PRELUDE

Hey guys! It's your friendly neighborhood flop, bboy29 here! First off, thank you to the wonderful hosts for all of your time and deliberation you spent on this game. I know it was not a particularly fun one, but I'm glad I got to be apart of the EMBB crew and I'm a qualifier for EMBB Flop Stars! Woo! Anyways, I've been going back and forth about how I want to format this speech. My original plan was to go through your jury speeches and basically nitpick about everything little thing (a la Anthony in SurvivorORG: Tahiti). However, because of time constraints and lack of energy, I've decided to just give you each a page to two pages on me talking about your games and leaving the questions at the bottom of your respective pages. I also will be giving questions for the both of you so make sure you guys stick around!

Ok… where to start? First and foremost, CONGRATULATIONS ON MAKING FINAL TWO, THAT IS A HUGE ACCOMPLISHMENT IN BIG BROTHER! (If you are familiar with BB19, you will get that reference) In all seriousness, I commend your efforts on trophying and making it as far as you did. You guys obviously deserve to be there, and congrats to you guys on beating out 15 other people for those spots! I'm not going to say that you both played good games, however, as that would be a lie and I'm a pretty upfront and honest person. It's not me being bitter, I just feel like there are clear flaws in both of your games (there are flaws in my game and the rest of the jury's as well, don't get it twisted lol). I'm a big believer in constructive criticism, so by me analyzing and talking about your games in depth, it will hopefully give me enough insight to make a truly objective and well-informed vote. With that said, let's get started!

WARNING: If any of my opinions come off as rude or hypocritical, I truly am sorry. I realize that in writing this, I was actually a little harsh but hopefully you guys can understand where I'm coming from as my intentions were not to be mean.

HEDGER

I decided to start with Hedger, as I felt like I had more things to say about your game than Jacob, which could be a good thing or a bad thing depending on how you look at it. First off, I think it's pretty clear that you played one of the best physical games in the history of EMBB. Winning 5+ comps like you did is no easy feat and definitely should not go unnoticed. At the same token, it's kind of sad how little I have to say about your game besides that. I felt that your strategic game was severely lacking at some points and your social game seemed nonexistent. It amazes me that unlike Jacob, you were unable to point to ONE social relationship you made in this game, which means you either didn't care enough about making social bonds or you neglected to make lasting ones outside of the basic "Hey, let's be allies!" deal.

I'll address your strategic game first, as I feel like that had a little bit more weight to it than your social game. I'm honestly really impressed with your social positioning at the BEGINNING of the game. I never took the time to realize the amount of alliances you were in during the game, so good on you for hiding that. However, after anon week, I felt like your game took a large dip in terms of strategic acumen. A lot of your moves were not very smart, to put it nicely, even though you are a very logical person. You seemed to stress strategy in your HOHs, yet you never really did anything substantial with them to really make an impact in my opinion. I guess I just don't see how taking out Charlie, myself, Saurabh, or Knife for that matter helped your case. I could see arguments for the evictions of Saurabh and myself, but taking out Knife was the downright WORSE move you could have made all game, especially with you knowing how big of a social threat Jacob was. Even with your POV decisions, outside of saving yourself, I don't see how saving Devon or Yuujin helped your game. Sure, it kept an ally in the game for you, but neither was really benefiting you in the long run as you always would have been targeted over them. You also stressed the importance of making big moves which to me were not really that impressive as you didn't shake up the house in any way. This echoes back to my eviction week when you clearly told me that you wanted to "divide the house" yet my eviction was unanimous. I actually have talked with the other jurors on this one, and we unanimously agree that you actually stifled the gameplay in the house because everyone was so focused on getting you out. It was appalling to see how many times you would save yourself and not even give your supposed alliance members (Devon, Yuujin and Toby if I remember correctly) a vote to stay in the house. I felt like you just gave up when your alliances were going out

the door, nor did you try to adapt in any shape or form, which to me is not good gameplay.

