

# 150. Jamar Anderson: Helping Bulldogs Succeed

## **Gavin Kelly**

Hey everybody, you're listening to Beyond 1894 This is the official podcast of Louisiana Tech University. My name is Gavin Kelly, from the Office of University Communications, and our guest for this episode is Jamar Anderson. He's joining us from the Bulldog Success Center, where he is the Assistant Director of Internal Affairs. He's also a Louisiana Tech alum, and he's going to talk to us about that too. But Jamar, thanks for making time for us. It's the last day of the quarter as we sit here recording.

## **Jamar Anderson**

Yeah, happy to be here.

## **Gavin Kelly**

Yeah, so I'm gonna get you to do what I get all of our guests to do, and take us back to the start. So, talk to me about where you're from, and then those like early days of figuring out where you wanted to go to college, what you wanted to study, and what that was like for you. And tell us about that.

## **Jamar Anderson**

Okay, I'm again Jamar Anderson. I'm from Monroe, Louisiana. I went to Ouachita Parish High School. Far as where I wanted to go, tech was not on my radar,

## **Gavin Kelly**

really.

## **Jamar Anderson**

I took a visit to Tech, thought the campus was cool, but I was just like, it's too close to home. I love basketball, so I thought I was gonna be like the next LeBron, going at UNC or something like

## **Gavin Kelly**

that,

## **Jamar Anderson**

and I realized that's not gonna happen, so I started looking at majors, and my motive for looking at majors was, okay, what can make me money?

## **Gavin Kelly**

Okay, yeah, makes sense.

## **Jamar Anderson**

So, you know, engineering was the up and coming thing, technology tech was the best at that, then and now. So I was just like, okay, and then tops, and being able to go, my one of my big things was one to make sure my parents did not have to pay for my school, I didn't want to have loans, I didn't want my parents had to pay anything, so I made sure, like, I got the scholarships I needed, probably could have got more, I just didn't put the effort in, so that's kind of where I landed at Tech, where else did you almost go, was what was the second closest place? You know, probably Southern.

**Gavin Kelly**

Okay,

**Jamar Anderson**

I never wanted to go to LSU. I never liked the idea of the big campus.

**Gavin Kelly**

Yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

so it probably was Southern if I had to pick one that was the closest. Yeah, ULM is home, and I was like, yeah, you were there campus to me, like it's just like the neighborhood at this point, so yeah,

**Gavin Kelly**

you started in engineering, then because I

**Jamar Anderson**

started in cyber engineering, it was rough. Yeah, first I was like in high school, I was a gift and talent student, didn't have to study much, came pretty naturally, AC scores, math and science were pretty good, but then getting here is just the quarter system, how fast paced? Sure, yes, yeah. And then I took, like, I think pre algebra, pre cal, pre cal, and I just say I did not do well. Took it twice,

**Gavin Kelly**

fall

**Jamar Anderson**

quarter and winter quarter, did not do well.

**Gavin Kelly**

Can you say, and you were a student with high standards too, I'm sure, like you wanted to be a good student and make good grades, and I just skirt by,

**Jamar Anderson**

yes, and so it didn't like, we have, you know, the kind of where classes are connected and together in engineering, so you know, I was getting like I'm gonna get behind,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

so I started re-evaluating, ended up in the College of Business Computer Information Systems, loved that, as I matriculated, I was like, I don't know. Well, let me back up. I got really involved on campus. Not only was I engineer when I first got here, also was a manager for the late Techsters basketball

**Gavin Kelly**

team. One

**Jamar Anderson**

of my former coaches was a work with them, so he got me on there, and I love that. Love working with Coach Steuer and the ladies over there again love basketball, so

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah, you got to stay involved in basketball, so yeah, whatever you can get,

**Jamar Anderson**

yeah. So I love that. Did it two years, eventually got a job in our current, my current office with Dean Love Vaughn. She offered me a job, a student worker job, because I had basically been campaigning for one since I got here, so that was great, and I decided I just didn't want too much on my plate. Yeah, I want to be more involved on campus basketball. I really didn't have the opportunity, so I was already involved with the Black Student Union here on campus. I think I tried out for student recruiters. I didn't get that at first. I say, at first, because eventually I did orientation leaders, student leaders, actually, the COVID summer,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

that was a

**Gavin Kelly**

different OSL experience in any way,

**Jamar Anderson**

yeah, that was a lot, but it was fun, I still enjoyed my time, that and then I became a student recruit through that opportunity, but the main goal I had was I wanted to be president of Black Student Union. Yeah, and at the time, I first, like, kind of told people that, you know, I was not prepared at all. But I will say, this university, this community has a great, like, great, does a great job, and is a great opportunity to just learn yourself and learn how to be a great leader. And also a great person, because it's how the community is just set up and the university is set up.

