

This document is compiled and edited from a series of text messages sent by cantilena#1298 in the Georgias channels on the Blaseball Discord. It is intended to explain the events of the Expansion Era to someone who is familiar with Blaseball but not the events thereof.
Note: canti did some editorializing so not all details are 100% factual

Prelude: The Discipline Era

So in order to talk about the Expansion Era, we must first briefly discuss the Discipline Era. During the Discipline Era we (as a community) did some crimes. We opened the Forbidden Book, we did Peanut Fraud. And so upon us came The Shelled One.

The Shelled One was a giant peanut god. He made up rules and punished us for not following them. There's a lot less of a convoluted story there. I could go into specifics but it really doesn't matter.

Day X



The Shelled One during Day

X

Long story short, at the end of Season 9, after the Shoe Thieves won the championship, the Shelled One descended upon the field.

**EMERGENCY ALERT
INCOMING
SEEK SHELTER**

The Shelled One assembled a new team: The Shelled One's Pods. This was made up of the Shelled One's three peanut progeny (Peanut Bong, Peanut Holloway, and Peanutiel Duffy)

along with every player that was, at that moment, currently trapped in a peanut shell (this is a thing that happens in Blaseball sometimes). The Shelled One said that we were Out, and that it was time to show us real discipline.

TIME TO TEACH YOU SOME DISCIPLINE

LIVE - 1 ▲

GAME 1 OF 1



THE SHELLED ONE'S PODS
29918122



Charleston Shoe Thieves
29140



PITCHING Jaylen Hotdogfingers
BATTING Peanut Bong

BALLS ○○○
STRIKES ○○○
OUTS ○○

GAME LOG
The skies shift. A deafening noise rings.

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What followed was perhaps the most thorough stomping of a Blaseball game ever witnessed up to that point. A new interface appeared (pictured above), instead of the game ending at inning 9, each team had a health bar, and scoring runs and outs against a team reduced their health. The Shoe Thieves were, to put it lightly, crushed. The league was devastated, and The Shelled One returned to where it came from, promising that if the league ever wanted to save their friends, they would have one more chance to do so.

The final strike that caused the Shelled One to finally decide to attack us was the use of peanuts to tribute to players in the Hall of Flame. You might be aware, the Hall of Flame is where players go when they're incinerated. The keeper of the Hall is known as The Monitor, but fans like to call it Binky (pictured to the right). Binky had a special fascination with peanuts, though it referred to them as eggs. It was implied that tributing to players with peanuts was just feeding Binky the peanuts, but the league didn't care - they paid tribute to the deceased as they liked. This angered The Shelled One. He didn't want us wasting the snacks he had granted to us on what he viewed as a frivolous exchange.

Back in the present, long after the battle finished, Binky appeared to us with a little message.



did i miss something?
shoot
let me know next time

We didn't really know what that meant at this point.

Day X But Again

Next Season, Season 10. The Shoe Thieves would make it to the finals again, but this time, they would be swept by The Crabs. This was an interesting situation - The Forbidden Book stated that teams which collected three championship belts would Ascend. Nobody really knew what this meant, but we didn't have time to contemplate that.

**EMERGENCY ALERT
INCOMING
AGAIN
SEEK SHELTER
AGAIN**

Followed by the reappearance of The Shelled One.

**THIS IS YOUR CHAMPION?
THEM?
CRUSTACEANS
YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE WORTHY
TO GO UP?
TO CLIMB?
FOOLS
MY PODS**

A new game began, this time, labeled by The Shelled One as **BATTING PRACTICE**. You may have noticed that I called the Shoe Thieves' defeat at the hands of the Pods the most thorough stomping of a Blaseball game ever witnessed up to that point. That's because THIS was the most thorough stomping of a Blaseball game in all history.

Same setup. Health bars and all. The Pods go first. Wyatt Quitter hits a single. 1,504,199 damage. It's over.

The Microphone begins to speak. (Note: The Microphone at this time was in the possession of Wyatt Mason. This was the outcome of an event called the Wyatt Masoning, which is covered in one of the many tangents later in this doc)

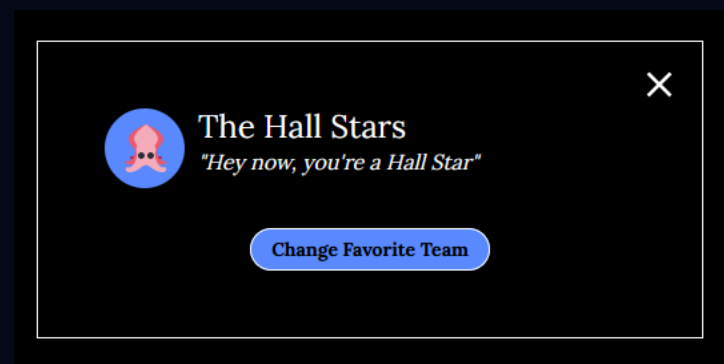
Anyway, The Microphone begins to speak.

we can't win this
not alone
i made a deal
one more game
it was the best i could do
i don't know what happens then
and then
now or never
well
but please
rally

A new message came over the broadcast system.

A NEW CHALLENGER APPROACHES

And a new game commences. This time, it's between the Pods and a new team - The Hall Stars. The Hall Stars were made up of 14 players, the 14 most tributed players in the hall at that time. All of them are legends in their own right, but for different reasons. Boyfriend Monreal, Landry Violence, Randall Marijuana, Workman Gloom, Tyreek Olive, Dominic Marijuana, Sebastian Telephone, Morrow Doyle, Sebastian Sunshine, Kiki Familia, Yazmin Mason, Caligula Lotus, Emmett Internet, and Jaylen Hotdogfingers.



The Mic continues:

Yes!
okay friends!
Let's do this!
Let's go kill God.

The game was a long one. But what happened during the game isn't really important, not anymore. What matters is the results - the Pods were defeated. The Hall Stars were victorious. The Shelled One appeared, likely to spout some new declaration on the state of the league. But, before he could...

cronch
hmm
kinda bland
you all eat these?
what's the point
oh well
deal's a deal
oh almost forgot
Boss is on her way

All the players on the Hall Stars disappeared from the game. They couldn't be found in the Hall, or on the roster of the Hall Stars. Well, with two exceptions. Jaylen Hotdogfingers, during the match, flickered to the side of the Pods during Feedback weather. She was scattered with the rest of the pods. And Sebastian Telephone, tragically, was incinerated during the match. you might want to clean up a bit

All the rest of the players on the Hall Stars were gone though. The Microphone had this to say -

Friends
Jaylen
I can't see you anymore
If you can hear me
Thank you
Wherever you are

I hope you get to rest

Examination of the player pages of those who had disappeared revealed a few things. The players had gained a new mod: Released, with an icon of a bed. Their Soulscreams had turned into Soulsongs. Wherever they were now, it was clear that, as the Mic had hoped, the players were getting some rest.

But Binky referenced someone else in its little speech. "deal's a deal... Boss is on her way." Who was Boss? Well, we were about to find out.

Randall Marijuana	
INFO	FEED
	
Evolution	Released
Peanut Allergy	Permanent
Pregnancy	Permanent
Coffee	Modifications are never removed automatically.
Blood Type	Acidic
Fate	45
Soulsong	XAEIIXAEIIXUAXHIUAXHIIX AIXIXAIXIIAAIEIAAIEIEHAUIE HAUIEHEIHOHEIHOHIIAEIIIA EIIIEAIEAIEAIIIOAOAIOAOAI

The Boss

At the end of the Season 10 elections, She appeared.

**If We could have everyone's attention.
We are so thrilled to have done this Deal.**

We're fans, just like you.

But We're not going to lie to you.

Blaseball is a mess.

It's been unfair.

And that upsets Us.

Discipline was the Past

Fair Play is the Future.

And that Future begins right now.

A Grand Siesta will follow Season 11.

We're going to finally start investing in Blaseball.

We're going to Build.

We'll be working directly with our new CEO Parker MacMillan III.



We're all extremely proud of the work he's done.
It's the Dawn of a whole new Era.

She has many names: Coin, Boss, Coinboss. All of these are going to be used interchangeably hereforward.

Now, this was all in the Discipline era. I need you to understand that was all just a prelude. After a Grand Siesta, Blaseball returned in a new era: the era of Fair Play.

Anyway, Season 11 doesn't matter.

Now, at the end of Season 10, even after being completely and utterly stomped by the Pods, the Crabs did ascend, leaving a hole in the league roster that would be replaced by a new team: The Tokyo Lift. Additionally, the era had a new subtitle. Where it had once said "The Discipline Era" it now said "Peace and Prosperity."

Part 1: Peace and Prosperity?

