give you some insight into me. It's not embarrassing. I'll just put it out there. It was Short and Sweet by Sabrina Carpenter. And, sadly, it was not very close. It was a blowout. It was a runaway for that, album because it shows you how many times you listen to it. Now, part of that is because my lovely fiance loves Sabrina Carpenter. But, I have to admit, I know every word of every song on the album. It's very good. I recommend it, but yeah, first time it wasn't a country album.

Nick Schlemmer 21:22

So maybe, you and your fiance had some impact here on the top 10 global album list with your number one Sabrina Carpenter streaming.

Jack McFarlane 21:31

We could have! We might have got her that number three spot. It was, it's a good album. It's a good album. It's a fun album. I'll put it that way. It's like, I don't like a lot of slow music, and most of the songs are pretty upbeat and very unique. It's what I liked about them. But I promise you, next year will be a country album. I will not let it happen two years in a row.

Nick Schlemmer 21:52

That's great. What do you say we slide on into some top podcasts from the last year?

Jack McFarlane 21:56

Yeah, that's a good idea. I mean, we are a podcast. We should probably mention podcasts. To put it out there, there are a couple podcasts on here I've never seen. Okay? And, there are a couple Spanish ones. The one that I recognized right away was number one with The Joe Rogan Experience. I think that when anyone thinks of podcasting, and what started the whole podcasting era, is probably The Joe Rogan Experience.

Nick Schlemmer 22:22

He was definitely, you know, one of the one of the pioneers this year. And then number two: Call Her Daddy [Alex Cooper]. You know, that's one I’ve heard of. I've never listened to it, but I've seen short clips of it on different social media platforms. I don't know if you've ever seen it, Jack. I couldn't even tell you who really produces it or puts it out.

Jack McFarlane 22:41

I've definitely heard the name before. Obviously, it was really popular. It was number two, but I listened to a little bit of Joe Rogan. I listened to a lot of sports podcast. I know Nick does too. So, a lot of our podcasts are what we listen to, and they are not going to be on this list.

Nick Schlemmer 23:02

Then ,number three was Huberman Lab [Scicomm Media], number four was This Past Weekend w/ Theo Von. Have you ever listened to Theo Von?

Jack McFarlane 23:11

I've seen clips. I've seen clips. I do know he's a comedian.

Nick Schlemmer 23:15

yeah, he's a super funny guy. So, that's one that I definitely recognize. Everybody else, like you said, I've never listened to. So, it might be something, you know, we have to check out and see.

Jack McFarlane 23:25

Yeah, yeah. The one that intrigues me, well, there are two on this list that intrigue me: One is called The Diary of a CEO with Steve Bartlett. That sounds interesting. A CEO goes behind the scenes; And then, Crime Junkie. That one sounds like a true crime podcast, which I like. I like true crime. True Crime is good to watch every once in a while. So maybe, that would be a good one too. But definitely, I never got a [Spotify Wrapped] rewind for it, saying, "this was your most listed two podcasts," but for sure, mine was The Herd with Colin Cowherd. Like, I watch that every day, and if I don't watch it, I listen to the podcast later in the day. I love sports talk.

Nick Schlemmer 24:04

That one's probably my top listened to as well. If it's not The Play by Play, like, go Play by Play.

Jack McFarlane 24:10

We should be on this list. What is going on? All right, someday, let's end our 2024 recap with the movies. In ordered from 10 to one, these are going to be your top grossing movies. Do you want to you want to take us through 10 to five? And I'll take it through the top five? Yeah.

Nick Schlemmer 24:27

So Coming at number 10 was "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice", they brought in 451 million. After that was the latest Venom movie, "Venom: The Last Dance" at 476M. Kung Fu Panda at numebr [eight] grossing 574 million. "Godzilla x King Kong: The New Empire" 571 million. And then, wrapping that up with number five, number six, excuse me, was "Wicked" with 634 million, so far. And Jack, you know me, and you probably know what we are both thinking: with "Wicked" is a newer release, and it's already, like, halfway up the list. And like I said, that's just so far. It's probably gonna reach over a billion dollars.

Jack McFarlane 25:09

Yeah, I would assume it would get up further if it was released early in the year. It would definitely be up in the top three of this list. And, I think the same goes for another movie coming up. But, number five was "Dune: Part Two" at 714 million. And then, number four was "Moana 2". This is the other movie. It just got released, too. I think "Moana 2" and "Wicked" would have been one and two. When you look back in a year and the numbers officially set in. Top three. "Despicable Me 4", just under $1B at $969M million. That shocks me. I mean, I know people love to the Despicable Me movies. We'll talk about it in a second, but that's shocking. And then two and one are the only movies to get over a billion dollars. One was "Deadpool and Wolverine" at $1.3 billion. And then, the number one movie was "Inside Out 2" at $1.65 billion Wow. Yeah, that is a lot of money, and not what I would have guessed the number one movie would have been, honestly. I mean, it was a good movie. I saw it. Did you see "Inside Oout 2"?