**Gavin Kelly**

Well, talk to me about what you think the difference, like what do you think you learned about yourself? How do you think you grew as a student? You know, I mean, obviously you keep taking on these leadership positions and getting involved in these organizations, and you know those all change you in their own way, but you know, what do you think when the time came? Why do you think you were prepared to take on a leadership position like that?

**Jamar Anderson**

For one, I would say just, you have the opportunity. I hate to say fail, but it's the truth. You have the opportunity to fail, but the way the campus is set up, the resources that we have, no one's gonna let you fall too far and fail too far, like you're going to someone's gonna be there, pick you up, someone's gonna tell you, like, okay, you tried this, it didn't work, let's try it this way.

**Gavin Kelly**

I like that. Yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

that route. I had some great mentors, like I mentioned before, Dean Lavon, Dr. Speed, she's Dr. Levon. Let me say that, right? I put some respect on that. And then mr. Jimmy Washington, amongst others, so I mean, just finding those great mentors, I had some great student leaders that were here, like Quentin Buchhalter, Celeste Keys, Angel Sims, like I had some great people around me, and I just built a great community that we wanted to see each other succeed, and I think that's what's so great, like you're not a number,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

you're like you are a part of this community, as anybody else. So, and then when the time came, I just stepped into it.

**Gavin Kelly**

Yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

I did stick with CIS. So, through my like student leadership, working in the office, I was like, you know, I come from a lot of educators. Educators, my mom's a principal. Dad worked in criminal justice with juveniles. Grandparents were teachers and administrators. So I, my mom told me she was like, you should just win education, but I was like, no, I don't want to do that. I want to be different, you know. And then, so, but just like working on campus, becoming a student leader, seeing the impact that just one person can have with students, so many students. I was like, I kind of like this, and so stuck it out with CIS, but I was like, I don't know if I want to go in my field, and so I decided to get my MBA. Took a graduate assistantship with Dean Lavon and her in the Dean's office with, like, Dr. Crawford and Student Advancement, and just kind of watched them and, like, shadow them, and through that I was like, "Oh, yeah, this is what I want to do. So I try to keep using my CIS degree in my every day, you

know, with different things, but yeah, like higher education is where, like, I was like, "Yeah, I'm like, I think I want to be here, so

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah. Well, I think, too, like, you know, you look at positions you had as a student, even as an OSL student recruiter, like being responsible for sort of guiding other students, your peers, you know, it gets to a point where, when you realize that that's something you like to do, being able to do it after that part of your life is over is a blessing, right? So,

**Jamar Anderson**

for sure,

**Gavin Kelly**

let's go back a little bit, and talk more about, again, your time as a student, being involved, being an OSL. Talk a little bit about that, because for you, like you said, it was a unique, it was the COVID year, but how did you kind of find ways, as not just yourself, but as a group of OSLs, to kind of adapt and still be, you know, good leaders at a time where it was not standard? Yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

I know for myself, like coming in as a freshman, there was only one OSI looked like me, and so that was big for me, because I was like, I want to be a part of something where when students come in, you want to see someone that, whether it looks like you on the outside or your personality, you want to feel like, okay, I can be somebody here, you know? I want to be, I can be that person, I can see myself in them. And so I just wanted to be that for students when they came in. So that was part of my driving force, and that continued to be my driving force. Covid aside, and that time that summer, that was just like, okay, we want to make sure we make.. we're not, we're going through this, we're not getting the OSL experience. Some of these kids didn't get a high school graduation, so we're trying to make this experience as best we can as possible for them, and that's just kind of like that kind of is the end all be all of the program, and of being orientation leaders, like whether you're online on a computer or in person, yeah, and or browsing the quad, you know,

**Gavin Kelly**

and you kind of, you kind of have to put sadly your kind of your personal expectations and hopes for what it is aside, because you know, you, when you're a freshman coming in and you see what an OSL is and what they do and how they operate, and you get to a point where it's your turn to be an OSL, you know, you have a certain vision of what that experience is supposed to be like, and it was completely changed for you. Yes,

**Jamar Anderson**

exactly.