Over the course of the Grand Siesta, The Microphone had been doing some looking around. At the beginning of Season 12, these findings were tweeted out:

friends
you've been asleep for a while
been searching
trying to see what's coming
i found something
i can feel it
here
all around us
closing doors
base dealing
i don't like our chances
it's a coin flip

At the official opening of Season 12, the Coin appeared again:

**Hello Snackholders
On behalf of Ownership
Welcome.
Take a look around.
Notice anything different?
You wrote the Future.
And then We built it.
Internet League Blaseball is back
Bigger and better than ever before.
The wait is over.
It's time to wake up.
Good Luck to all of Our competitors.
And Good Luck to you, Our beloved Fans.
Now Rejoice.
And Play Ball!**

This coincided with a new mechanic becoming available for players: Ballparks and Renovations. Players could dump the coins they earned from betting and snacks into funding new ballpark stuff. This feature was initially only available to the players who still had access to the Crabs' page. And so, the crabs began to invest money into it. They were warned by ILB staff not to put money in too quickly, but one thing you need to understand about Blaseball is that whenever we're warned not to do something we *absolutely* will not listen. The Crabs funded their ballpark, and on day 72 of Season 12, this happened:

***EMERGENCY ALERT
BREACH DETECTED
FLOOD WARNING
THE COIN FLIPS
OVER UNDER
UNDER OVER
IMMATERIA MATERIA***

EMERGENCY ALERT

The Boss arrived to try to reassure fans that everything was okay:

**Everyone remain calm.
We are actively monitoring the situation.
As a precautionary measure
We have activated Expansion protocols ahead of schedule.
Do not blame yourselves.
This is not your fault.
Accidents happen.
In the meantime
Play must continue.
On behalf of Ownership
Let's all extend a warm ILB welcome to our unexpected additions.
Try to make them feel at home.**

Following this event, the Crabs came crashing back down into the ILB, but they weren't alone. Along with them came three new teams! The Core Mechanics, The Ohio Worms, and well, us! The Atlantis Georgias! These teams remained inactive for the rest of Season 12, but starting with Season 13, they would begin play as normal ILB teams. This event became known as the Breach.

Following the Breach, a new weather appeared - Flooding! You've already heard a bit about this I believe but essentially, flooding weather would sweep players off base and send them Elsewhere, a state that they could return from any time they could normally bat. Players who returned from Elsewhere after being gone for a certain amount of time would be Scattered. Letters would be missing from their names, and it would take a little while for them to fully return.

It was at this point that the subtitle changed once again. No longer was it Peace and Prosperity. We were in the Expansion Era.

Part 2: The Fan-Made Crisis

At the end of Season 12, the Coin addressed the flooding issue:

We made it!
What an incredible Season!
Now, We want to assure everyone.
We have the Flooding issue under control.
We're looking into a number of fixes.
But no one wants to hear about that.
Who's ready for some exciting ILB PostSeason action?
It's party time!

Well, I say addressed. She just said that it's under control and that they're looking into fixes. Who knows what that meant right? Well, right after the election there was another message:

We have everything under control.
Thanks to Our swift action
Things seem to be leveling off.
Rejoice!
You can expect less Flooding in the Future.
Meanwhile Our Food and Beverage Director is busy cooking up new
tasty treats.
And what an Election!
The Fans have spoken
And We answered.
Smooth sailing ahead.

At the beginning of Season 13, we got another announcement related to this issue:

**Great News
The Numbers are in
The Economy is Booming!
Blaseball is bigger than ever before.
Don't worry about the Fan-made crisis.
Everything is under control.
Focus on what you do best.
Supporting Our Players!
Delivering Our MVPs.
Rejoice. Play Ball!**

This was a start of the use of the phrase "fan-made crisis." Pay attention to when it's used, and what for. In this case it was used in regards to the Crabs' Breach and descension, along with the flooding that began occurring shortly afterwards.

At the beginning of Season 13, the Mic tweeted us a new message:

should have seen it
something's wr
can't s

Folowing this, a series of images were tweeted from the twitter account, which appeared to be messages that were being scattered, like the players who returned from Elsewhere.

spla--ed

fo--s --att

g--tin- ---tter-d

But fans had very little time to pay attention to that when they could pay attention to the new mechanics in the game! At this point, every team had access to building ballparks, and a new thing had appeared on the idol board - a long, wiggly yellow line, roughly cutting the board in half. Players above this line would gain MVP status for that Season and gain a new modifier -

Ego. Ego meant that players who had it could not be swept off of the bases by flooding, so. Great! New modifier that is only helpful and makes the MVPs even better! Wow, the Boss really was running this league so well.

At the end of Season 13, the Coin appeared to announce the MVPs, appending that announcement with this message:

**Trust Us
When We say
The weight of this accomplishment cannot be overstated.
You're all winners!**

Missing Persons Report

Now, at the beginning of Season 13, something else happened. Something insidious. There was a case of, a kidnapping? A murder? We weren't really sure. All we knew is that two players in the Shadows of the Shoe Thieves and the Breath Mints: Tad Seeth and Brisket Friendo, respectively had disappeared from the rosters of those teams. Their player pages showed a new mod: REDACTED. This prompted Boss to ask the question: **Where'd you go, Friendo?** The Comissioner, Parker Macmillan IIIII, followed up and said that a missing persons report had been filed, and that "Ownership has enlisted the help of two top-tier investigators and assures no expenses spared."

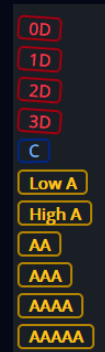
In the Season 13 elections Uncle Plasma and Liquid Friend were brought into the league via blessings. They both had the Hard Boiled mod and when their ILB-sanctioned games took them there, they would investigate the scenes from which Tad Seeth and Brisket Friendo had disappeared.

In Season 14, during the league-sanctioned siesta, the Coin appeared to deliver us a new message:

**Now, in light of the deepening crisis
It's time we ramp up efforts to stay afloat.
We'll be honest
That will require sacrifice.
It's vital that we all do our part.
We've empowered you with new Ratings
to gauge your Team's contributions.**

Each and every one of you is a Credit to the League.

These new ratings appeared on each team page (pictured to the right). People couldn't make heads or tails of it, but they appeared to be related to the new eDensity mechanic that had also recently been added to the team pages. Most teams had C rating at that point, while some had 2D or 3D and some even had Low A. Nobody knew what they meant but well, that was to be seen soon enough.



The Microphone also had some new tweets, following a very similar format to the previous ones. They read:

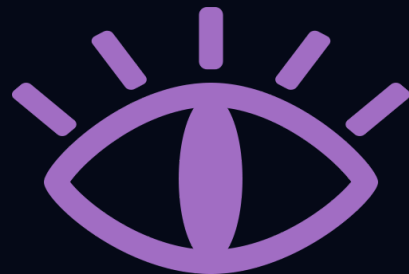
f--ends
n- -cc--ent
w-- a --tu-
--ware
c-- -o- --ar m-
h----
-cho
-elp
f--end-
i kn-- w--- ---- w---

-lasma

And while this was happening, the Tarot Cards were being read.

The Reader

Now, backing up a little, a new entity began appearing in Season 12 but was largely irrelevant until now. This entity, known to fans as The Reader, would pull major arcana Tarot cards and grant effects based on the teams to which the Tarot cards corresponded.



But in Season 14, it became clear that The Reader had something to do with the major events of the Season. As the Mic tweeted out its scattered message to the world, the Reader pulled a new Tarot spread.

XI Strength
Fool
III The Empress

Strength corresponded to the Lift. Fool corresponded to both the Breach teams (who did not get their own Tarot arcana) and The Empress represented The Flowers. Two players, Wyatt Quitter and Moses Mason, were granted the Receiver modification.

The Aforementioned Tangent About the Wyatt Masoning

Now very quickly I must talk about the Wyatt Masoning. Only in brief though. Its its own whole can of worms. Essentially, a cosmic event caused some funky stuff to go down with the roster of the Tacos. They were all briefly renamed to Wyatt Mason, and when they were re-localized some of them kept parts of the Wyatt Mason name over their own. Wyatt Quitter was previously known as Taiga Quitter. Basilio Mason was once known as Basilio Preston. Both of their names were improperly re-localized during the Wyatt Masoning. Additionally, the player originally known as Wyatt Mason's name was changed to NaN. This was also the first time we saw the Microphone. This is what lead people to (correctly) believe that the Microphone was a device in the possession of the original Wyatt Mason.



Anyway, the Receiver modification was a mod through which the Microphone could speak. In the Discipline Era, the Mic often spoke by changing the pre-game rituals of Receivers. This was not the case with these new Receivers. They simply had the modification.

The Second Wyatt Masoning

Now, during the Season 14 Latesiesta, we saw Ballpark Renovations for the first time. Renovations were a system where players could pour their money into new modifications and stat changes for their Ballparks. Its not really relevant how exactly it worked but what was relevant was that 13 teams (well actually 14 teams but there was a glitch so the Crabs didn't get theirs until later) got the Psychoacoustics modification. What followed was an event known as the Second Wyatt Masoning. 13 copies of Wyatt Mason, all numbered with roman numerals,

appeared on the teams which got Psychoacoustics. The Lift got Wyatt Mason. We got Wyatt Mason III, the Tacos got Wyatt Mason IV, the Garages got Wyatt Mason X. You get the idea. These Wyatts all had a new modifier - Echo. Additionally, they shared a pre-game ritual: OFFLINE. When this happened, the Microphone's twitter bio changed to match. OFFLINE. A message appeared in the main feed, in the purple glow that The Reader's messages were written in.

OVER AND OUT

Now the Echo mod allowed the Wyatts Mason to, during feedback or reverb weather, copy the mods of players on other teams. There are a few notable interactions though. If an Echo would echo a Receiver (Wyatt Quitter and Basilio Mason, but also two others), the Receiver would also become an echo. When an Echo echoed an Echo, this happened:



And so, for the rest of Season 14 and Season 15, the Wyatts Mason began echoing each other into Static. Static'd players were removed from the rosters of their teams, but weren't in the Hall or anywhere else. They were just gone. Through this, every Wyatt Mason, save for Wyatt Mason IV (nicknamed IVy) and Wyatt Mason X (nicknamed MaX) were Static'd, as well as Wyatt Quitter, who was made an Echo by Wyatt Mason, then Static'd with Wyatt Mason VI.

