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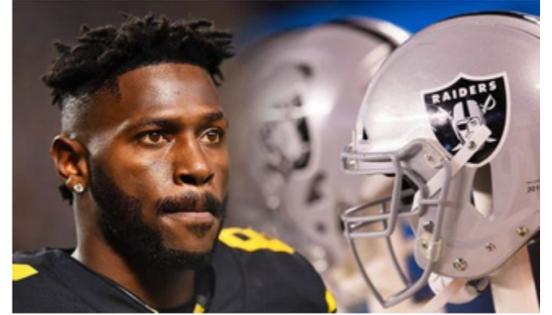
The Breakfast Club



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Antonio Brown Traded to Raiders for Draft Picks, Receives \$50M Contract

Raiders Coach Jon Gruden says Antonio Brown is "the hardest worker I've ever seen"



by **John Harris Jr.** | VILLAGER Sports Columnist

Antonio Brown is heading to the Raiders after they agreed a trade deal with the Steelers (Image: GETTY)

(VILLAGER NEWS) - Antonio Brown stuck it to the Pittsburgh Steelers, before his former NFL team could stick it to him.

Brown worked the system and forced the Steelers to trade him to the Oakland Raiders. Oh, yeah, Brown made a whole lot of money in the process.

Hip-hip hooray. 'Bout time!

Usually, it's the other way around. Normally, the NFL has the last laugh - not the player.

How many times has an NFL team announced it signed a player to a lavish contract, only to see the player released with two or three years remaining on his deal?

Contract? What contract? Fans tell players to suck it up all the time, that it's the cost of doing business in the NFL.

Well, Brown did the same thing. He still had

three years remaining on his contract with the Steelers, but his contract wasn't guaranteed. If the Steelers so desired, they could release Brown at any time and not be obligated to pay him a dime.

Brown considered all of that when he took the Steelers to the woodshed. His strategy was textbook. First, he described quarterback Ben Roethlisberger as a bad teammate who thinks like an owner instead of a player. Ouch. That got people's attention. Who's crazy enough to criticize the Steelers' franchise QB who has won two Super Bowls when Brown hasn't won any? AB, that's who.

Brown was just warming up. Next, he acted a fool on social media, re-naming himself 'Mr. Big Chest' and demanding to be traded - warning all potential trade partners he wanted a new contract

featuring guaranteed money. Otherwise, don't waste his time because he already has plenty of money and would sit out next season to make his point.

A lesser player couldn't have gotten away with it. Brown, however, is a four-time all-pro wideout with Pro Football Hall of Fame credentials who's smart and brave enough to challenge the system. 'Mr. Big Chest,' indeed. When the Steelers attempted to trade Brown to Buffalo, he told Pittsburgh to kick rocks.

In the end, Brown was traded to Oakland, but not before receiving a new, three-year, \$50 million deal featuring \$30 million in guaranteed money when his Pittsburgh contract featured 0 (zero) guaranteed dollars. Sometimes, you just have to step out on faith the way Brown did. You can hate the player, but don't hate the game.

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