



My Two Cents

Arrington's special friend

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So many times in the sports world, we hear of overpaid athletes getting busted on drug charges, being accused of murder, griping about their \$4 million salary or hosts of other off the field problems. You here so much about all the negative things that athletes do, but rarely hear the positive.

Meet Washington Redskin linebacker LaVar Arrington. Arrington has been in the NFL for five seasons, and this year may be his worst one yet. Hampered by a nagging knee injury, Arrington was at a Washington-area hospital last week to undergo another MRI. It is at that hospital where Arrington made a special friend. A seven year old. All of a sudden, Arrington's knee problems and him trying to make back to playing on Sundays, didn't seem too all-important.

"Seven years old, and he had to get his leg amputated," Arrington told the Washington Times last week, as a tear was streaming down his cheek. "If you can't accept that and really look at life and be thankful for the things you have and not the things that you don't have ... it really touched me. A seven year old, fighting for his life, and I'm sitting here talking about trying to make it back from a knee injury."

The boy is not expected to live more than a few more days, yet his dying wish was to meet #56 of the Washington Redskins.

Arrington has reportedly made a few more visits to the hospital to see the boy. Arrington brought him a jersey, hats, photos and a Redskins coloring book.

It's fairly common for athletes to make visits to hospitals during the holiday season. Some are asked to go with cameras, because it makes the team/player look good. Others want to go because they feel it is their job. Whatever the case, the experience for the athlete is anything but routine. Such was the case for LaVar Arrington.

"He really touched my life," Arrington said of the seven-year-old boy. "That's something I'm thankful for: To be able to make a difference in people's lives. I mean, he's dying, for God's sake, and his last wish is to see me? I'm thankful. Maybe God has put me in a situation where I'm doing something right, having an impact on people's lives."

It's nice to see that there are still some athletes out there, who realize that there are more important things out there. In a world where bad overshadows good, it's nice to hear a story like LaVar Arrington's.

God bless you LaVar Arrington.

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