As for your social game, I think you didn't really care about this ORG to begin with, which I don't blame you because of the massive amount of inactivity. But, it still felt like you didn't want to be bothered with most HouseGuests, including myself. A lot of our conversations felt very forced, as if someone was demanding you to speak to me. You also said that I was not talking game with you that much, but that's calling the kettle black as I don't remember you trying to reach out to me for strategic discussions either. I don't know if you were just lazy or didn't care, but it honestly pains me as a huge BB fan to see someone just not give a damn about how the game is played and solely relies on comp wins to make it to the end. My last point is a bit of personal one, and I don't really want it to impact my vote. However, it is something that NEEDS to be addressed when considering you as a potential winner pick. On the day before and the day of my eviction, I sent you texts on those respective days at reasonable times. You did not bother to even check or reply to these messages. Whether you were scared to talk or what, I don't know, but I think that "ghosting" someone is very rude and should not go unpunished. This game is a SOCIAL EXPERIMENT, which means you talk to people whether you like it or not. Ignoring someone, especially when they're on their way out and going to the jury house is a bad move in my opinion, and apparently, I'm not the only one that you did this to. Monte and Saurabh have told me in the Jury House that you chose not to talk to them on their way out, which makes me think that you didn't truly respect us because if you did, you would have at least replied to our messages. Anyways, onto the questions…

1. Why did you solely rely on your physical game? (I think I already know the answer to this but I would like to see your thoughts)
2. Why were you unable to communicate with Monte, Saurabh, and I?
3. How did you diffuse the attention on you when people thought you and yuujin were a pair? (You didn't really go over this in your speech so I would like a detailed explanation).
4. Throughout this season, it felt like you were not willing to adapt and kind of "save face". Why was that?
5. Why did you not consider deals when they were presented to you? You seemed to shut down or get angry when someone had reasonable information to lend.

JACOB

… Or jbomber732, or whatever you wanna call yourself! Jacob, you played one of the better social games of the season, probably rivaling that of Toby's actually as I felt like Toby was a good social player. Nonetheless, I would be lying if I said that you playing a social game (and a strong one at that) was the contributing factor behind you making the Final Two. However, like Hedger, I do have some glaring issues with your game as well.

While I felt like you played a very strong social game, I felt that some of your moves were unnecessary. If there wasn't so much inactivity early on, I think your game would have actually been exposed if people were more dedicated to this ORG. You playing all sides worked out because no one really cared after a certain point when zarfot left, but it definitely would have gotten you into trouble. I also think that you making so many Final 2's with people was really disadvantageous for you in the long run. I'm not going to bash you, in particularly, because I know that everyone in this game made a lot of Final 2's and alliances, but you made a surplus amount so it's easy to put the blame on you. I think the problems you faced were that you came off very disingenuous; I don't think anyone truly trusted you because everyone knew you were playing everyone. That's another thing - your game was very obvious. We all saw what you were doing, but you were able to create enough of a cover for yourself with the whole #GetOutHedger movement that it led to you being in a little bit more control of your own game.

Speaking of control, I felt like it was very obvious to me that you were running the game and pulling strings WITHIN the game. But once I was evicted, I realized how little control you had over things from week to week. I didn't necessarily see you controlling votes or controlling nominations. Obviously, your speech addressed that but I still felt like you didn't do anything substantial. In terms of your physical game, I'm not going to fault you for not winning any comps throughout the season, outside of your F4 HOH win. You actually played a very similar game to how I wanted to play, and we shared a lot of the same thoughts when it came to winning competitions and the sort. I think, however, you were able to demonstrate that even though you didn't win any MAJOR competitions, that doesn't mean you were unable to control things decently or at least be able to put your input out there, even if the HOH for the week does not intend to go with your plan.

You talked about in your speech how you played a "goat" role, but I don't think this was true. You more or less made yourself the weaker opponent to

take as no one really saw yourself as a threat. Because you flopped in most competitions and did not cause any unnecessary drama, you didn't really get targeted, which is not a weakness to your game but rather a testament to your game.

Lastly, I want to bring up the "alliance" part of your game. I'm going to close your section by continuing on with what I said earlier about you being disingenuous to people. I think that you had the right idea to bond with every HouseGuest and make them like you, but you went too far in making sure everyone was your friend because at the end of the day, you were not going to keep them all when they really needed you (I'm speaking from experience here). I don't want this to come off like I'm being naive or stupid or misinformed in any way, I just believe that by making so many relationships and telling each and every person that you're "with them to the end" does leave them feeling empty in comparison to the apparent real relationships that you had with Knife, Monte, and Drachus. Apart from that, let's get to your questions…

5.Besides the two votes that you mentioned in your jury speech, what major impact did you have on the game?
Was our friendship we crafted in the game real or was it so you could get my jury vote?
If you got exposed any time during the beginning of the season, how would you have dealt with that exposure?
Why did you think you would have been safe during anon week even though you apparently asked Drachus to quit for you? Explain any potential votes you think you would have gotten to stay.
Do you think you would have been able to survive had Drachus not only not quit but not given you that information? A lot of your mid-game focused around that information and getting rid of zarfot because of it (imo).

