After 11 games in the 2010-2011 season, the Cavs had a record of 5-6. That was probably the highest point for the Cavs during that miserable campaign. One of the more memorable games came against the Lakers at the Staples Center. The Cavs lost by a score of 112-57. The Lakers were one measley field goal away from doubling-up on the Cavs. Only 2 players scored in double figures for the Cavs and they shot 29.9%. It was one of those performances that really makes one have to question why they even bother watching the games.

In a black-and-white world, January 11, 2011 and January 13, 2012 are the same exact thing: Cavaliers losses. Sometimes, a loss is not simply a loss. Looking at it more closely, it is easy to see how much progress the Cavs are making. When the final buzzer sounded, the Lakers had won by a score of 97-92. When it takes over 40 minutes and 42 points from Kobe Bryant to beat the Cavs by 5 points, it is entirely reasonable to feel optimistic about the direction of the Cavs.

The optimism starts with Kyrie Irving and his impressive play. Some pundits and fans did not want anything to do with Kyrie Irving and thought that the Cavs made a mistake drafting him instead of Derrick Williams. Irving is making the “but he only played 11 games!” crowd look silly. He played a fearless brand of basketball and scored 21 points on 8-16 shooting. Having a point guard who is not afraid of the big moment who is also a willing passer is going to be very fun for Cavs fans.

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