**Gavin Kelly**

But

**Gavin Kelly**

you had to again put that all aside and be like, this is not about us, it's about the freshmen coming in,

**Jamar Anderson**

right?

**Gavin Kelly**

So just another kind of example of of what I'm assuming you guys kind of went through. You kind of mentioned this be kind of a good segue here. You talked about having. Resources on campus, and knowing there are people out there that want success for you. Let's talk about the Bulldog Success Center.

**Jamar Anderson**

Okay,

**Gavin Kelly**

talk about first of all, kind of overall the center's function on campus, but also, you know, going from being a student, utilizing the center as a resource, being there as a student worker, to now being more heavily involved in having a full-time job, like, talk about kind of your growth as being part of the Bulldog Success Center, too.

**Jamar Anderson**

Yeah, so, like, I mentioned, I had a rough first two quarters, and so the way the Success Center is set up, we kind of follow, like, an athletic, like, the athletic side model of, like, study hall and stuff, so, like, students are required to do, like, progress reports with us. They're required to do study hall with us, and it's just we're trying to do our best to make sure we're retaining students to continue through university. We track them from the time they become a part of our program and in our center to the time they graduate. Yeah, so we're always checking in, like, hey, do you have the resources you need? How can we assist when they do their practice reports? They have to go talk to their professors and students. Everything is digital, everyone wants to go just send an email or something. So they have to go have those conversations and build those relationships with their professors. And I went through that, and so I saw the benefit of how many, how much? How much better it made my experience academically, so I was like, yeah, this is, and I just want to be a part of not only continuing that, but growing that to what the current campus climate is, and how successful we can be. I think the sky's the limit.

**Gavin Kelly**

Why has it changed since you've been a part of it? Like, how have you?

**Jamar Anderson**

So we kept that foundation, we are more understanding of the current student. Yep, we know that they are more involved, they are on the go, more like they are not just always studying with us. So we, we try to make sure, like, okay, they don't, they can't. Some people just can't study in our center, right? Where else can you study? You can study in the bark, you can study, and some organizations have nightly study jams that we have coordinated with to give them the opportunity to study there and get

their hours and stuff like that. We have more conversations, we have more events, that's part of my job. I host and plan a lot of our events for the office, so we're just trying to make sure we're like trying to keep in the know and keep relevant with the current student to make sure we are serving

**Gavin Kelly**

them

**Jamar Anderson**

to make sure they're being retained, but mainly to make sure that just, I mean, anything once you graduate. Yeah, so

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah, and we've got a graduation tomorrow, so I'm sure a lot of the students that have come through the Success Center are going to be able to,

**Jamar Anderson**

that's a great, fulfilling part of it, I actually kind of crazy in my.. this will be the first class since I've been employed, like a full-time employee, that will be graduating, like some of those students, so that's like very surreal. Yeah, I think like time flies, so yeah,

**Gavin Kelly**

it does. You sort of mentioned again the growth and how and how the nature of your jobs changed. Talk me a little bit more about your job. You mentioned events, but kind of on a day-to-day basis, what is your job like in the Success Center?

**Jamar Anderson**

So, on a day to day, I tell people, no day is the same,

**Gavin Kelly**

of course,

**Jamar Anderson**

same, because I, we adopt a very much an open door policy, so students come in, they might have academic issues, organizational issues, we've even done a little bit of relationship counseling, like you just never know what the dates are, but in that, with those, and like having those conversations with students, I'm giving them advice, mentorship, I'm also planning, I'm doing data tracking, like when we people like turning in stuff or doing their hours or different things like that. I'm an advisor for two organizations, Black Student Union and Kap Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. So, make sure busy, man, yeah, make sure those organizations are doing what they need to do, and it's just whatever I'm pulled to, wherever, whatever hat I'm wearing at the time,

**Gavin Kelly**

I'm

**Jamar Anderson**

just, I'm doing the work, honestly, and that's what I love doing. So,

**Gavin Kelly**

and I think you know, I can tell just from talking to you that once a student, you know, comes through and learns that you guys are a resource and has a good experience, even at a first meeting with you guys, you know, that open door policy really comes into play, because they feel like that's a place they can come to constantly at any time of any day, right? So you guys become a lot more than just, you know, a study hall or whatever, right? It's, you know, it's on a personal level. So, you've seen, you know, the office change, you've seen the nature of your job change. You've even said earlier that you've seen kind of the way students operate change since you've been here. Let's talk about campus and Louisiana Tech. How has that changed since your time coming in as a freshman to now, I mean, and you, you know, probably you look back and you're like, that wasn't even that long ago, and that's probably true, but then you think about everything that's happened, you're like, maybe it was kind of that long ago, you know.

