**The Greatest Upset Ever?**

Leicester City’s Championship in the Premier League has all the elements of a classic sports story. Sports. Drama. Underdogs. Underpants. (More on that in a bit.)

Leicester City has been in existence since 1884, and — until this season — the Foxes had never won a title at the highest level of English soccer. That all changed when Leicester clinched the Premier League championship with two games remaining. The Foxes became the first team other than the “Big Four” of Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City, and Manchester United to win the Premier League in 20 years.

The Foxes’ accomplishment has been hailed as the biggest upset in sports history. And there’s a strong case to be made for that. A year ago, Leicester was in last place for much of the campaign. Only a late hot streak of seven wins in nine games kept the team from being relegated to a lower level.

Leicester entered this season as a huge long shot to win the league. They were given the same odds (5,000 to 1) as for the Loch Ness monster being found alive. A Leicester City
championship seemed about as likely you catching your parents playing Minecraft, or Taylor Swift winning the Kentucky Derby as a jockey. But the Foxes got off to a blazing fast start and never slowed up. That didn’t mean that people believed in them. They were atop the league in December when a former player who is now a broadcaster announced that he would appear on his show in his underwear if Leicester went on to win the title. (Let’s hope he’s not shy!)

It was an amazing story, but is it, as many people are calling it, the most surprising championship in sports history? The U.S. has seen plenty of dramatic upsets. In 1969, the New York Mets were a seven-year-old franchise that had only finished better than 10th in the 10-team National League once. (In ’68, they were ninth.) But the Amazin’ Mets won 100 games and blew away the favored Baltimore Orioles in the World Series.

In the NFL, the St. Louis Rams went 4–12 in 1998. They signed a big-name free-agent quarterback who promptly injured his knee in the preseason. Behind backup QB Kurt Warner, the Rams went 13–3 and beat the Tennessee Titans in the Super Bowl.

Perhaps the greatest U.S. underdog story is the 1980 Olympic hockey team. The Miracle on Ice beat the powerful Soviet Union (which had cruised the U.S. 10–3 weeks earlier) en route to winning the gold.

SPRIT OF ST. LOUIS
Wide receiver Isaac Bruce contributed to the NFC’s best Cinderella story, the Rams’ surprising victory in Super Bowl XXXIV.

As amazing as all of these accomplishments are, none of them stack up to what Leicester City did. The Foxes were in command for the entire season — in a league that is dominated by four teams. (By comparison, Major League Baseball has seen 10 World Series winners in the last 20 years, while 12 franchises have won the Super Bowl.)

So let’s give it up for Leicester, the greatest underdogs the sports world has ever seen. And let’s keep an eye out for a very tall jockey at the Kentucky Derby next year. We now know that anything is possible.

NBA DRAFT
June 23, 7 p.m. ET, ESPN
NAVY OR GRAY suits? So basic. Double-breasted blazers one might wear to go boating? Totally in. Last year’s NBA fat ties, bow ties — no ties! — two-tone jackets, prospects put on a veritable fashion show at the draft. The bar is high for soon-to-be NBA rookies, who will take the stage at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, this month to shake commissioner Adam Silver’s hand. Skinny ties, stage at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, this month to shake commissioner Adam Silver’s hand. Skinny ties, fat ties, bow ties — no ties! — two-tone jackets, carnations… anything goes!

FLOP, DROP, AND ROLL
Are intentional falls an effective strategy or silly theatrics?

MESSION ACCOMPLISHED
Real Madrid’s Brazilian star Marcelo successfully fooled a referee with a dive in April.

LANCE STEPHENSON IS A PART-TIME ACTOR. During Game 2 of the 2014 NBA Eastern Conference Finals between the Indiana Pacers and Miami Heat, Stephenson ran into LeBron James from behind. James brushed Stephenson off, barely making contact. But Stephenson’s reaction was something out of an action film. He threw his own arm up, whipped his head back, fell to the floor, and then rolled over to his side in hopes of drawing a foul. No such luck. But often officials must decide: hard foul or slippery flop?

Athletes fake or exaggerate falls to trick refs into calling penalties on opponents. Sometimes these dramatics work. L.A. Clippers guard Chris Paul has been successful with getting calls in his favor. Occasionally, the trickery backfires. Stephenson, now with the Memphis Grizzlies, has been fined twice since the NBA started punishing flopping players in 2012. While flopping is prevalent in the NBA, it’s perhaps most common in soccer, where it’s called diving. According to Stonybrook physics professor Chang Kee Jung, flopping is not just dramatics. It can often be a realistic response.