Blood in the Water

But while all of this was happening something else was going down - a red light had appeared next to the Tigers' team name on the roster. Nobody knew what it meant yet, so everyone had some good fun joking that it was a laser pointer for the Tigers to play with. Until, well, something terrible happened.

CONSUMERS ATTACK NICHOLAS MORA

With the silhouette of a shark appearing in the message window, Nicholas Mora had a whole chunk of his stats bitten away, along with a tiny part of his soul.



Over the course of the next Season, the red light started appearing next to more teams. People were starting to get a little bit worried. Meanwhile, SIBR (the Society for Internet Blaseball Research) had figured something out. The eDensity stat which was attached to teams pages was based on, generally, how big players were. That was, how many stars did they have and how many Modifiers did they have, along with how high their soul stat was. They also found definitively that eDensity was related to ratings, with ratings earlier in the alphabet (A, C, etc) being related to higher levels of eDensity than the later ratings (2D, 3D etc).

Many more of these attacks would occur. Each time, they would attack a team indicated by the red light. A player from that team would be injured, and a piece of their soul would be eaten away. But what happens if you get to 0 soul? Well, we found that out when, on day 104 of Season 15, both Nagomi McDaniel and Alyssa Harrell were attacked by the Consumers. Rather than simply be injured and lose a bit of their soul, Nagomi and Alyssa were.... gone. REDACTED.

Part 3: Mass Production

At the beginning of Season 15 the Coin appeared again with some news:

**We need to level with you.
The Ratings aren't great.
We know you're doing your best
But we all need to pull our weight.
We're here to help.
We tossed that old junk weighing you down
And We come bearing Gifts!
Brand-new Bats, Caps, Shoes, and Gloves!
The tools you need to succeed.
And look at these Concessions!
Who doesn't love a buffet?
Now you can have it your way!
We're loving it!**

The decree that Season was between Bats, Caps, Shoes, and Gloves, all of which were implied to give a global buff to some ability of the playerbase. Additionally, the old items page was scrapped and all the items that players had had before that were gone.

Players, knowing that the soul stat was a big part of density, also realized that density of players was what ended up deciding where the line on the idol board went. The idol board, rather than being exactly cut in half by the line, bisected the board upon the closest thing it could to half of the total eDensity of the board. This was further confirmed when fans teamed up to do an experiment.

A player from the Discipline era who had died very early on, Chorby Soul, had an incredibly large soul. I'm talking like 1500s in soul. Most players' souls didn't go over 20. The fans thought, if soul affected the eDensity of teams, what would happen if they resurrected Chorby Soul. This was possible, as one of the Wills for which people could vote was Plunder: to take a player that's in the top 20 of the Idol board. And so they did take. The community rallied together and got Chorby Soul to 3rd place on the idol board, and when the Plunder went off, the Garages were the ones who ended up with Chorby. Following the resurrection of Chorby Soul, the Coin had this to say:

**How about a big round of applause
for the Seattle Garages!
These Ratings are through the roof!
Now, We've seen the Consumer reports
And we're ready to ramp up production.
We refuse to leave anyone empty-handed.
You just tell Us what you need.
Help Us help you
Dress for success.**

Additionally, the Bats decree had won, and every player in the ILB, even pitchers, were given their own bats.

Going into Season 16, a new subtitle appeared: Mass Production.

Over the course of the next Season, for a long time, the Garages were the only ones with the red light. And of the players that could be attacked, Chorby Soul was the one who was attacked the most.

***CONSUMERS ATTACK CHORBY SOUL. CONSUMERS ATTACK CHORBY SOUL.
CONSUMERS ATTACK CHORBY SOUL. CONSUMERS ATTACK CHORBY SOUL.
CONSUMERS ATTACK CHORBY SOUL. CONSUMERS ATTACK CHORBY SOUL.
CONSUMERS ATTACK CHORBY SOUL. CONSUMERS ATTACK CHORBY SOUL.***

It felt like every game, we'd see a new message in the #blasebot-events channel. Every game, a new shark would come and attack Chorby Soul. Slowly, slowly, taking out their soul.

In other news: the true purpose of the items was found. These items would allow the players to fight off Consumers. But, they were pretty cheaply made. After only one or two shots, the players would once again be defenseless against the bites of the Consumers.

It was clear that this was not sufficient defense against the Consumers, and players expected the Boss to have some kind of solution to the problems of the era - of eDensity and Consumer attacks. But, the Boss had no such plans. Instead, during the election she came to introduce a new member of our cast - Lōotcrates.

**Snackholders!
What an incredible Season!
Well Done!**

How about a round of applause for Our League Historian!

With Lōotcrates' help

We will keep the Past safe.

We will Preserve what We Love.

Drawing from Lōotcrates' Collections

We will continue to build.

To Expand.

Together We'll make History!

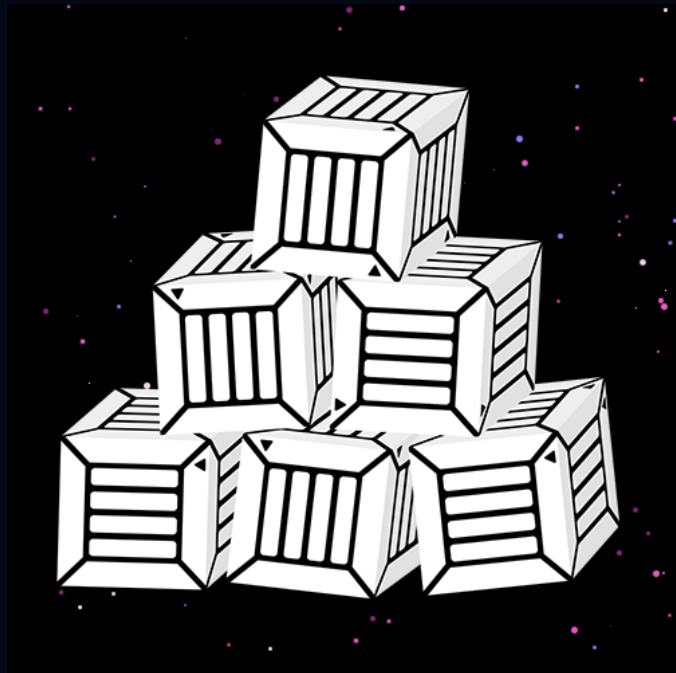
Lōotcrates

Now, Lōotcrates had already shown up a few places before, but this was their official introduction to the league. Preceding the Season 15 election results, they had appeared to read the following:

*"From the Vault
Gifts forged in Stars.
Tools of the New Age."*

"The Enquiry begins again."

*"Memories flood.
Overtake the Bridge
Erode the Pillars."*



"A witness wades."

*"Witnesses shape the Current
Carrying sediment
Etching Names in keepsakes."*

"Crafting Legends."

And during the endSeason they had also appeared to read the MVP results. Along with that, they left a little message:

*"From the Bridge
They witness Dawn
Two Stars rising"
"Approaching the Vault."*

Speaking of MVPs, people were starting to get a little bit more antsy, especially after the messages Lōotcrates had read. MVP was a stacking modification. Every new MVP vote a player would receive ego, and every player who had already received ego would receive ego+, and so on. At this point, York Silk and Nagomi McDaniel had both received Ego++++ and, many theorized that the *"Two Stars rising"* to which Lōotcrates referred were those to. What did it mean to approach the Vault? We were about to find out.

Additionally, this election saw the opening of the Library, which would periodically be populated with entries about various points in Blaseball's history.

Infighting

Now, Season 17 saw more of the same, but it was clear something was going on. During the Earlsiesta, when the Reader was giving Tarot readings, they were interrupted by Lōotcrates.

immateria immateria

XVI The Tower

V The Hierophant

IIII The Emperor

This was a normal reading, which granted items to Baby Doyle of the Jazz Hands and Orville Manco of the Steaks. However, Lōotcrates interrupted:

*"The Reader interjects
Projects upon the text
Fishes from neighboring streams."*

"Flailing against the Current."

***"At the Delta
Tributaries converge
The Historian collects the sea."***

What this meant was anyone's guess, but it was the first instance of the apparent rivalry between the two entities.

Now, you might ask, where was The Monitor during all this? You wanna see Binky I'm sure. And I understand. Binky is awesome. I love it to death. Binky was having a bit of a rough time of it as it turns out. It had been granted a new position when the Coin came into power - it was now the Food and Beverage director. It got a cute little chef hat. Most of the times it appeared was simply to announce a new snack was gonna be around, but it would also fill in for the Coin when she went on sudden unexpected vacations. Additionally, it was given new job after new job during this time, and generally seemed to be very overworked. A lot of people were sad about that, because we love Binky.

Forging Legends, Going Down

At the end of the Season, when the MVP list was read, York Silk and Nagomi McDaniel were on the list. They received a new status - Legendary. They too disappeared from their team's roster, with no trace of them anywhere on the site. Lōotcrates appeared to address this at the end of the MVP reading.

***Sediment Collects in the Delta
Sparkling Nucleosynthesis
Forging Legends."
"Stars Vaulted"
"Preserved."***

Simultaneously, things were looking pretty grim in terms of the Consumer attacks. Chorby Soul was not defending the league as some had thought they would. The teams just kept getting heavier, with new renovation mods and growing power of players. And so they kept getting bitten. Many a player was redacted, both via the Consumer bites and via a park renovation - the Secret Base.