**Jamar Anderson**

Yeah, I'll even start just with our office in general. When I got here, that office was in Keeny Hall, where student conduct is now, Keeny Hall 333 I think it is like a small room,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

very small room. And now we are on the second floor of student center, so the growth has been there, and so, like, that's just a small, like, sample. I mean, I've been here through tornadoes, right? So, or tornadoes, so I know I'm looking right now, athletics, that it was not there, right, was in a different area, like the soccer and the softball fields, so I've been through that. I've seen dorms go down, I've seen dorms come up, I've seen restaurants in Ruston in general. Like, I was vouching for

**Gavin Kelly**

the Tamil, probably Mexican restaurants.

**Jamar Anderson**

Yes, we do. I was a big fan of the Texas Row House, that was the main one I wanted. So, I mean, I've seen new apartments, not just campus, either, like,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

in the local Rustin area too. So I just got a lot of growth, and I think that's a big thing. I mean, at some point some students say I remember when there was nothing where Monkeys was, yeah, like, so I'm like, that's crazy.

**Gavin Kelly**

I know it's funny, like every once in a while, a Facebook post. Part of my job involves social media, and so we'll post something on the Louisiana Tech Facebook, and it's usually Facebook, because you know, you tend to draw a little bit of the older crowd with a Facebook post, but you know, they'll talk about campus, how fondly they remember it being a certain way, and it's interesting to hear that people who were here in the 1970s you know, obviously it was very different, right, and they have a very, you know, locked-in picture of campus in their mind, but even somebody who was here, you know, 10 years ago, yeah, you know, they're like, "Oh, that's not there, or "that's there, or, you know, "it's not, but none of them say campus is unrecognizable, which I think is important at

**Jamar Anderson**

the core, for sure,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah, because you don't want to lose the identity of what makes tech special for people, and I think another, you talked to, alluded to it at the beginning about one of the reasons you didn't go to LSU, which I can relate to, is you know, just kind of being too big, you don't want to be a small fish in a big pond, yeah, and I think Louisiana Tech does a good job of not just shrinking that pond down and making sure you know everyone kind of has a little bit more chance to shine, but like with the Bulldog Success Center having resources in place that allow students to grow in like a personalized way,

**Jamar Anderson**

and I'll say, like, I've been a one thing about our office is that we are very big on collaboration and I know that I, if I can't, if I don't have a solution, I know there's someone, some space on this campus that does, like for example, me not only switching my major was a decision that I made, but I went to our career services,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

took the aptitude test. Funny thing about that, I didn't really pay any attention, because it definitely told me like education, so I was like, okay, well, it works, but I just didn't listen. Oh, and then, like, I was big, like, there were times where, because I was so busy, because I had so much going on, life just started happening, and life just started happening. I was very much an active goer about counseling services, just needed someone to talk to who was not, I'm not putting that burden on my friends or whatever. So, um, those two spaces, like the resources are here. Yeah, and also here,

**Gavin Kelly**

like with counseling, it's one of those things where it's like even if you as a student think it might be something that would be remotely beneficial, like it's free to you, and we have good people there. And same with the Bulldogs Success Center, like there's no reason to not utilize it if it's something that would have even the slightest impact on your, your college career, and I do agree, we have a lot of

good people on campus help with that sort of thing. What about you? Like, so I mean, you've said you love basketball more than once, like, how do you, in your free time, what do you do for fun, or do you get a chance to go play basketball once, but like, what do you do?

**Jamar Anderson**

Yeah, I do. It's funny because there are a group of like students that will like, hey, Jim, we're going to play. That's nothing I didn't mention. My nickname is Jam, everybody called me Jam for years, but they were like, oh, we're going to play basketball, you coming, and I'm like, okay. And then I get out there and I'm like, it's funny because I'm, I'm not old, right, but like they don't realize, like Jamar is 27 like I don't move like a 27 year old, so they're like, oh my god, like you know, and then they, yeah, just funny, it's just I love that I'll go to the movies, I'm a big movie goer, if I'm not going to slavery, I'll go ride to Wester Monroe to send a mark or something, play video games. Yeah, a group of friends that used to go here, we still stay connected about playing video games. So, I mean, I just try to like find things to kind of sometimes you just got to get away from work. So I just find things.  
an avid gym goer, so I love going to the gym, so

**Gavin Kelly**

it's funny, you know. People, lots of people have good things to say about Rust, and obviously, but when you, when you hear about people kind of knocking it for one or two things, a lot of times it's there's nothing to do,

**Jamar Anderson**

right?

