

# Nice Ring, If You Can Get It

10.23.26

Welcome back to the Spotlight! Before the New York Knicks' NBA title defense tipped off this past Tuesday night, as is tradition, the team's months-long celebration culminated in a pre-game ceremony that saw their championship banner raised to the rafters of Madison Square Garden. The cathartic spectacle for those who have waited a lifetime to see the team back on top after 53 long years was also highlighted by the distribution of opulent, intricately-detailed championship rings distributed to players, coaches and members of the Knicks front office. Designed by renowned jeweler Jason of Beverly Hills, each ring was crafted from white gold and features symbolic engravings, nearly 800 diamonds and blue sapphires totaling 22 carats, all positioned and selected in a manner replete with hidden meanings paying homage to the Knicks' championship run.

The most remarkable feature is a groundbreaking mechanical design that raises a miniature Madison Square Garden from the ring, while the removable top and twisting band reveal a replica of the arena's ceiling, lower bowl and basketball court. Like the rings themselves, there were more details surrounding the ring distribution (or lack thereof) than what met the eye-tarnishing for some what should have been an otherwise golden celebration (that's to say nothing of the poor shooting that led to a defeat at the hands of the Philadelphia 76ers).

For one thing, the Knicks assistant coaches received an empty ring box since their rings reportedly still needed to be fitted-you know, not that there's been any time to do that in the past 4.5 months. Additionally, Madison Square Garden employees reportedly received an email offer to claim their own championship rings, only to later find out that the email was just an internally-designed test of their ability to spot phishing attempts. Those who clicked the link in the email were not awarded with jewelry, but rather a mandatory cybersecurity training course. Seems like six of one, half a dozen of the other to me. Oh, well! The party was fun while it lasted-maybe we can cap it off with a little more tact next time around?

- Retired NFL Quarterback Russell Wilson and Grammy-winning wife Ciara invest in wearable bio-tracking company, QALO. Ideally, the company's products will be able to track movements beyond a 3 step drop or a 1, 2 step.
- Tasked with serving as the NFL's Super Bowl Halftime show strategist through his company Roc Nation, multi-hyphenate rapper and entrepreneur Jay-Z reportedly did a deep dive to select the performer for this year's Super Bowl...(check notes)...Jay-Z. Meanwhile, another multi-hyphenate rapper, Kid Cudi is writing, directing and starring in a biopic on the life of late New York City artist, Jean-Michel Basquiat. I guess the lesson from Jay-Z and Cudi alike is to always bet on yourself.

- Actor Mark Wahlberg is launching a new affordable gym concept called Municipal Gym - a perfect complement to Mark and his brothers' Wahlburgers fast food chain. It really is all about balance.
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