Now, the Secret Base was introduced in Season 15, around the same time that Chorby Soul and York Silk got necromancied. When Chorby and York got resurrected, they got a new mod

called Debt, which meant that they could occasionally hit players with pitches and, when those players were hit, those players would become Observed. If players were Observed and entered a Secret Base, they would be redacted, similar to if players had their souls eaten by Consumers. Additionally, from Secret Bases, Redacted Players could Emerge. On day 1 of Season 16, Brisket Friendo emerged with the modifier Attractor. Brisket had no soul at all, but seemed to be incredibly strong from the Attractor Modifier. This was misleading however. For some reason, Attractors star counts were inflated, so they were heavier with no actual increased performance because of it.

Now, anyway. We were concerned. Beloved players kept getting attacked by these Consumers, disappearing from the rosters. Nagomi and York had been taken from us. Preserved. Whatever that meant. We expected some kind of response from management about it, but that did not come.

Instead we got this from The Boss at the beginning of Season 18:

Welcome to Opening Day!
Before We begin
A Special Announcement.
Chorby Soul has been Preserved!
Congratulations Chorby!
You're a Legend!
Thanks to your weighty contributions
We have navigated Crises
We have surfaced victorious
The Flooding subsides
Ratings are better than ever before!
Blaseball will sustain Us
In perpetuity.
Let that sink in.
Now Wake Up and Play Ball!

Chorby Soul had too been taken from us, and now the frequency at which sharks attacked the rest of the players in our league had been increased. Chorby didn't fully defend us but they did take the majority of the blows. By this point, they had had 0 stars and their soul had been reduced by over 100 units.

Numbers Go Down

During the Earlsiesta, the Reader began their normal tarot readings, but this time The Boss interrupted them.

XIIII Temperance

VII The Chariot

VIII Justice

out from under

take the over

The Boss takes the field:

Okay thank you.

Special Announcement

The Seasonal Reading is hereby Suspended Indefinitely

It was so fun while it lasted.

Always a fun surprise.

Moving on

It's Our pleasure to announce

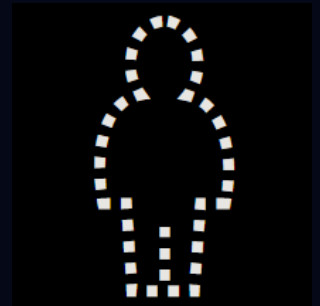
The ILB Gift Shop is open for business!

Give the people what they want!

Not one to let someone else get the last word, the Reader shot back:

lighten up

Modifications were given to Justice Spoon of the Firefighters and Lotus Mango of the Garages. Negative. These players had their contribution to team eDensity flipped, making the teams a little bit lighter. A little bit less vulnerable to Consumers. This was something good. This was progress of some kind. But of course, the tarot readings were canceled. So what could the Reader even do?



Well, as it turns out, a lot. This Season there were 5 decrees slated, and we would win the three most voted for decrees. However, after this, a new decree appeared. A 6th decree. Trust Fall. In the reader's signature purple text it read:

Trust Fall
turn the tables. winning will be losing. trust me.

Additionally, new blessings appeared, proposing gifts to teams that would reduce their eDensity. Clearly the Reader had a lot more power behind them than just what they could do with the Tarot.

This Season also saw the opening of the Gift Shop, and in the Gift Shop we saw what became of the Legendary players. For sale were Replicas of Nagomi McDaniel and York Silk. These replicas were players that would play for the team after being purchased at the gift shop during the Latesiesta. They were removed from the teams during the election of those Seasons, to be sold back to us next Season. It might surprise you to hear this, but this did not bode well for many of the fans of the game.

Also during Latesiesta, the Coin addressed us once more:

We have been made aware
Of recent efforts to undermine our Election.
Please ignore any unauthorized Ballot additions.
We would hate for anything bad to happen.
Speaking of which
A new edition has been approved for Public Access
Take a trip down memory lane!
And We've seen the Consumer Projections
We know what you need
A New Snack!
Thanks to our Food, Beverage, Tourism and Gift Shop Manager
For whipping up a new tasty treat in a hurry!
Play Ball!

This was obviously referring to the Reader's new ballot addition. Fans were even more curious to see what this new decree would do now, since they were kinda getting fed up with the Boss at this point.

And so, at the end of Season 18, we voted. And Trust Fall was one of the three decrees that won. To each ballpark was added a new mod: Turntables. Turntables read:

Any Win earned from a non-loss in this Ballpark during the Regular Season will be converted to an Unwin.

...what the hell is that? There were theories of course. It seemed like for the next Season, wins would become Unwins instead. Negative wins. And that's exactly what happened.

Part 4: Raising the Stakes

So Season 19 was a bit of a clown Season. Winning was losing, so you didn't really wanna win, did you? The best teams went straight to the bottom of the league, and the worst teams were the ones that made it to playoffs. However, this *did* work. The teams were getting lighter, as the negative wins were pushing up back up. Less Consumer attacks. Less tragedy. Less redactions. But this didn't bode well for the Boss. At this point it was abundantly clear - she wanted us to be heavy, to have us go down. To be attacked by Consumers. To be destroyed by Consumers.

Boss soon came to address this:

**This Season isn't pretty
Ratings are tanking.
But there's hope
The Seasonal Readings are cancelled
We've all had enough chaos.
We will Repeal this Corruption
Exit polls are showing a landslide
The Ratings will rebound.
We guarantee it.
It's a slam dunk.
Play Ball!**

At this point, there was only one decree: Repeal Turn Tables. However, it wouldn't stay that way for long. Following this speech, the reader had a short thing to say:

**under achieve
overwhelm**

This was followed by the Boss snapping back:

**That's enough.
Repeal Turn Tables.
Play Ball.**

But, at this point a new decree had appeared. Once again in the purple text of the Reader.

**Under Achiever
unwin the underbracket. crown the underchampions.**

This decree would create a new bracket - the Underbracket, in which the worst teams, or at that point the best teams I suppose, would compete to be the worst team of them all! Great fun to be had I feel.

The election came and went, and Under Achiever won. The Boss didn't like it, and she had this to say about it:

**Special Announcement
It's now clear to Us
Blaseball is deeply Divided.
We've recorded massive Losses
The League is in the Red
We've been forced to make a Deal
A Grand Bargain
Inflation will keep Us afloat
As We get things Squared Away
So have your fun
Stay Positive
Win or Lose**

Everybody Wins

The Underbracket passed, but with it a new tiding appeared on the site:

***A DEBT II:
THE LEAGUE WAS LEVERAGED
SUN(SUN) WAS FORGED
SUN(SUN) WAS SET
BLASEBALL WAS RAISED BY A SECOND POWER***

The Sun(Sun) league modification stated that all Wins and Unwins collected would be squared. This meant that wins were no longer negative, as if you square a negative number you get a positive one. Additionally, a new bar appeared on the League page. Pressure.

Internet League Blaseball

INFO



PRESSURE AT 3.38%

The next Season things were. Normal. Wins were positive and they were heavy. They went down. Runs, Wins, and Incinerations caused the pressure to increase.

The Library Tangent & Parker Macmillan

Along with this, another interesting development had been made. The Library had opened new information on the pre-history of the game. The (incomplete and largely redacted) library entry showed a team, The Alaskan Immortals, being incinerated. Not any one player on that team, but the entire team. Additionally, it introduced a player named Parker MacMillan. You might recognize that name. Previously I mentioned that Parker Macmillan III was the new CEO. Well, Parker III didn't last long. He was incinerated during the Grand Siesta, during a court trail (long story.) He was replaced by Parker Macmillan IIII (4) who was then observed and redacted during the Coffee Cup (another long story.) So now we have Parker Macmillan IIIII (5). But this was Parker Macmillan the first! Learning he was a player was interesting. Additionally, we saw that Parker 1 had a modification called Firewalker, which caused him to leave instability in his wake, implying that it was his fault that the Immortals were incinerated. Over the course of the next few Seasons we learned a bit more about Parker 1 and prehistory in general which I'll summarize here:

- Parker 1 was originally a member of the Alaskan Immortals
- The Coin was a fan of the Alaskan Immortals
- Parker 1 had an ability that meant that when he was idolized, he would pay out 10x the normal amount for idol snacks
- Parker 1 was a very strong player, and teams hexed him with non-profit, which meant that fans of the team he was on couldn't idolize him, and firewalker, which meant that if he left a team he would make it unstable.
- The Coin then super revoked Parker 1, making him Super Roaming, meaning he'd switch between teams every 9 days, because she wanted to be able to profit off of him, but could not since she was an Immortals fan. This directly lead to the incineration of the Immortals.
- Lōotcrates granted parker an item to keep the other teams safe, an item that stopped him from roaming.
- A player named New Megan Ito (unfortunately not relevant here her story is WILD though) switched the item that kept Parker contained for like, a pair of sunglasses, causing him to roam again
- Through his roaming, Parker went between several teams, causing each of them to become unstable, and causing most of them to be incinerated.
- Following the revelation of this information, Parker 5 kinda had a breakdown on twitter, and for a really long time was like, depression-tweeting the things he was supposed to announce. Its kinda funny to recount but genuinely made me very sad.