Nick Schlemmer 26:10

I haven't seen it. I saw the first one. That was a good movie too. The target audience that they have is just so wide and, yeah, and everybody wants to see it, even people our age.

Jack McFarlane 26:22

Yeah, Elissa and I went and saw it. It was good. I would not have guessed it to be the best earning movie. What was your favorite movie from the year? It doesn't have to be on this list, but what was your favorite movie?

Nick Schlemmer 26:34

Yeah, so I think my favorite movie, it is on this list, and that was "Despicable Me 4". I'm all about the animated movies and the "Despicable Me" franchise. And, I really enjoyed that one. A close second would probably have to be the Venom movie. I really enjoy the venom series as well. Does your top movie fall on this list?

Jack McFarlane 26:59

Yeah, mine is actually right under "Despicable Me 4". I think "Moana 2" was the best movie of the year. I loved the first one. I thought it was great. I'm like you. I like the animated movies. I've always been a fan of animated movies, and, I want to get into Despicable Me, I really like Steve Carell, but those dang minions. I just hate them. They're so annoying. I do not understand it. I just can't do it. But "Moana 2", I thought was fantastic. And I love Maui. He's the best.

Nick Schlemmer 27:24

For sure.

Jack McFarlane 27:26

Well, let's take a quick break, and then when we come back, we're gonna hit you with the year to come. We're gonna give you some predictions for the upcoming year.

Nick Schlemmer 27:41

Alrighty, guys, we are back with the year to come 2025. We're here now in 2025 and I just want to say something really fast that, you know, there's something incredibly special about turning the page to a new year. You know, it gives us a moment to reflect, reset, and reignite those ambitions and goals that may have gotten lost. You know,, in the in the midst of 2024 and everything that happened in the past year. But, 2025 is here, and I'm looking forward to seeing what everybody can do. But, now we're going to talk about what Jack and I think we can expect for this upcoming year. So Jack, I know you've got some good stats here, some good predictions for us. What do you have for us?

Jack McFarlane 28:21

Yeah, I'll start it off on the sports side. You know, we try to, every year, we try to do one per category. We got sports, movie, music and then an "out there" prediction. My sports one, it pains me to say it, itreally does, as you can tell. You know, I'm a big Cardinals fan. Nick, we're big Cardinals fans. The Dodgers won the World Series last year. That kind of sucks for us. We don't like them. So, this one really sucks to say, but looking at their roster, they've only gotten better. They've added Blake Snell to their rotation. They just added Rōki Sasaki, another incredible pitcher from Japan. So, I've got that the LA Dodgers are going to break the all-time win record for the regular season in the MLB. It hurts to say it. I don't see how they don't do it. They spend 300 quadrillion dollars every off season. They better win. It would be a shock if they didn't, to put that into perspective. That's like, 117 wins at least. So it's hard. I think this is the first time in 50 plus years, that you can realistically say that a team might break this?

Nick Schlemmer 29:24

I 100% I agree with that. Yep.

Jack McFarlane 29:27

So what do you have? Do you have a good sports one at all? Or do you want to move on to like a movie or music?

Nick Schlemmer 29:33

I'm probably going to move on to a movie prediction, and I couldn't think of a good sports one. So, I've got a movie one, and we've got an upcoming movie, the new Avatar 3 movie that they're creating right now, I think that one's going to be the number one earnings movie overall, with movies. I love the Avatar series. I always have. I think that one's going to be the top movie for 2025.

Jack McFarlane 29:57

Yeah, and that's a great guess. I mean the original Avatar was like, the number one movie ever earnings wise. It's either one or two. I can't remember if it still holds the title, but it was number one for a long time, of all time movies, I think, in money earned. So, that's a good guess. I'm gonna take it a different direction. We saw Inside Out 2" as number one animated movie. I think that "Zootopia 2" will be the best earner, just because it's going to reach a wide, wide audience. The first Zootopia was really good. I enjoyed that movie a lot, so I'm excited for number two as well. And that's kind of my prediction there.

Nick Schlemmer 30:34

Okay, well, I got a Music One for you, too. And you know, one of my top artists has always been Morgan Wallen and like Jack said, we listen to a lot of country. I don't know how much Morgan Wallen, Jack you listen to, but for me, it's quite a bit.

Jack McFarlane 30:48

Yeah, a good amount.

