



ORIGINAL BROADCAST: JANUARY 1, 2016
POST-GAME INTERVIEW: MIKE WOOD (POWER DEFENCEMAN)
BOB COLE (PARTIALLY-SENILE SHOUTER OF



BOB COLE Mike, it's your first full year back in Canada. Tell us about that.

MIKE WOOD Coming back to where I was a Number One draft pick is great. It's a char but I've had a good solid foundation here since day one. The biggest thing think too much about it. The hometown crowd has been good to me. Really k to staying here, battling in the corners, right where it all started. Good behind me cheering.

[barely-audible chanting "GET OUT! OF OUR HOUSE!"]

BC And living with your parents between contracts?

MW The biggest thing for me is not to think too much about it. I am 110% not thinking too much about it.

BC You were in London a while before requesting the trade. Tell us about that.

MW I'm in the business of winning, and I needed to find a way to take it to the next level. Working in finance let me put some easy points on the board, but I really can't afford to get complacent. It's still anyone's game. The biggest thing for me is not to think too much about it. I've got good lateral mobility, and I've been battling in the corners a lot lately. I've elevated my game since last year and I'm doing more and more things that don't show up in the stats column. It's ninety percent mental, it's about the moves you don't make. I feel really good about not making these moves. It's really all about the thoughts you don't think, the things you don't do. I feel really good about doing and thinking as little as possible.

BC Comedy seems to be big for you right now. Tell me about that.

MW Yeah, I've spent the year making my presence known out there, trying to play bigger than my size. A new position is always a difficult switch. The biggest thing for me is not to think too much about it, but I feel like I'm playing the game from my natural position. Playing in all these different venues, it's so important to get your hands dirty. Really put the body on the line. Finish your checks. A lot of clean hits. Really lean into your man. Or woman. I'm not super sure of what I'm saying here.

BC The beekeeping streak. How does that feel?

MW Well it definitely feels. They're a fast bunch, and they keep the pace up. The key for them is to get their legs going in the first few minutes. They really take advantage of their speed. I can't stop them, I can only hope to contain them; so the biggest thing for me is to not think too much and just try to remember my role. I've got to take advantage of what I do best and keep working on their side of the box. Hopefully I'll end up with more honey than they do. It's all about the honey in the end, and they want it just as much as I do. Gotta give them credit for that. They battle in the corners, I knew I'd have to get dirty in there. I just needed to take what they gave me, and run with that. Also, they stung my balls.

BC Any final word?

MW I need to thank all my teammates for stepping up and contributing. I know we'll all be playing with a lot of heart in 2016. Good instincts and good work ethic. We'll let the game come to us. We're all gonna play for the name on the front of the jersey, not the back. The biggest thing is not to think too much, and the second biggest thing is to battle in the corners.

Happy New Year.

[off camera]

BC Thanks Mike. It's been a while, but you still seem really exhausted and out of breath.

MW That's weird, I just got out of bed.

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