Set Suns

Anyway, at the beginning of Season 20, Coinboss had something to say:

Rejoice!
Good news
We have Bridged our divide.
We are Unified.
We are Unanimous.
In the light of Sun(Sun)
The Forecast is bright.
We project massive growth for Blaseball.
Exponential growth
Massive gains
The chaos you demand
Together, we will forge new ways to Win.
Victory is secured.

Additionally, Lōotcrates added:

*"From the safety of the Delta
The Historian eyes the Horizon
Humming a familiar Rhyme."*

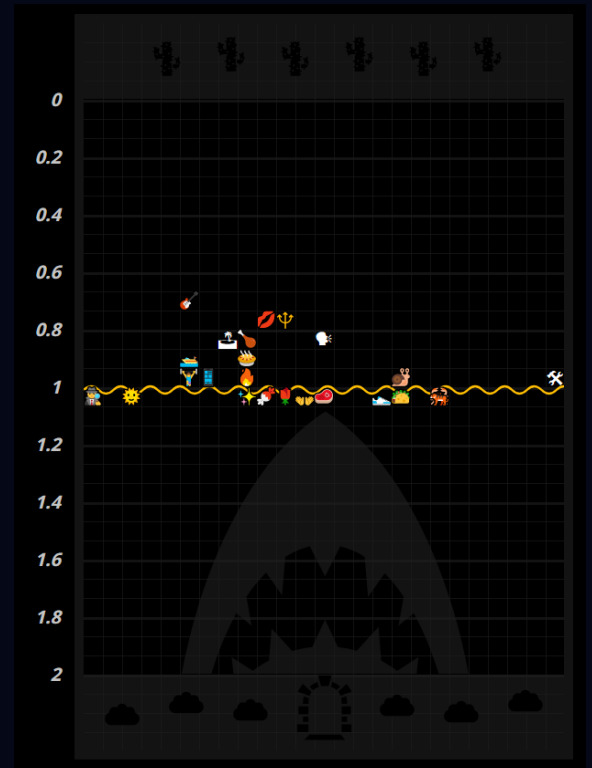
*"A Sun Set.
A Second Day.
A breaking Dawn."*

Finally, the Reader chimed in:

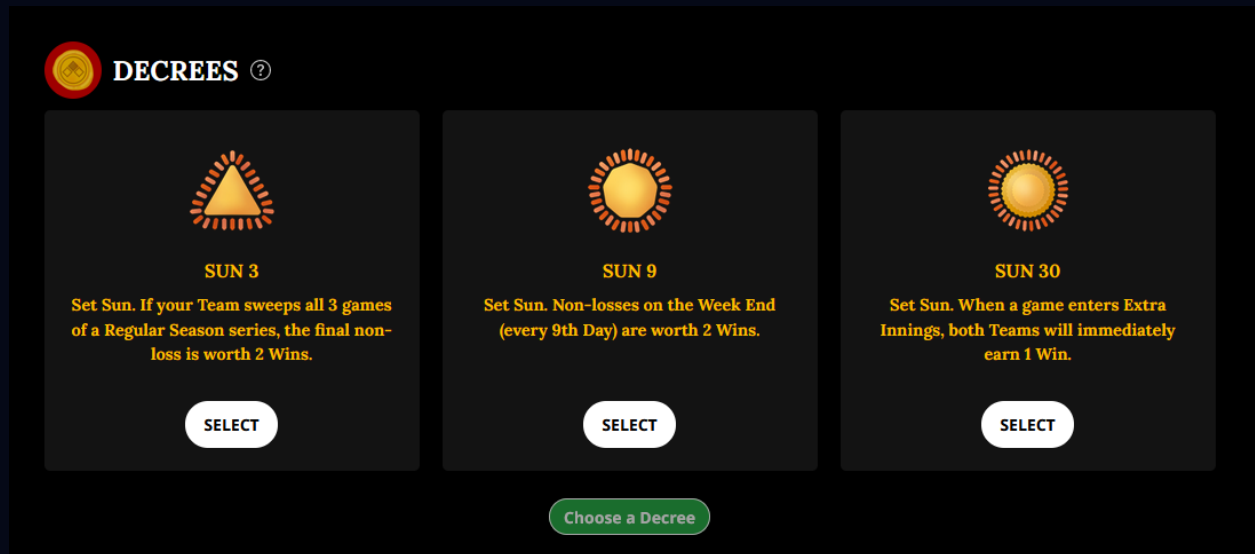
go long

Following this participation from the Reader, a new chart appeared on the website. It appeared to be a chart that showed the position of teams in the immateria, based on their eDensity. This chart was bisected by a line, which showed the point of density where the Consumers would begin attacking.

Meanwhile, Sun(Sun) burned bright overhead. The pressure was increasing. Fans were once again unsure of the future.



This election, there were Suns. Three different suns, each would somehow increase the amount of runs that players could get in-game. Sun 30 won, which meant that if a game went to extra innings, both teams would instantly gain a win. These wins, of course, would make the teams even heavier. Pushing us down and down on the eDensity chart. Additionally, when Sun 30 was set, the pressure gauge increased by around 10%. So that wasn't concerning at all.



During the Election, Boss had another thing to say regarding the situation:

What an incredible Season!
Blaseball is back in business
The Ratings are rising
Consumer Reports are glowing
But some of you aren't pulling your weight.
Staying afloat isn't enough
We must deepen our investments
We will pile it on

Thank you to Our Dynamic Duo
Your hard work
Showed no foul play
We can put all that behind Us
Enjoy Retirement!

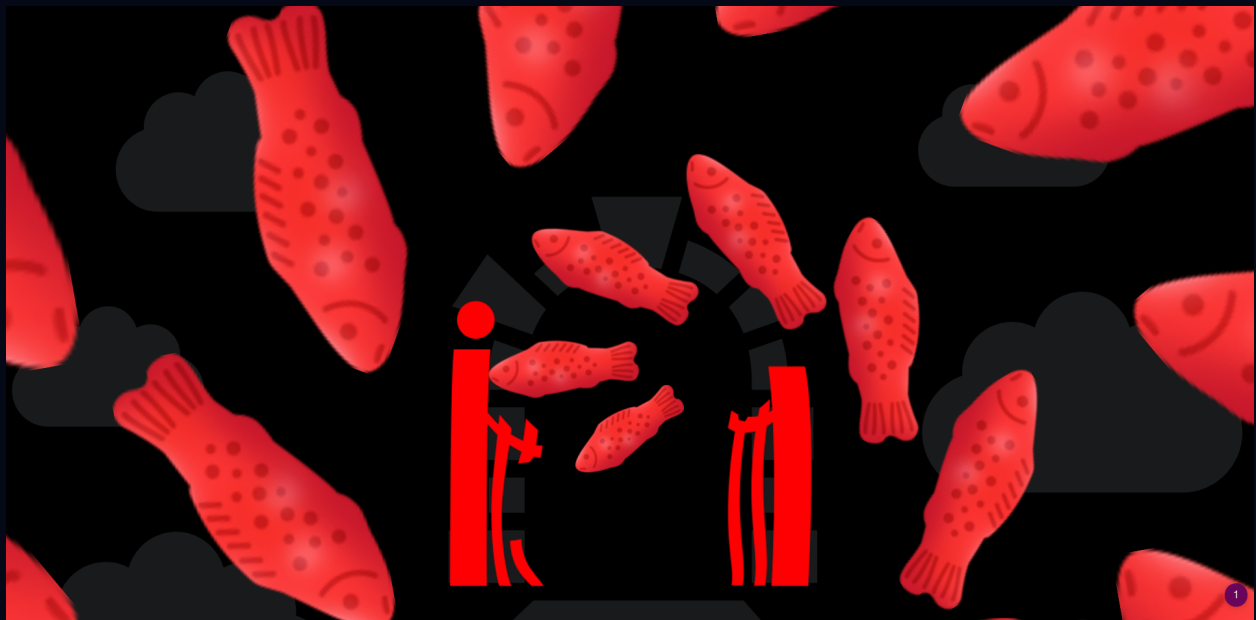
Both Uncle Plasma and Liquid Friend were returned to the Vault, much to fan's protest. They were both incredibly popular players at the point that they were returned.

At this point a number of other Legends had been forged. Valentine Games, Aldon Cashmoney, Wyatt Glover. Goodwin Morin. Each had gained 5 ego and become members of the roster of legends that the Gift Shop would sell back to us.

But, like it or not, this was kind of the status quo. Every Season from here on out, new Suns were set. Pressure increased. Teams got heavier. It was all anyone could do to just keep trying to mitigate it. The Reader kept offering blessings and wills that would make us lighter but it didn't help. The league kept sinking deeper into the jaws of the Consumers below.

Soul Bargain

During Season 21, another new replica appeared - Chorby Soul, Soul Edition. Chorby replicas had been offered before, but none of them had the soul that Chorby was famous for. But this promised just that - a new Chorby with a new soul, ready to weigh a team down. Additionally, replicas of both Uncle Plasma and Liquid Friend were offered - billed as a Dynamic Duo. The Worms picked up all three of these and they went plummeting down. The Worms had received a modifier that made all held items players on the team had heavier. So they were already well within Consumer territory, but wanted to see what would happen if we got to the bottom. And so they did. To their surprise, the replicas of Uncle Plasma and Liquid Friend protected them, doing wrestling moves to stop the Consumers from attacking their players. When the Worms hit the bottom, they opened the doors which could be seen at the bottom of the depth chart, and from that door flew fish! These fish were Red Herrings, which could be used to bribe Binky into un-redacting information in the Library. This is how we know most of what we know of prehistory, which I summarized above.