**Gavin Kelly**

But I really think maybe it's because I came from a really small town, yeah, where there really was nothing to do, and I'm like, like you said, Rustin is. Movie theater, to me, I'm like, that's incredible, right? I really think there's plenty of stuff to do, as long as you're not looking to do it on a massive scale, but I think that's the appeal of it, right.

**Jamar Anderson**

Exactly, and it's funny, because when I was a student recruiter, even when students come through now, and I'm talking to them, one of my biggest things, like, what is, like, that's the first question people ask, is

**Gavin Kelly**

like, what is it

**Jamar Anderson**

doing, Ruston, and sometimes I'll be like, depends on what you want to do.

**Gavin Kelly**

Yeah, you exactly, but

**Jamar Anderson**

I'll tell you, like, my best memory, my favorite, my fondest memories, like of my time in Tech in school, and even since I've graduated, have been with my friends. Yeah, the community I built, doing just bonehead stuff in an apartment, like, yeah, it's just, you know, exactly like going before Walmart was not 24 hours, like just going to Walmart, just having fun, like doing stuff, you know, probably stupid that I think about it, but just that, that's what I remember most. Yeah, that's the great part about resting, everything is not too far, you can just like go and get something to eat, like it's not hard. I can walk, at one point I lived right behind the Pizza Hut, so like I could walk off pizza when it snowed. We couldn't drive. We heard Waffle House was up. We walked down the street to Waffle, like it's that's how convenient some things are. And

**Gavin Kelly**

even Ruston, and there's another one too. Even Ruston's like worst traffic day, like you'll be fine.

**Jamar Anderson**

Yeah,

**Gavin Kelly**

you know, and but like an average day somewhere like Baton Rouge, even like you're gonna waste

**Jamar Anderson**

bad traffic, you know, something has happened. Yeah, like, yeah, like there's a truck flipped over or something. Like, it has to be something bad, because it's not usually. Yeah,

**Gavin Kelly**

and I think there's a reason that tech continues to grow, and Rustin continues to grow, is because that, for most people, is appealing. Like, there is a college town charm that Rustin has, because of Louisiana Tech, but part of that, like you said, it comes with, like, if you're looking to go to some world-famous nightclub that 1000s of people go to every night, yeah, you're not going to do that in Ruston, and if that's part of your college experience, I, your ideal college experience, then Louisiana Tech probably can't help you there,

**Jamar Anderson**

but yeah, I mean, I've been like just being honest. I've been to other universities, other towns, and if you've gone to one college bar, you've gone to them all. Yeah, exactly, exactly like two, two, or try forget about them,

**Gavin Kelly**

and it's gonna, and it's gonna be the type of thing where when a student gets to the end of their college career, when it's time for graduation, they look back on what they get out of their college experience. That's generally not going to be the thing, you know, clubbing at the bar is not going to be the type of thing that they, you know, hold in their heart forever, right? No, it's not saying there's anything wrong with doing that as part of your college experience, but if it's what's going to keep you from coming to a

place like Louisiana Tech, you know, and also I think Ruston too is in a good spot, in terms of, like I said, I come from a really small town. Our closest Walmart is 30 minutes away.

**Jamar Anderson**

Wow,

**Gavin Kelly**

so like we go grocery shopping once a week, and you better not forget anything, because we're not going 30 minutes to go back. So, like being in Rustin, we're like the furthest thing away is 15 minutes. Yeah, so convenient. But even on top of that, like if you really want to go to Shreveport, or even Dallas, or Little Rock, or New Orleans, or Jackson, up, down, left, right, like you know it's just a few hour drive, and you know there's things to do in those places too, but I don't know, Louisiana Tech, I'm not telling you anything you don't already know, right, but every time we have a guest on that talks fondly about the university and about Rustin, you know, there's always those same words, feels like home, it's got this special, you know, small town, college town feel, and you know it's just interesting that the longer I do this podcast, the more guests just come on and echo that sort of idea over and over again. Last question before I let you go.