Nick Schlemmer 30:50

So, and I know he has a few different songs and an album coming up, probably midway through 2025 here they should be releasing. So, I think he's going to probably be the top artist in the U.S. I would say. I don't know if I can fit him in the global charts. Yeah, for the U.S. I think he's got a run at it.

Jack McFarlane 31:10

Yeah, that's, that's a very good guess. I I would like to see him. I would like to see any country artists break into that top 10 globally. I don't think it's going to happen, but hopefully on the U.S .side, we can pull for some country music. For mine, going out of the U.S ., we talked about it a little bit earlier. I think Bad Bunny is going to make the jump from three to one [on global Spotify artists]. Last year, he was at number five and went up two spots; he'll go up two spots again. There, he is number one. Yeah, that's gonna be, my guess. He's gonna take down Taylor Swift, and we can all be thankful for Bad Bunny.

Nick Schlemmer 31:42

I would say that that's a very good prediction. That one I could definitely see, you know, coming true. You know, we have this crazy one coming up next. What was your "out there" Prediction?

Jack McFarlane 31:57

Yeah, my "out there", I was trying to think back, you know, what did we do this year? What were some big topics this year? And crypto came up a ton. We had Colin Kanyuck on the podcast. Talked a lot about crypto twice now, so I decided to take it that way. You know, Bitcoin on election night or just after the election, hit a big milestone of $100,00. It took, you know, seven or eight years to get there. It took quite some time. My big prediction is that it will make the jump to $200,000 plus this year alone. So, I think it's going to basically double in price as crypto really starts to take over. I would love to see that. I will benefit from that. Yeah, you'd see something like a beach background if that happens here [hinting at recording at a beach if he gets a lot of money from Bitcoin].

Nick Schlemmer 32:46

I'm right there with you, with going the crypto route. So mine's kind of a two-parter, but I said that the meme coin, so, you know, Dogecoin, Sheba, I said those are going to kind of become more relevant. But, then also, just the overall purchasing power with crypto is going to become a lot more widespread; And, something fun with that that I thought of here, recently, was having crypto prizes for, like, sporting events. Having, you know, a cash prize. How about, you know, 50 bitcoins or something like that? Which is a lot of money. So, that's kind of "out there", but, you know, give them [winning athletes] crypto. I think if I was an athlete, I would, you know, I would shoot for that. I would still try and win that tournament.

Jack McFarlane 33:35

I know there are some athletes that take part of their salary in crypto already. I'm sure the number will grow, but you're right, there needs to be like the crypto.com tournament for golf and yeah, the purse is all crypto, like 30 Bitcoin purse, or No, I guess it would have to be a lot more than that for a golf tournament. Still, it'd be like a 90 Bitcoin purse. But still, that would be awesome. And then with the paying stuff. That would be nice to see Bitcoin, really, because you can go online, you can do Bitcoin, Ethereum, Litecoin, you can pay some things, but it's still kind of difficult. And eventually, eventually it's going to make a jump, like it's going to happen eventually. So this year would be fantastic. That would increase the value.

Nick Schlemmer 34:18

Yeah, it's definitely up and coming. And you know, we're already seeing arenas being sponsored like Crypto.com Arena and things of that nature. So it's on the rise. You know, the future is on the way. The future of crypto is on the way. Alrighty, guys, we just finished talking about that last segment, our predictions for 2025, but we're going to wrap up this first episode of the new year with the quote of the show. And Jack, I think I've got a good one for you today, and it comes from Abraham Lincoln. You know, a great guy to start off the quotes for 2025 with. We talked about our predictions for the year. It's a new year. Everybody has their own goals and ambitions that they want to hit. So Abraham Lincon said this: he said, "The best way to predict your future is to create it."

Jack McFarlane 35:10

I like that a lot. That is perfect. You're always starting us off strong in 2025 with that quote of the show. That is a great one of the show, man. You just don't miss. You just don't miss.

Nick Schlemmer 35:21

Thank you. And, I wanted to say one more quick little thing before we wrap up here, going into the new year, I just want to say to all of our listeners, you know, take that leap of faith. Begin this New Year believing in yourself. The New Year always brings those new beginnings, new blessings and new opportunities that we can have. Every door is open. Go for it, reach those goals. And yeah, let's have a great 2025.

Jack McFarlane 35:45

We're all going to beat "Quitter Friday", it's the second Friday in January. Quitter Friday. We're all gonna beat that together. We got this guys. We're gonna crush 2025.

Nick Schlemmer 35:53

Yes. And thank you for tuning in today! Jack, I've had a lot of fun recording this show with you, excited to see what this year holds for us. And, yeah, thank you for tuning in.

Jack McFarlane 36:02

Thank you guys very much, and bye for now.

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