Additionally the Georgias got a Chorby Soul. They had a modifier called Light-Handed, which made items that we held lighter. This completely inverted the weight of Chorby's Soul and they

went straight up to the top of the chart, which looked like a desert. When they got there, they found a desert (and a Blagonball. Don't ask what a Blagonball is its complicated). Additionally, when contact was made, the Reader said this:

**touch down
special teams
tumbleweed sounds**

Nothing else came of that.

Perhaps in reference to this, the Boss had something to say at the end of Season 21:

**Despite record Successes
Ratings are in Free Fall
We've seen active hostility toward Consumers.
Classified information has been Leaked
All due to another disappointing oversight
By Our Gift Shop Manager.
Security Clearances were bypassed.
Our Historian's generosity was violated.
These Leaks must stop at once.
We have a message to those
Who threaten Our League's stability
We are going to Win.
Like it or not.**

Lōotcrates appeared to read the MVP list, and we heard nothing from the Reader. And all the while, the pressure bar grew. We were hoping for some answer to this but found nothing.

Part 5: Party Like It's The End of the World

In Season 22, the Coin appeared to announce a new event.

Rejoice!
We are thrilled to announce
Coming Next Season
The ILB Semi-Centennial!
Celebrating a half-century of exciting #Blaseball action
A look back at all the fun We've had
Since Blaseball's Return.
And for you students of History
The fun starts Today!

The Semi-Centennial would occur at the end of the next Season. All players with some amount of Ego would be drafted onto the Rising Stars, and they would play against all Legendary Players. This included Legends from Prehistory, like Parker Macmillan.

The Semi-Centennial was billed as a 50-inning game between the legends of the past and the legends of the future. Among them was Parker Macmillan, who held on to a new item which kept him contained. Along with him was New Megan Ito, the person who originally stole his containment. Over the course of the game, a lot happened.

Players from the Rising Stars were pulled onto the Vault Legends. Some entities would pull them from active play onto the Vault Legends and Forge them in gold. Attempts to do this could be dodged, but not very often. Rat Mason was one of the few who was able to consistently dodge, avoiding being Forged a whole five times. Each time a player was forged, the Pressure



would increase. At this point the pressure was ludicrously high, it only needed a little bit to push it over the edge.

Additionally, who could have guessed, New Megan Ito traded an item to Parker Macmillan, causing him to break containment. At the end of the game, he would super roam away, ending up on the roster of the Fridays.

Additionally, Lōotcrates was actively commentating the game. They said "fall guys among us" once. That was a funny thing that happened.

The game would last 29 innings before the pressure bar would fully fill. And when it did, boom. The screens of thousands of viewers flashed white as from the game interface there grew a colorful explosion. Sun(Sun) had gone Supernova.

At the end of it all, the Coin had something to say. Like always, she had something to say. There she stood, eclipsing the Supernova of her own design. Expanding. Vast. Endless.



Snackholders
Snackholders!
Wow! Look at those colors!
Yes, Sun(Sun) appears to have exploded.
There is no reason to panic.
In Light of Recent Events
The Semi-Centennial is henceforth Canceled.
The Result is a Draw.
See you at the Election!



Fire Sale

At the end of Season 23, a new entity appeared, under the name Namerifeht. Namerifeht had previously been mentioned in prehistory as the creator of Sun 1. It was clear then that this was who the Coin had made a deal with. Namerifeht was the one who had supplied the suns. Namerifeht said this:

Credit Denied
Service Suspended
Balance Outstanding
Assets Underwater
Bridges Burned
Final Notice
Fire Sale

The Season subtitle changed. Fire Sale. It was the beginning of the end.



denied tigræc

Next Season, things seemed dire. We had been playing under a new weather: Supernova Eclipse. The Coin's presence was eclipsing the light from the Supernova, causing a similar effect to when the Sun is eclipsed. Almost every game was Supernova Eclipse. In this new kind of eclipse, not only could players be incinerated, but also teams. On the third day of the Season, The Breath Mints were incinerated. Replaced by a new team - the Oxford Paws.

For the first time in a little while, Binky spoke to us:

**the breath mints.
follow me
take a break
beat the heat
in the trench
it's cool there
oh and pudge
door's always open**

Parker Macmillan was still around. He jumped from the Fridays to the Pies. The Fridays were made unstable, and then were incinerated. Replaced by team from prehistory - the Carolina Queens. This incineration prompted another message from Binky:

**hey
it's island time
come with me
to the trench
the vibes are right**

When it appeared, the Monitor was wearing these new swanky looking sunglasses.



Come Earlsiesta, the Coin began to speak once more:

Snackholders
Rejoice!
Thanks to Our swift Action
And you Contributions
Profits are Soaring
We are Winning

This may have been true. But it didn't remove the impact from what would happen next.

EMERGENCY ALERT
RIFFING INTENSIFIES
SUPERNOVA COLLAPSES
REALITY TEARS
STRANDS BRIDGED
ENDS ZONED
BLACK HOLE (BLACK HOLE) DRAINS
PULSAR (PULSAR) BEAMS

The Coin was apparently caught off guard by this.

**No
Wait
Okay no one panic
This is fine.
We will handle this.**

Save Situation

But while this was happening, something else showed up off-site:



Parker was, from the commissioner's office, tweeting at the Microphone. And, while the Coin reassured us that everything was fine, that the system was working, that she would sort things out and nothing needed to change, the Microphone came online. It appeared on the site, and sent out a message straight from the Commissioner.

hello

This is Parker MacMillan IIII speaking
I am the Blaseball Commissioner
I'm not sure what's happening

I don't know if we can fix it
But I know She doesn't care what happens to you
She doesn't care where you end up
It's not fair
You deserve a say
But you gotta go fast
Don't give up
Help each other
Get moving

New pages appeared on the site: Map, Navigation, and Aid. The map was, well a map, it replaced the depth chart and showed 4 end zones: The Vault, The Hall, The Black Hole, and the Desert. In the Navigation page, players would choose which of these end zones they wanted to head to. And finally, in the Aid page, players would use their money to fuel each other's teams in moving towards their desired destination.



On day 34, the Moist Talkers reached the Hall endpoint, and Binky showed up to address them:

hey talkers
how did you get here?
slippery
your pals are inside
can't let you in yet

busy
aiding the others
but stay near

On day 51, the Georgias reached the Vault, and Lōotcrates stood outside, saying this:

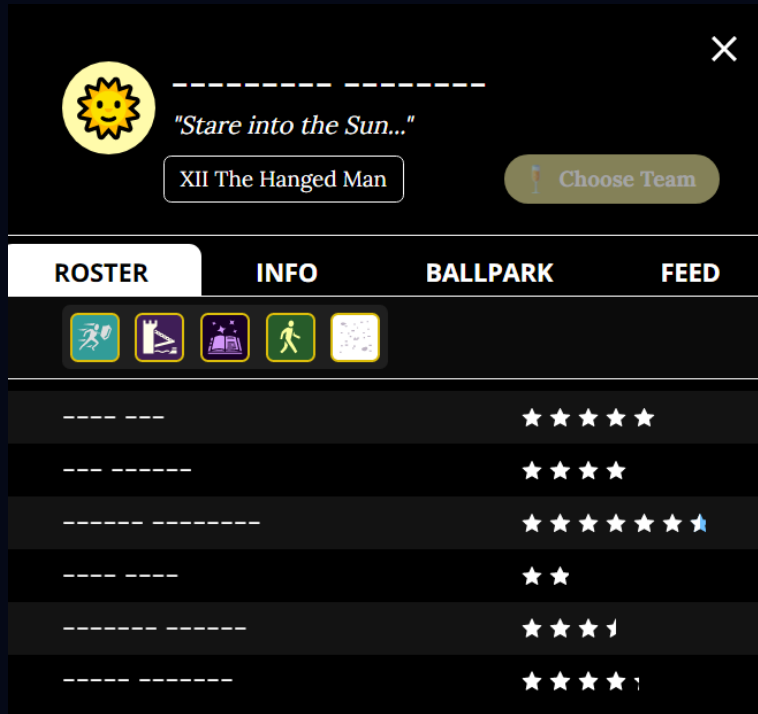
***"At the Final Out
Dawn of a zeroed Horizon
The Historian Steels Second"
"Awaiting Sacrifice"
"Affording Scoring Position"***

At the same time, the Sunbeams reached the Desert, to which the Reader said this:

touch down
sunbeams

over time
tear down
sand traps
spikes set
rebuild
charge the mound
trust the process

Following this, the Sunbeams gained the Scattered mod, which fully blanked out their team name and also the entire roster.



At this point, the map has started to shift. It's changing orientation. Doing some quick math, players realized that on day 99, the map would shift to be the shape of the Blaseball field.

"charge the mound"

The center of this field, where the Coin stood, eclipsing the Supernova. And so the Sunbeams did. They charged the mound.



On day 65, the Sunbeams reached the center. The Coin appears. Like the Mic so long ago, like the Beams, she is scattered.

Wh-t are you doi--
Wh-t -re y-- do---
Th-s beh-v--r -- unac--pt--le

More teams began to rush the mound. Got scattered. Rushed the mound.

Y-- can't d- th-s.