**Jamar Anderson**

Okay,

**Gavin Kelly**

I'm kind of doing you dirty here, because I personally hate being asked this type of question, but I'm gonna ask you this type of question. I'm gonna ask you what's next, but I don't mean like when are you going to get a different job, because I'm sure you're not, you probably aren't planning on doing that, but like, what do you kind of hope for yourself in the future, maybe in the short term, maybe in the long term, like, what do you see for yourself, what do you hope for yourself? Talk to me about that.

**Jamar Anderson**

I mean, I would say short term, I just wanted to be able to make sure I'm doing my job to miss my ability, but also constantly having self growth and learning myself and growing as a person, human being, whether it be spiritually, physically, whatever that,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

long term, of course, family, stuff like that. I mean, I tell people all the time, they're like, oh, you're gonna, you're gonna stick around resting again, there's nothing to get risked in, right? Like,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

I'm like, well, to you,

**Gavin Kelly**

oh yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

but I tell people all the time, as long as I'm fulfilled here in the work I do, and you know, I don't feel like I'm draining myself being here, like I'm enjoying my time here, I'm fine, like I'm fine, like unless I'm cutting, like unless I'm called to be somewhere else, I don't, I don't see myself, I'm not. Oh, I gotta get up out of here, like my MO. So I'm gonna keep doing work and keep, as long as I'm fulfilled. I'm cool,

**Gavin Kelly**

one day at a time.

**Jamar Anderson**

Yeah,

**Gavin Kelly**

I said all the time, one day at a time. Yeah, and also it's a good time, like if you have a job right now, it's probably good at. To keep it, the job market is a little

**Jamar Anderson**

tough for some people, and that's one thing, like, we're, you know, dealing with students, like, yes, it's hard out here, even for, like, it's just hard out here,

**Gavin Kelly**

but there's lots of good resources at tech to help alleviate that, so exactly they're in the right place. All right, I appreciate your time against the last day of the quarter. I hope you got some fun things planned for this

**Jamar Anderson**

time. I'm going to a wedding tomorrow. Okay,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah, I guess it's a traffic, I'm sure. Oh, at the time recording, let's see, we got Cavs, Knicks, and Thunder, and Spurs. So, who do you got?

**Jamar Anderson**

We'll see. I'm a LeBron fan, so I'm against everything.

**Gavin Kelly**

Yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

same time, I understand that sports media is pretty bad right now to me, so I feel like if Windy gets a ring this early, I'm not sure how that disc, like the discourse,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah, what that means for the game of

**Jamar Anderson**

baskets is gonna be so messed up, so I guess probably say I got Knicks in the East,

**Gavin Kelly**

would love that, yeah, and

**Jamar Anderson**

I'm rooting for the Spurs in the West, okay, which again is LeBron, and that goes against my morals.

**Gavin Kelly**

It does, but also, if there are any Thunder fans listening, sorry if we're upsetting you, but it kind of is also bad for the game of basketball, for the Thunder, for the Thunder to get there again. Yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

because I, yeah, but I think the Knicks winning it would be great for the game of batch. Just I

**Gavin Kelly**

agree, I told somebody, so I'm a huge, like, the reason I love basketball. The reason I got into basketball when I was a kid is because of Carmelo Anthony.

**Jamar Anderson**

Okay, yeah.

**Gavin Kelly**

And so was a nugget. I just, wherever he was at, that's where my loyalty was. So, Denver, New York, yeah. And even after he retired, you know, and I kind of just let.. I'm like, I'll just work for the Pelicans, because they're the local team, but I told somebody not too long ago that there are certain teams in certain sports, and with basketball and Knicks are one of them, where when they're good, the sport is better,

**Jamar Anderson**

for sure.

**Gavin Kelly**

And I think that applies to the Lakers,

**Jamar Anderson**

for sure.

**Gavin Kelly**

I think you can make an argument that it applies to the Celtics, but I don't, as a Knicks fan, he really cared for the Celtics either, but yeah, there are some teams that just like when the team's good, the sport's better, and I think especially if the team had a long stretch of being bad, which the Knicks did, so I wouldn't mind seeing the Knicks. I

**Jamar Anderson**

think basketball is one of the few sports where that matters.