“Players are taught to avoid impact. The natural instinct is jumping, to avoid contact,” Jung says. “But their momentum sends them forward. It’s action and reaction.”

Flopping is also effective in part, Jung says, because it forces players to adjust their aggressiveness — your opponent may not defend you as hard. But flopping can compromise a legitimate outcome and the integrity of the game. This is an especially big concern in soccer, where one score — or an acting performance — often decides the match. - Lauren Slate

JUNE BIRTHDAYS
1 Nashville Predators defensiveman Roman Josi celebrates his 26th birthday.
2 Green Bay Packers running back Eddie Lacy turns 26.
6 FC Kansas City defender Becky Sauerbrunn is 31.
11 Forward Maya Moore of the Minnesota Lynx turns 27.
16 PGA Tour golfer Phil Mickelson celebrates his 48th birthday.
17 Oakland Raiders wide receiver Amari Cooper turns 22.
18 World champion triple jumper Christian Taylor is 26.
19 Pitcher Jacob deGrom of the New York Mets celebrates his 29th birthday.
20 Beach volleyball player and Olympic silver medalist April Ross turns 34.
24 Los Angeles Clippers shooting guard J.J. Redick turns 32.
29 Forward Kawhi Leonard of the San Antonio Spurs is 26.
30 Gold-medal-winning half-pipe skier David Wise celebrates his 26th birthday.

ACTING
FRANK KAMINSKY
When your nickname is Frank the Tank, you better run with it. Kaminsky wore this look at the draft and the ESPYs.

Rakeem Christmas
He played basketball long before he wore this suit on his show in his underwear.

Wild Christmas
When your name is Rick the Tank, you better run with it. Kaminsky wore this look at the draft and the ESPYs.

KRISTAPS PORZINGIS
If you’re going to play in New York, you have to look right. That’s what we did. We made sure he looked cool.

Cameron Payne
Wild Christmas! Those black shoes make your pants look cool.

Kristaps Porzingis
If you’re going to play in New York, you have to look right. That’s what we did. We made sure he looked cool.

Cameron Payne
Wild Christmas! Those black shoes make your pants look cool.

KarL-Anthony Towns
In sox + leather lapels = top pick. Porzingis missed the sock memo. Otherwise he would have been drafted higher.

World champion triple jumper Christian Taylor is 26.
Beach volleyball player and Olympic silver medalist April Ross turns 34.
Los Angeles Clippers shooting guard J.J. Redick turns 32.
Forward Kawhi Leonard of the San Antonio Spurs is 26.
Gold-medal-winning half-pipe skier David Wise celebrates his 26th birthday.

SIKIDS.COM / 11

41x529 NBA DRAFT
carnations . . . anything goes!

31x216 FLOP, DROP,
AND ROLL
Are intentional falls an
effective strategy or
silly theatrics?

20x166 ACTING

11x106 WARMUP

11x50 WINNER'S CIRCLE

9x116 JUNE BIRTHDAYS

9x66 SIKIDS.COM
WAY UP THERE
Characters who go to space (like Liam Hemsworth, left) could learn a lot about life in zero G from Virts, who spent seven months in space.

SAVANNAH BUCHANAN
HEIGHT: 5′10″
BIRTHPLACE: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
BIRTH DATE: OCTOBER 30, 1997
SPORT: LACROSSE

As of April 25, Savannah and the McDonough School Eagles were set to enter the playoffs as the No. 1 team in the nation (13–0, 6–0). The midfielder has scored 28 goals, with 11 assists, so far this season.

Savannah doesn’t limit her sports she plays. She has committed to play lacrosse for Notre Dame next year.

AL TIELEMANS (BUCHANAN)

ARE YOU A SPORTSKID?
ON OUR RADAR

SPORTSKIDS
OF THE MONTH

EMOREE ROGERS, 12
Chickamauga, GA
VOLLEYBALL
In March, Emoree earned a perfect set in the Cheo Cheo City club’s win (25–17, 25–0) at the Chattanooga Tournament. Emoree, a setter and left side hitter, helped her team reach the gold division championship game.

AMELIA CAMPBELL, 13
Mobile, AL
SOCCER
Over three games in the Buccaneer Bash tournament in February, Amelia scored seven goals, including the title-game winner, for St. Paul’s Episcopal school middle school. The seventh grader was named tournament MVP and was called up to varsity in March.