QUESTIONS FOR BOTH

1. Did you make any mistakes in this game? If so, name and explain them.
2. What was your ideal gameplan coming in?
3. If there was a jury member you would kick out, who would it be and why?
4. What are THREE (3) facts about me that you learned over the course of the season? (and no, they cannot be obvious things, ex. Bboy29 is black, bboy is a fan of Big Brother)
5. Is there anything else you would like me to know or tell me to potentially reconsider about my jury vote?

Jacob's Response:

1. Besides the two votes that you mentioned in your jury speech, what major impact did you have on the game?

I'm not quite sure what two votes you're referencing. However, I'll take this opportunity to address Toby and Yuujin's evictions, because they show that I did indeed have an impact on this game. Upon second examination, I do agree that maybe I shouldn't have used the word control too much in my speech. Control is not the right word, I think influence would fit better. I do believe that I was the major influence behind these two votes in particular. In toby's vote out, I essentially was the one making the choice. With my extra vote, I could have forced the vote to go either way. Devon would have voted for Saraubh, so my extra vote meant I could have taken saurabh out 4-2. On the other hand, I could have forced a tie and therefore evicted toby by extra voting on him even without devon. Devon ultimately switched just to be in the majority, but I do think that the toby vote was essentially mine to decide.

But, okay. You can argue that was just me happening to be positioned as the swing vote. However, the yuujin eviction was certainly a case of me influencing the vote to go the way I wanted. Going into the fast forward, monte preferred knife out over yuujin and hedger was being non committal. I knew that whichever way I wanted the vote to go, I could influence either of them to take the side I wanted. Since knife was one of my f2s, it was in my interest to get rid of yuujin. I made an argument to both of them that keeping knife was better for their games, even if it wasn't necessarily true. The vote ended up going 3-0 just the way I wanted.

I'm not sure if I answered this question in the way you wanted, but I do think these two vote outs are examples of the influence and therefore impact I had on the game.

2. Was our friendship we crafted in the game real or was it so you could get my jury vote?

This one is important for me to emphasize just on a personal level. Game aside (I'm not saying this for your jury vote), the convos and friendship we crafted was completely real. Part of the reasons I love ORGs is that they force me to interact with people day after day, and I always end up getting to know them and making awesome friends. However, in past ORGs, I've become blinded by these friendships that I make and always forget the original objective of winning the game. This time, I came in knowing I'd make some friends, but that my ultimate goal of getting a gold trophy had to trump sacrificing my game for a friend. I'd consider you a friend outside of the game because of the time we spent inside the game, and I hope you still think the same of me. I understand that you may be reluctant to believe that, especially since I'm also sitting here asking for a jury vote at the same time, but I hope to continue talking to you after the game regardless of how you vote here.

3. If you got exposed any time during the beginning of the season, how would you have dealt with that exposure?

Well first of all, I only played the best I could in the specific circumstances I was given. In other words, I saw that the no exposure was happening in the game, so I felt comfortable playing a game that could potentially collapse if fully exposed. That being said, I think it's still a valid question. If I was exposed early game, I definitely would have recovered. Even if I lost 1/4 of my allies, I had enough social connections early on to propel me onwards. Early game… how much was there really to expose? That I was talking and in a lot of alliances with everyone? Yeah, I guess I was in more alliances than most and I was trying to play both sides very early, but I don't think it would have been that damaging. Being exposed mid-game (post anon, pre jury), though, that is actually something I was worried about. I think being exposed during the zarfot and charlie boots could have hurt me, but I won't dive into that because the question was about the beginning of the season.

4. Why did you think you would have been safe during anon week even though you apparently asked Drachus to quit for you? Explain any potential votes you think you would have gotten to stay.