**Gavin Kelly**

Yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

like a football, if I mean, when people didn't like when the Patriots are good, right, really changed the sport. Any

**Gavin Kelly**

sure

**Jamar Anderson**

Chief's good, you know, it's not like there's one team that when this team is good, like the sport is just great, like it's just that much better. Whereas basket, like you said, those big market historical teams, when they're good, like okay, something to watch.

**Gavin Kelly**

And I think, too, part of that is we're just doing a sports podcast now, part of that is like the game of basketball and the NBA as a league is in kind of a weird place, right? Sure, like in terms of viewership and popularity, and kind of, you know, the naysayers of the game right now, their big stance on it is kind of that it's not fun to watch and that it's become a three point contest, or whatever, and while there's some merit to that, I think the game is going to change how the game's going to change. I mean, I mentioned Carmel Anthony, that's a guy who, like, was a perfect at a mid-range jump shot at a time when the mid-range jump shot was fading away and, like, not becoming a thing anymore, and it's really not - it's a three pointer or a layup or nothing now, so, and that's nothing against that's just the way the game is going to change, and the influence of the way young people approach the game of basketball now, and kind of what I even see it in baseball, and like kind of how quote unquote kids these days in youth leagues and things like that, like what matters to them about the game, and it's just different, but it's going to change the way it's going to change, exactly. And I don't know if the Knicks win in a championship will save it, quote unquote, but I wouldn't mind seeing that. I

**Jamar Anderson**

mean, it's like I thought that if Indian, if Indiana would have found, if last year Indianola won, like that would have been crazy for basketball.

**Gavin Kelly**

Yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

like, because that's a basketball town, I guess it's basketball state, you know. I know he had, I was, I was a Colts fan growing up. So, okay, I love Peyton Manning.

**Gavin Kelly**

So,

**Jamar Anderson**

yeah,

**Gavin Kelly**

interesting. How was the Saints Super Bowl win for you then?

**Jamar Anderson**

That was a tough house,

**Gavin Kelly**

like, like, from was your whole family

**Gavin Kelly**

Colts fans, or was that a.. you were a Colts fan among Saints fans? My

**Jamar Anderson**

grandfather would cheer. He was running around the house, cheering, yelling in my face

**Gavin Kelly**

as

**Jamar Anderson**

a kid. That's like, that's my idol is yelling at me. I don't understand the magnitude. Oh, but I mean, I support, I understand, I guess, like you said, it's the hometown team, so I swear to Saints, I love them just equally. So,

**Gavin Kelly**

yeah, but it's you're right, it's, it's like I said, I was a Carmelo Anthony fan, so I was, you know, the Pelicans were cool, you know, it was like having local to the Hornets at the time, and yeah, it's like I'll cheer for them, but it's not like you feel loyalty to like with the Saints or somebody or whoever, it's with baseball, it's a little tougher, I guess you get a lot of. Andrews fans, Astros fans, but anyway, we could talk sports all day, but basketball, again, that's that one's probably my.. and we live in, I would argue, football country, like this part of the country is really heavy into football, so growing up for me it was always interested in being a bigger basketball fan than anything, like I love football, I like baseball.

Yeah, a few years ago I got into hockey, even, but like always coming back to basketball, and again, but I do think it's tricky to stay. I used to be able to tell you who was the top seeds in both conferences all the way through, and now it's like it's halfway through the season, and I don't know who the top two or three teams are, if I'm not careful. Yeah,

**Jamar Anderson**

I feel that way from from college up. Yeah, yeah, I think that's a part of it. It's really just on that on this level, college level of talent, and then growing there, you know. Inner al has changed things and stuff like for the better in most parts, but yeah, it's different and it's changing, so you have to adjust.

**Gavin Kelly**

I this year's Final Four, I didn't really have a good grasp of who was even in it until probably the sweet 16, and I was like, I gotta, I gotta get on my game, I'm not keeping up. Yeah. Anyway, all right. So, if you're listening, Jamar and I, his new sports podcast will be a weekly starting on Thursday. Jamar, thank you for joining us here on Beyond 1894 Hope you enjoy the wedding. Hope you enjoy your summer.

**Jamar Anderson**

Yes,

**Gavin Kelly**

and keep doing great things at the Buddha Success Center, and we'll see you around.

**Jamar Anderson**

All right. Thank you.

**Gavin Kelly**

Go Dogs,

**Jamar Anderson**

Go Dogs.

**Gavin Kelly**

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