TAYLOR SIMONIAN, 14
Clovis, CA
DISTANCE RUNNING
In February, Taylor set a new personal record (1:59:07) when she finished first in the 19U division at the Big Hat Half Marathon. The eighth grader also earned second place in the women’s Thin Mint 5K in March.

BIRTHPLACE:
HEIGHT:

BIG NUMBERS

0 NHL teams from Canada that made the Stanley Cup playoffs, the first time in 48 years the country was shut out. The league has seven teams based in Canada; 16 of the 23 American teams made the field.

$3.2 million Amount “The Laws of Baseball,” an 1857 document listing the rules of the game, sold for at auction.

844 Consecutive innings that Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers went without giving up a three-run homer before Miami’s Giancarlo Stanton hit one on April 28.

5 Strikeouts in one inning by the Class A Charleston RiverDogs in a game on April 21. Two RiverDogs who whiffed reached on wild pitches. The feat has never been accomplished in the major leagues.

ON OUR RADAR

Savannah doesn’t limit her sports she plays. She has committed to play lacrosse for Notre Dame next year.

As of April 25, Savannah and the McDonough School Eagles were set to enter the playoffs as the No. 1 team in the nation (13–0, 6–0). The midfielder has scored 28 goals, with 11 assists, so far this season.

Savannah doesn’t limit her sports she plays. She has committed to play lacrosse for Notre Dame next year.

As a three-sport athlete — she also plays basketball — Savannah holds the Maryland record for consecutive state titles in team sports. Savannah has won three championships in both lacrosse and soccer. She has also won two in basketball.

Over 12 seasons, Savannah has a 227–22–2 combined record in the three sports she plays. She has committed to play lacrosse for Notre Dame next year.

On the International Space Station. The baseball fan told us that while he was watching the Chevrolet Chase, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Independence Day: Resurgence and Independence Day, he realized that if 10,000 years after 2016, humans were on a space mission, they would have to live in a zero-gravity environment and adapt.

As a three-sport athlete — she also plays basketball — Savannah holds the Maryland record for consecutive state titles in team sports. Savannah has won three championships in both lacrosse and soccer. She has also won two in basketball.

Over 12 seasons, Savannah has a 227–22–2 combined record in the three sports she plays. She has committed to play lacrosse for Notre Dame next year.

As of April 25, Savannah and the McDonough School Eagles were set to enter the playoffs as the No. 1 team in the nation (13–0, 6–0). The midfielder has scored 28 goals, with 11 assists, so far this season.

Savannah doesn’t limit her sports she plays. She has committed to play lacrosse for Notre Dame next year.

On the International Space Station. The baseball fan told us that while he was watching the Chevrolet Chase, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Independence Day: Resurgence and Independence Day, he realized that if 10,000 years after 2016, humans were on a space mission, they would have to live in a zero-gravity environment and adapt.

As a three-sport athlete — she also plays basketball — Savannah holds the Maryland record for consecutive state titles in team sports. Savannah has won three championships in both lacrosse and soccer. She has also won two in basketball.

Over 12 seasons, Savannah has a 227–22–2 combined record in the three sports she plays. She has committed to play lacrosse for Notre Dame next year.

On the International Space Station. The baseball fan told us that while he was watching the Chevrolet Chase, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Independence Day: Resurgence and Independence Day, he realized that if 10,000 years after 2016, humans were on a space mission, they would have to live in a zero-gravity environment and adapt.

As a three-sport athlete — she also plays basketball — Savannah holds the Maryland record for consecutive state titles in team sports. Savannah has won three championships in both lacrosse and soccer. She has also won two in basketball.

Over 12 seasons, Savannah has a 227–22–2 combined record in the three sports she plays. She has committed to play lacrosse for Notre Dame next year.
**DIFFERENCE MAKERS**

**LONE STAR LEADER**

Texan **WILL LOURCEY** aims to recruit sports fans and athletes to fund-raise and fight hunger.

By Kid Reporter Hollie Beiger

**WILL LOURCEY WAS** seven years old when he saw a homeless man with a sign reading NEED A MEAL. The native of Fort Worth, Texas, has been helping fight hunger ever since. “I didn’t like learning that some people in my community don’t have enough food to eat,” recalls Will, now 13.

That summer six years ago, with help from his parents, friends, and the director of a local food bank, Will started FROGS (Friends Reaching Our Goals). He chose the name to compete when he saw a homeless man with a sign reading NEED A MEAL. The native of Fort Worth, Texas, has been helping fight hunger ever since. “I didn’t like learning that some people in my community don’t have enough food to eat,” recalls Will, now 13.

