

## INTERVIEW OF CARNE CABEZA BY HONUS – ENGLISH VERSION

**What are the secret origins of the famous Carne Cabeza ?** I gifted my nephew a cape and mask for Christmas a couple of years ago. It was a set that they sold in stores for kids. My brother and sister-in-law are pretty conservative when it comes to dressing up and I did not want my nephew to be the only one in the family to have an outfit. So naturally I sought to get my own.

I had always thought that if I were a wrestler, my name would be Carne Cabeza which was a really cool way to say (although not a direct translation) Meat Head.

After some research I found a mask online from Mexico. I bought it. I made a logo and embroidered it on the side. I am in the business of embroidery so that wasn't hard. Neither was completely designing my own cape. I had tights already and just needed to buy a speedo to complete the outfit: Carne Cabeza was born!

**How is your relationship with the spectators , the team and the club?** There are two varying opinions of Oriole fans. Some people think it's gross, but they generally keep their opinions to themselves, or comment among friends behind my back, which is fine by me. I understand that it's not appealing to ALL people. The vast majority people I encounter LOVE it. People love taking pictures and high fiving me. It's a great time!

The club more or less let's me do my own thing, but generally pretends I don't exist. That's fine by me. I just want to have fun and they let me do it.

**What are the talents Cabeza de Carne ? As you dance or special songs for example?** I'm fat. That's my super power. I also ride an adult bigwheel sometimes. I CAN do an awesome karaoke version of Baby Got Back, but I have yet to find a situation where that would save someone's life!

**Carne Cabeza is a new character . How was the fan Neal before becoming luchador ?** I had my gripes with the owner, Angelos. It appeared he was only interested in making money off the fans. It appeared that he had no interest in putting together a winning team. The past couple of years, I have completely changed my opinion. Yes, the team got better, and yes that helps. What really changed my opinion was the changes made at the stadium, itself. You might not even notice the subtle changes overtly, but most people can agree that the experience at Camden Yards is far better nowadays. There's a shuttle that takes people to their cars, the menu offerings at the stadium are MUCH better. There's a rooftop bar located in centerfield. Little things that have added up, completely changed me from the Orioles curmudgeon to the "super" fan I am today!

**Are there any other unusual fans in the stands of Camden Yards ? Are you related to them?** Yes, There are plenty of Oriole "Super" fans. Romeo Santos, Captain O, and even a guy that dresses up as the Oriole's version of Macho Man. I'm not alone in public displays of Oriole affection!

**The Orioles have a glorious history but also had dark years , deep in the MLB , especially before the renewal of the 2012 season. How do we live this history between heroes and losers being a fan ?** Some people want to claim to be "die-hard" fans. And that is fine. People want to

point fingers at "bandwagon" fans. Here's my take: The more people who enjoy the Baltimore Orioles, my hometown team, the better. I don't care if you bleed orange and black or if you only catch a game here or there. If you're a fan, you're alright with me. That motivation makes it easy for me to love the Orioles, even in bad times. No matter how bad our team is, they are STILL from Baltimore, and that makes me proud!

**You're also a fan of the Ravens . Carne Cabeza too?** There are differences between being a fan of baseball and football fan ? Yes. I am a Ravens fan as well. Yes I dress up in purple and black for the Ravens games. Yes there is a difference between the two fan bases. Generally speaking, you can be an Orioles fan and NOT a Ravens fan (most likely you'd be a Redskins fan), BUT pretty much ALL Ravens fans are Oriole fans. There's also a staggering difference between a baseball fan and a football fan. I get a lot more love from baseball fans than football. It's pure speculation, but I think it's because there are opportunities to be distracted in a baseball game, where you have to watch every football play in it's entirety.

**Which players or managers , past and present, best symbolize the Orioles ?** I believe the heyday of Baltimore Baseball happened in the mid to late 80's when we had Earl Weaver coaching Cal Ripken and Eddie Murray. Those guys epitomized Baltimore. Hard working, blue color, grind it out coaches/players. That's how we view the blue collar town that is Baltimore!

**How do you see the current season and the next for the team?** I do not like making predictions. I am too superstitious for that. With that being said, I do see us being very competitive in our division. We can take on, and beat anyone in the AL East. The season still needs to be played out, but I can see us having success. The future, however, leaves much more uncertainty. We NEED to be able to extend the contracts of our core players (JJ Hardy, Manny Machado, Matt Wieters, Chris Davis, etc). If we cannot do that, and revert to the Orioles of the 2000's, we could easily drop straight back to the cellar. If we CAN manage to do the right thing, and keep our guys, we could be VERY good for years to come!

**A last word Mister Carne Cabeza ?** In the words of Buck Showalter, "I like our guys!"