During Latesiesta, she had more to say:

Sn-ckh-ld-rs
W- a-e be---g Che-t-d
W- a-e be---g Che-t-d
Ou- I-tell-ct---l Pr-pe-ty ha- b-en
vi-late-
O-r P-ized A--ets Tak-n
S-olen f-rom Us
T-is is no- Fair P--y
B-t w-th you- Co-tribut-o-s
Wi-h y-ur -ard wo-k
Y--r sacrifice
We- w--l B-ild ba-k
Be-t-r t-an ev-r -efore
O-r g-owth -s expo-en-ial
Endle-s
Et-rnal



But, Binky showed up to rebut:

no
bad news boss
i quit

Binky then turned to address the teams.

oh hey
i can let you in now
or out, i guess
just sneak out
i'm off duty
get out there
you're on deck
close up shop

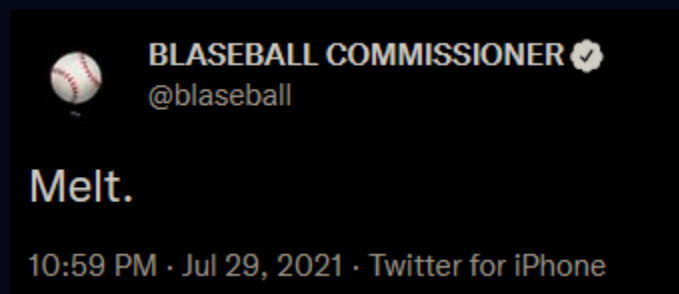
At this point, every dead team appeared on the map. All the teams from pre-history, plus the newly incinerated Mints and Fridays. Each team that appeared from there, along with each team that touched the Hall gained a new mod: Rogue.

Rogue umpires incinerate players, sometimes teams. What do Rogue teams do? Well, that was what we were about to find out.

The Rogue teams rushed the mound, and on day 82, the first team reached the mound. This team was the Hades Tigers. Upon their reaching her, Boss only had this to say:

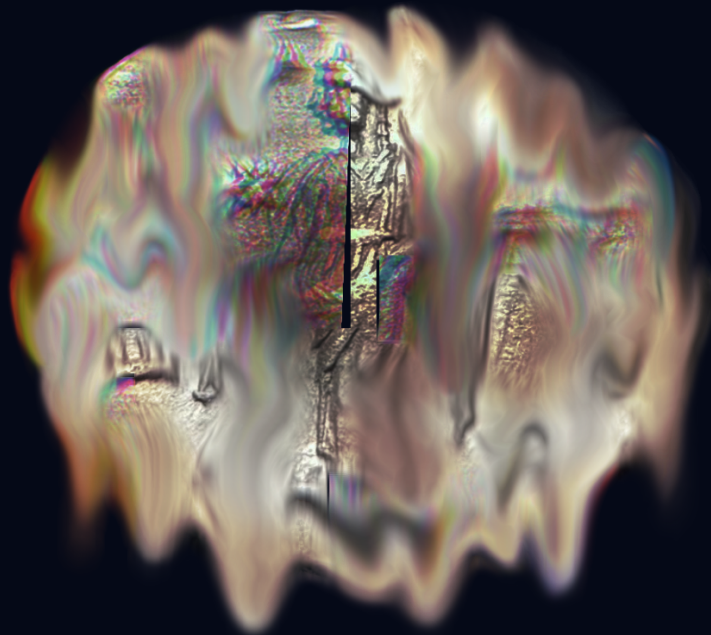
St-p
W--t
Y-- c--'t d- t---
--o d- y-u th--k y-- ---
W- w--- W--
-e alw--- W--
We'r- F-ns
J-st l-ke y--

At that point, a new message from the Commissioner's office.



A new message appeared in the feed:

ROGUE TEAMS INCINERATED THE COIN

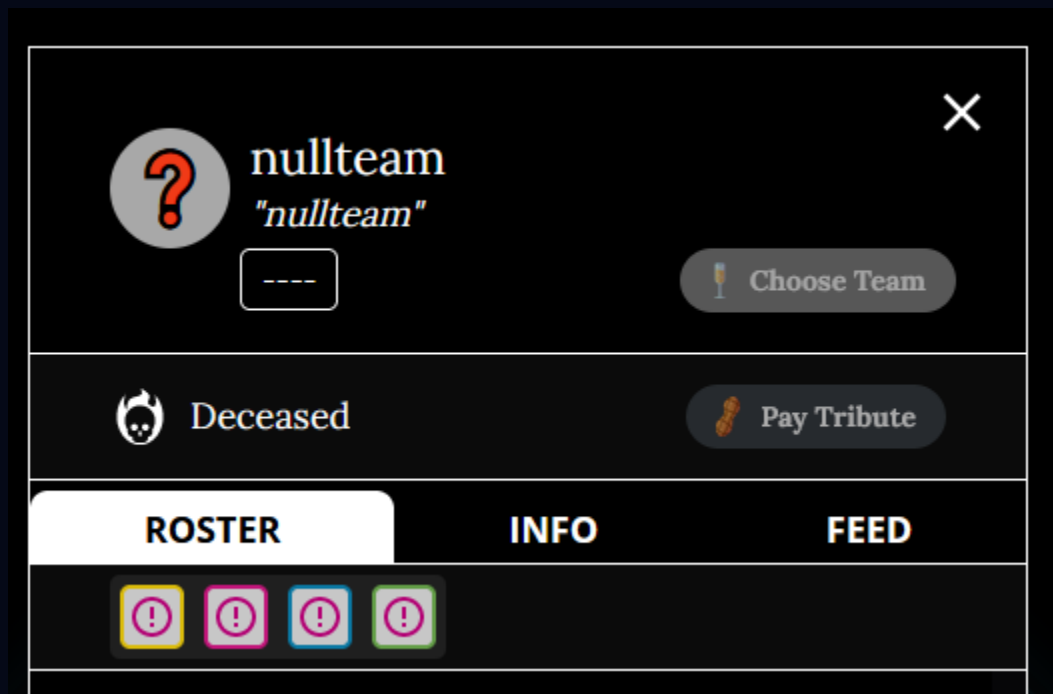


Nullification

Immediately following this, a new Emergency Alert went out:

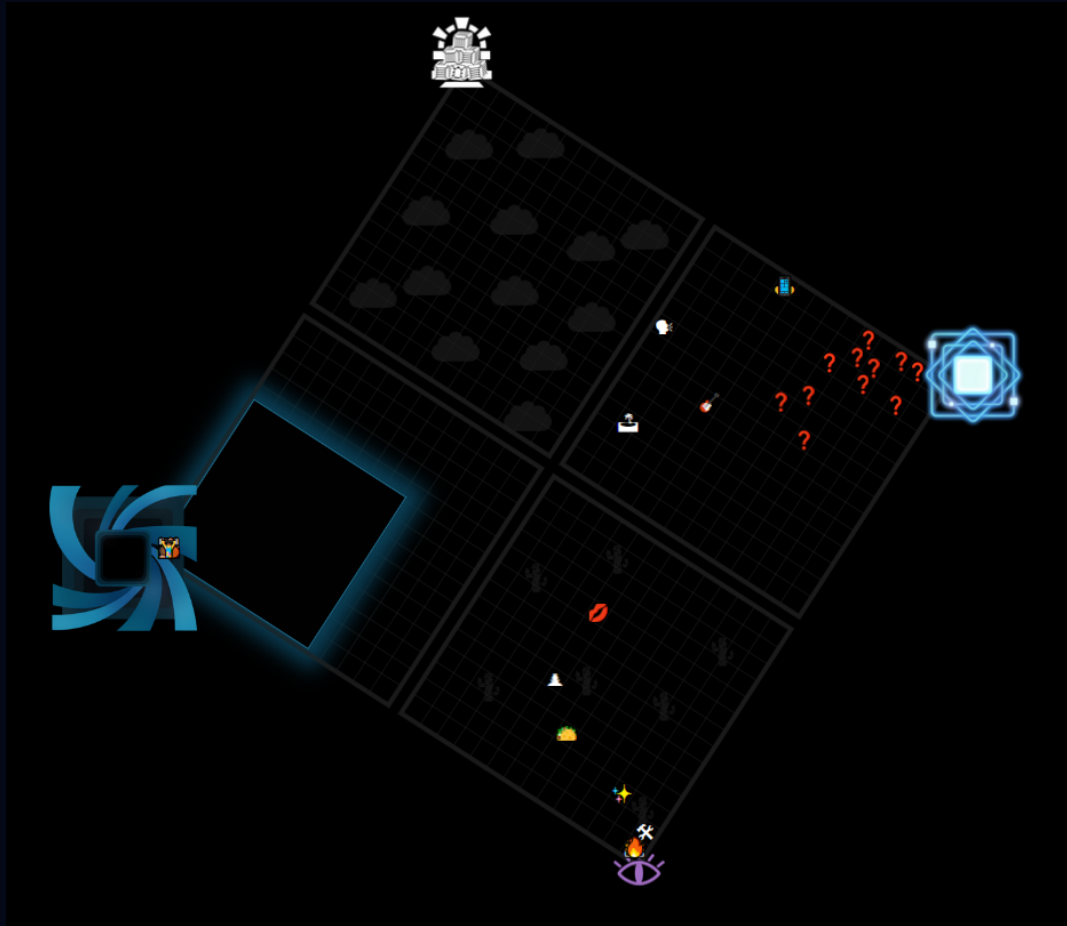
***EMERGENCY ALERT
CURRENTS MERGE
TIDES SPAGHETTIFY
BLACK HOLE (BLACK HOLE) EXPANDS***

The teams that had made it to the Black Hole were Nullified, being replaced by a simple shared page.