That summer six years ago, with help from his parents, friends, and the director of a local food bank, Will started FROGS (Friends Reaching Our Goals). He chose the name because he wanted to get his friends, who are fans of the TCU Horned Frogs, excited about the organization. Through FROGS, Will and the other young people he recruited have provided more than 250,000 meals for Dallas–Fort Worth families in need. Besides serving meals, a large part of the work for Will is asking businesses and community members for donations and partnerships. He also tries to spread the word through social media.

Will’s latest fund-raiser is called Score on Hunger, which encourages a $1 donation for each point scored at a sporting event at any level. Fans, players, teams, leagues, schools, and parents can participate by selecting an event and pledging to donate to the hunger charity of their choosing.

Will, who hopes to raise $50,000, is encouraging donors to share their impact on social media. He made the final round of the Jefferson Awards Foundation Lead360 contest, an initiative that encourages young Americans to make an impact through public service. “Look around the community,” urges Will. “Is there a wrong that maybe you could help turn into a right? A simple act of kindness can mean the world to someone in need.”

**SPORTS ILLUSTRATED KIDS**

J. LOURCEY (WILL LOURCEY); JENNIFER POTTHEISER/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES (CHARLES); GETTY IMAGES (FOOD); TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORP./PHOTOFEST (THE SOUND OF MUSIC); WALT DISNEY CO./EVERETT COLLECTION (RECESS); BRAD KESELOWSKI/NASCAR/GETTY IMAGES (KESELOWSKI); GARY DINEEN/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES (BONE); CHRISTOPHER SZAGOLA/USA TODAY SPORTS (O’HARA); NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY (KESELOWSKI); CHASE AGNELLO-DEAN/NHLI/GETTY IMAGES (FUNNY PHOTO); KELSEY BONE/GETTY IMAGES (BONE); DORLING KINDERSLEY/GETTY IMAGES (CUISINE)

Submit your caption at SIKIDS.COM!

The winning caption as voted on SIKIDS.com:

**“GIVE ME YOUR AUTOGRAPH!!”**

— HUDSON, 14, BRITISH COLUMBIA

“OMG! I am your biggest fan!”

— Sophia, 10, Minnesota

“After all the Proactiv, you still have a huge pimple on your cheek.”

— Ethan, 11, Florida

“I can relate to your team name.”

— Aaron, 13, New Jersey

“No, I don’t want to go to bed now! It’s only the second period!”

— Jackson, 11, Pennsylvania

“What are those?”

— Keith, 11, South Carolina

“Yuck! When was the last time you cleaned your ear?”

— Mayer, 10, Illinois

**NEW YORK LIBERTY CENTER**

**TINA CHARLES’ FAVORITE THINGS**

**COLOR**

Blue

**CUISINE**

Caribbean

**BAND**

The Script

**MOVIE**

The Sound of Music

**CARTOON**

Recess

**ATHLETE**

Kevin Garnett

**BOOK WHEN YOU WERE A KID**

Where the Wild Things Are

**SUBJECT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

History

**ANIMAL**

Dog

Interview by Kid Reporter Kate Gilliam

**FUNKY PHOTO**

The winning caption as voted on SIKIDS.com:

“GIVE ME YOUR AUTOGRAPH!!”

— HUDSON, 14, BRITISH COLUMBIA

“OMG! I am your biggest fan!”

— Sophia, 10, Minnesota

“After all the Proactiv, you still have a huge pimple on your cheek.”

— Ethan, 11, Florida

“I can relate to your team name.”

— Aaron, 13, New Jersey

“No, I don’t want to go to bed now! It’s only the second period!”

— Jackson, 11, Pennsylvania

“What are those?”

— Keith, 11, South Carolina

“Yuck! When was the last time you cleaned your ear?”

— Mayer, 10, Illinois

**FUNKY PHOTO**

The winning caption as voted on SIKIDS.com:

“GIVE ME YOUR AUTOGRAPH!!”

— HUDSON, 14, BRITISH COLUMBIA

“OMG! I am your biggest fan!”

— Sophia, 10, Minnesota

“After all the Proactiv, you still have a huge pimple on your cheek.”

— Ethan, 11, Florida

“I can relate to your team name.”

— Aaron, 13, New Jersey

“No, I don’t want to go to bed now! It’s only the second period!”

— Jackson, 11, Pennsylvania

“What are those?”

— Keith, 11, South Carolina

“Yuck! When was the last time you cleaned your ear?”

— Mayer, 10, Illinois