Before I go into this, reminder that I'm assuming votes based on how I think people thought at the time. With the knowledge you have now, I'm sure a bunch of you on the jury would have voted differently. However, here's how I see the vote going down:

Voters:
Devon - ?
Yuujin - Drachus
Knife - Drachus
Monte - Drachus
Zarfot - Jacob
Hedger - Jacob
Bboy - Drachus
Toby - ?
My extra vote - Drachus

That would give me a 5 vote majority even if toby and devon both voted for me, which idk if they would have. I'm sure there'll be a juror who will say "I wouldn't have voted that way", but this was just my best estimate. If it turns out I'm completely wrong and would have been fucked, then so be it.

5. Do you think you would have been able to survive had Drachus not only not quit but not given you that information? A lot of your mid-game focused around that information and getting rid of zarfot because of it (imo).

This is very hard for me to answer. I simply used the information that I was given by Drachus to my advantage. I'm obviously very biased here, but I do think I would have still been able to survive. I just think the game would have taken a different route. Without the info of alliances, I wouldn't have targeted zarfot. Instead, zarfot and hedger would have clashed, and I would have had to take a side. Instead of siding with hedger against zarfot, I actually likely would have sided with zarfot against hedger. From there, who knows what would have happened. Hedger could have left prejury? Early jury? If zarfot makes jury, do I still make it this far? We'll never really know the answer to that. I think it would have complicated things for sure because there wouldn't have necessarily been an easy target all game in hedger. However, once again I don't think I can be faulted for having my mid-game solely focused around this information. I simply took advantage of information that I was given, and I'm sure you'd do the same.

6. Did you make any mistakes in this game? If so, name and explain them.

Mistake 1:
Getting caught leaking by Saraubh, contributing to my nomination during anon week, putting me on the final block next to someone I wholeheartedly trusted.

Mistake 2:
Not convincing knife to take the POV instead of the immunity for the next week during the yankee swap. This one is a bit more specific and random, but I think it actually had a large impact on the game. During his HOH week, knife and gang were looking to backdoor hedger. During the POV, he took the immunity for the next week instead of the POV. Hedger later said he didn't feel like he needed the POV this week, but he felt like he may as well take it anyway. Had knife taken the POV and asked hedger not to take it from him, we could have gotten rid of hedger this week. Instead, knife took the immunity for the next week and asked hedger not to take the immunity from him. Knife mistakenly believed that hedger would have taken the POV from him no matter what, so he may as well go for the immunity (sorry knifu). I kinda take some responsibility for this. Even though the hosts technically said I wasn't allowed to know what was happening in the POV, 4 out of the 6 players leaked info about what items people were swapping to me. I was reluctant to comment to knife about what he should do because I didn't wanna break the nonexistent rules that the hosts really didn't care about. The correct play for me in this situation was to convince knife to take the POV and have him tell hedger not to take the POV because he wanted to use it on nobody. Hedger would certainly have been tempted by the next week immunity, and he had no real urgency to get the POV because he believed he was safe that week. Had I played that right, I could have helped get rid of hedger then. It's a very minor thing but it's one of my biggest regrets from the game.

7. What was your ideal gameplan coming in?

   Social social social. I wanted to take advantage of my two major strengths: being able to persuade people of things, and being a very sociable player. In regular EM games my literal strategy for games is to ally with every single player and just backstab them one by one. From a fundamental standpoint looking at BB and survivor, it's always made sense with me to try and get in good social grace with everyone. My philosophy is that if you're in good social grace with everyone, nobody will go after you even if you're deemed a threat. I do think that's what ended up happening. The writing was certainly on the wall; toby called me out publicly as did saurabh. I still managed to avoid being evicted, and hell, even targeted for most of the game. I actually wanted to model my game after plushy because I was very impressed and still shocked by how he

played. Plushy really took it to another level and he dominated socially in cyprus. I didn't go as hardcore as he did, but I did look to how he played in cyprus as an example. Because above all, my goal coming into this game was to win. I knew I'd need to hurt some feelings and betray some friends, but that's the nature of the game I suppose. hmm.. this response feels way more incoherent and rambly than the others ones I've done for you, but whatever. I hope you got some sense of what I was trying to say LOL

8. If there was a jury member you would kick out, who would it be and why?

   Devon because he seems to be voting for hedger based on his speech.