Additionally, after the death of the Coin, we found that the money had disappeared from our pages. Instead of using money, we then used the snacks we had saved up to send aid instead.

Following this, the Black Hole began to expand. Each day growing a little larger.



In response to the imminent threat: Lōotcrates let out this message:

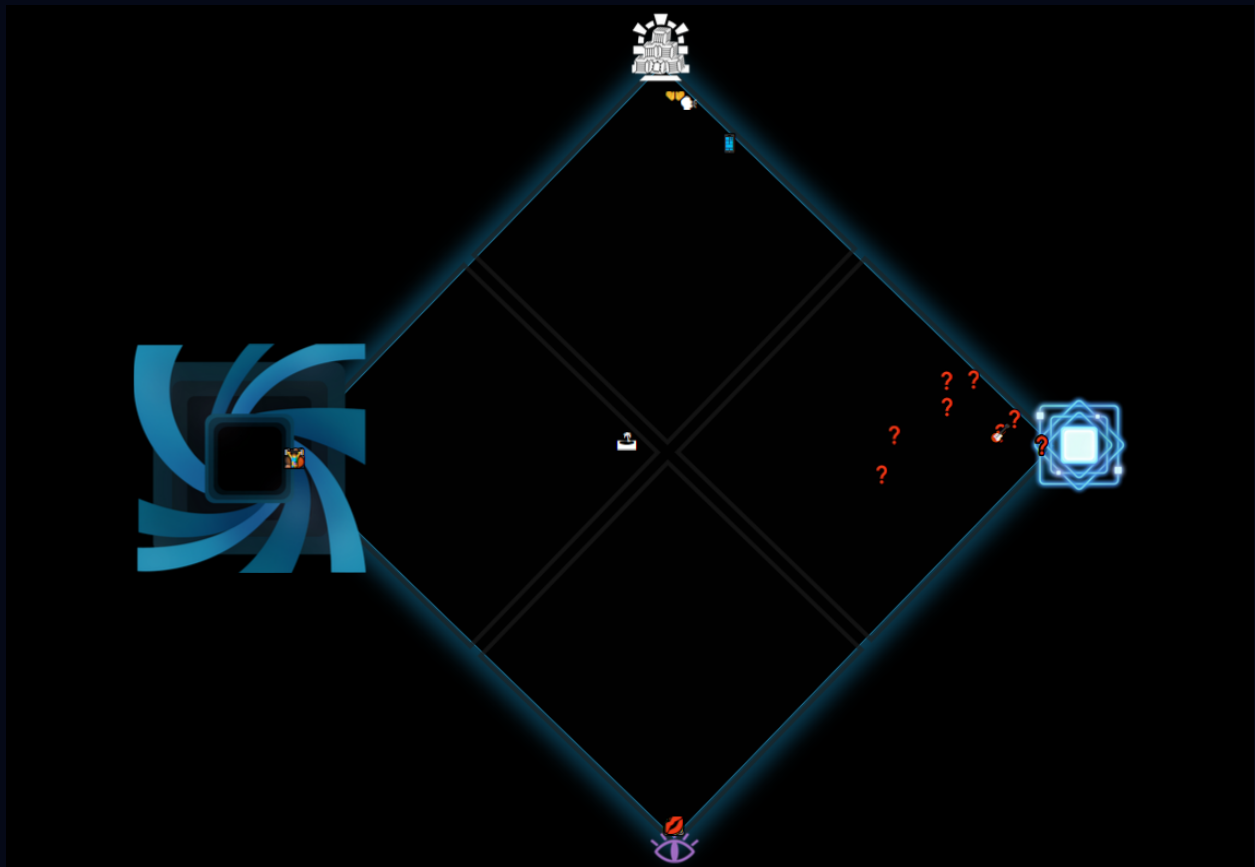
*"An Open Vault
Advances Runners
Escaping Horizon"
"The Historian Calls Safe"*

Inviting us to safety in their Vault. The reader had a different idea.

**interception
flag on the play
holding**

This dispute lead players not to know what to do. Many decided to navigate to either the Vault or the Desert. Some opted to stay near the Hall, while others, like the Fridays, willingly launched themselves into the ever expanding Black Hole.

On day 99, it was over. The Black Hole had expanded, the field had shifted. The map now showed this:



EMERGENCY ALERT
SANDS SHIFTED
PULSAR FLICKERED
BLACK HOLE (BLACK HOLE) NULLIFIED BLASEBALL
BLACK HOLE BURPED
BLASEBALL WAS COMPRESSED BY GAMMA

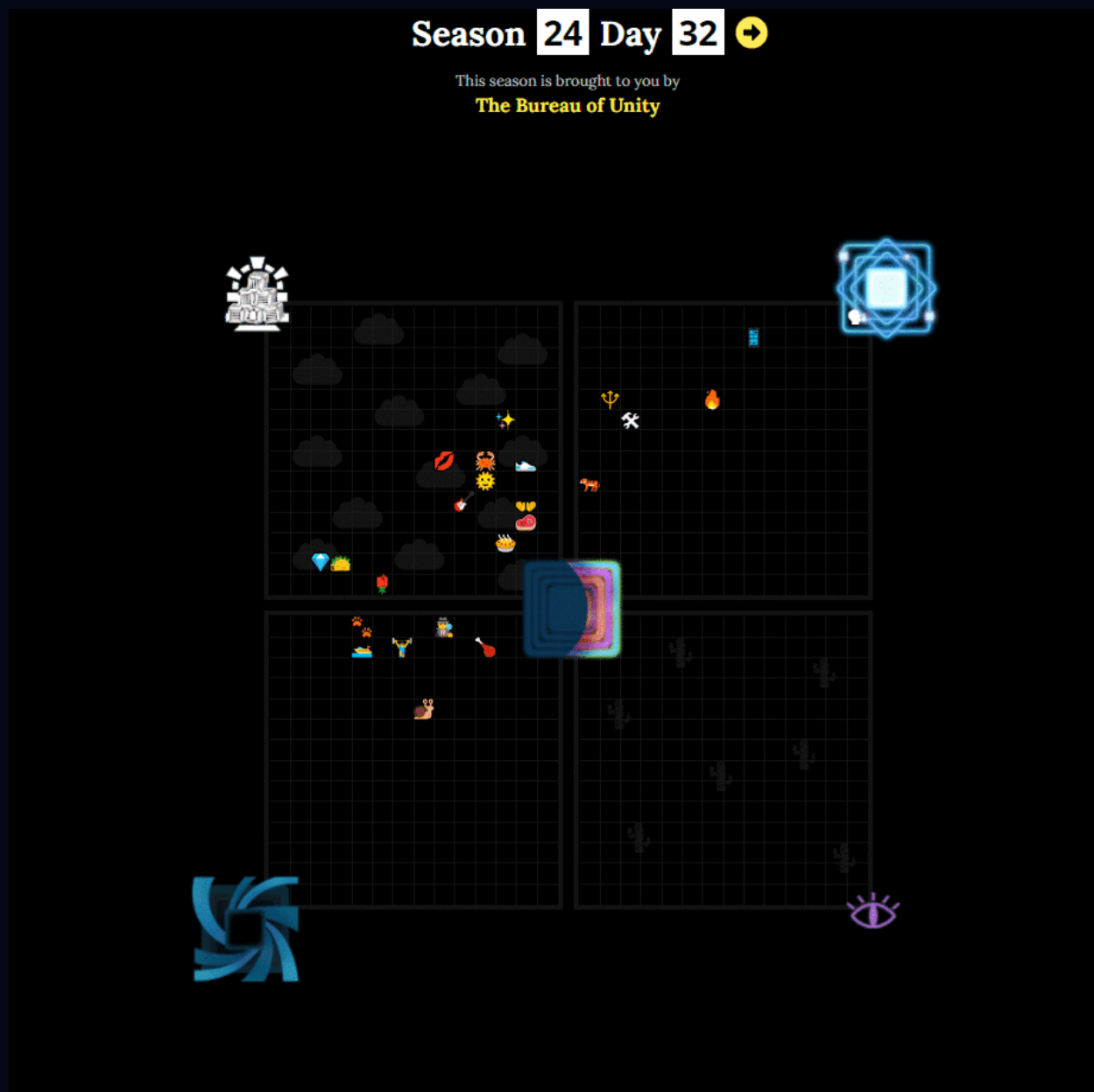
A new message appeared from Namerifeht:

balance paid
credit extended

The final message we heard was one from Parker, still holding on to the Microphone.

did you hear that
that big bang

And that was it, credits rolled. It was the end of the Expansion Era.



In Summation

The Coin pushed the league for endless profit. The teams, who created the profit in the first place were the ones left to suffer. Players bitten by Consumers. Killed in play. Tragedy. The Coin didn't care. Ratings went up. When there was a challenge to her role, when it was clear that the current system was unsustainable, the only solution she could bring about was making it go faster. Expand harder, eventually we'll find a solution. Right? Well, wrong. The Coin represented a system that endlessly grew, both in the physical sense and in the sense of profit. But a system of infinite expansion with finite resources will eventually come crashing down, and that's what happened. When it happened, the teams, those exploited by her profiteering ways, had to band together, help each other, and get moving.

Doc Credits

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