9. What are THREE (3) facts about me that you learned over the course of the season? (and no, they cannot be obvious things, ex. Bboy29 is black, bboy is a fan of Big Brother)

   1. your name is brandon
   HAHAH funny right

Ok for real. I didn't go back through Skype convos for these, so you'll have to take my word on it.

1. One of the things that stood out to me from our convos is when we had a talk about what we'd do if we won the lottery. I talked about how people would try to mooch off me and I'd not tell anyone and keep it all for myself. You disagreed and said you'd tell people and help out your family. To me that's proof of the kind of person you are so that convo is one of the first things I always think about when talking about you as a person. (That just came out as if I'm trying to suck up to you. Not the case sorry)

2. You're taking AP Psych and the teacher isn't very good. Relatable because the reason I actually chose not to take it this year is because the teacher is known for being a pain in the ass to deal with

3. You live in NC, have lived in NJ, want to be a doctor and I'm 99% sure you said you wanna go to UNC or stay in state for college but don't quote me on that one.

10. Is there anything else you would like me to know or tell me to potentially reconsider about my jury vote?

I do have a slight disagreement with a couple different portions of your jury speech. I really don't want to be a nuisance and get into a debate about the intricacies of my game, especially because I have an AP Euro quiz tomorrow and I need to go read the textbook. However, I'll just rebut a couple of points in a very quick fashion.

"I think the problems you faced were that you came off very disingenuous; I don't think anyone truly trusted you because everyone knew you were playing everyone."

I'd have to disagree here. Knife and monte definitely trusted me, and correct me if I'm wrong but you and toby trusted me in my eyes (I may be wrong). Saraubh and hedger were wary of me, yes, but I don't think I had a massive image problem.

"I just believe that by making so many relationships and telling each and every person that you're "with them to the end" does leave them feeling empty in comparison to the apparent real relationships that you had with Knife, Monte, and Drachus."

I had to grapple with the idea of betraying the whole cast one by one. It's a lot easier in EM games when I don't spend days bonding with you guys. I take issue with the use of the phrase "real relationships" though. The relationships I had with you and others on the jury were just as real as the ones with knife and monte. In terms of the game, though, I came into it knowing I'd have to do shitty things. You can only be sitting in the end with 1 person, and you aint gonna get there by only making a single f2 pact.

See, I ended up typing way more than I wanted to. I'd love to talk more about this in a Skype convo after the game is over, because you raise interesting points in your speech that I'd love to discuss.

Hedger's Response:

1. Why did you solely rely on your physical game? (I think I already know the answer to this but I would like to see your thoughts)
2. Why were you unable to communicate with Monte, Saurabh, and I?

3. How did you diffuse the attention on you when people thought you and yuujin were a pair? (You didn't really go over this in your speech so I would like a detailed explanation).
4. Throughout this season, it felt like you were not willing to adapt and kind of "save face". Why was that?
5. Why did you not consider deals when they were presented to you? You seemed to shut down or get angry when someone had reasonable information to lend.

1. Because it's the most reliable way of surviving.
2. Monte is just too unlike me and it was just obvious everything we said to each other was just a lie with a slight attempt at trying to gain the other's trust. Saurabh is fine to communicate with but I just felt no point. He ruined his relationship with me early on and we did talk a bit later on but really again it just wasn't worth my time. You just didn't talk any game with me and really I have no interest of going out of my way to talk game with floaters.
3. I just told people I hadn't talked to yuujin much this game which was true. We both weren't super invested in the social side this game so I was just pretty honest with what my game relationship with her was.
4. I don't know what people expect from me. I gave people a chance to play with me so criticising me for not adapting whenever I needed to suit somebody else's game is bs.
5. I listened to people. You weren't logical in the way you presented your arguments and it was clear you didn't really have anything useful to offer. Monte again was illogical with a lot of his reasoning. At that point I just wanted to make the final 2 and against Knife and Jacob in the final HoH was always easiest. Saurabh I made deals with, I kept him off the block. I was going to save him if I won the veto at F5. So I was willing to work with him. But I couldn't keep both him and Monte in at the F5 I felt otherwise I probably would have tried to take Monte out and then go to the end with Saurabh instead. Saurabh and Monte were always stronger in challenges though.