biggest underdogs in history

Biggest Underdogs in History: Stories of Triumph Against All Odds

biggest underdogs in history are the stories that captivate us the most. They remind us that no matter how bleak the odds may seem, perseverance, courage, and a bit of luck can lead to extraordinary triumphs. From sports arenas to political battlegrounds, and from scientific breakthroughs to cultural revolutions, these underdogs have defied expectations and rewritten history. Let's dive into some of the most remarkable examples and explore what made their victories so unforgettable.

The Power of the Underdog: Why We Root for Them

There's something inherently inspiring about underdog stories. Psychologists suggest that rooting for an underdog taps into our sense of justice and hope. We see ourselves in their struggles and want to believe that anyone can overcome adversity. This emotional connection explains why "biggest underdogs in history" are often celebrated not just for their victories, but for the spirit they embody.

Moreover, underdog triumphs often come with valuable lessons about resilience, innovation, and teamwork. These stories encourage us to rethink limitations and inspire us to push beyond what seems possible. Whether you're an entrepreneur, athlete, or simply someone facing personal challenges, these tales of unlikely success offer motivation and insight.

Historical Underdogs Who Changed the World

History is filled with examples of individuals and groups who started with little chance of success but ended up altering the course of events. Here are some of the most iconic underdogs whose achievements continue to resonate.

The American Revolution: Colonists vs. British Empire

In the late 18th century, thirteen American colonies faced the might of the British Empire — one of the most powerful forces on the planet. With limited resources, no established army, and internal divisions, the colonists were widely considered underdogs in their quest for independence. Yet through strategic alliances, guerrilla tactics, and sheer determination, the American Revolutionaries secured their freedom and paved the way for a new nation.

This underdog victory shows how strategic thinking and unity can overcome even the most daunting opponents. It also underscores how belief in a cause can fuel extraordinary accomplishments.

David vs. Goliath: The Biblical Tale

One of the oldest and most enduring underdog stories is that of David and Goliath. The young shepherd David, armed only with a sling and stones, faced the imposing giant warrior Goliath. Despite the overwhelming physical disadvantage, David's courage and skill led to a stunning victory. This tale has become a metaphor for overcoming overwhelming odds and is referenced across cultures and disciplines.

The Miracle on Ice: USA Hockey's 1980 Olympic Win

In the world of sports, few underdog stories are as legendary as the "Miracle on Ice." The U.S. men's hockey team, made up mostly of amateur and college players, faced the dominant Soviet Union team, which had won multiple Olympic gold medals and was considered unbeatable. Against all expectations, the American team pulled off a stunning upset in the 1980 Winter Olympics, igniting national pride and inspiring generations.

This event illustrates how teamwork, belief, and preparation can lead to success even when the odds seem insurmountable.

Sports and the Biggest Underdogs in History

Sports arenas are often the stage for some of the most thrilling underdog stories. The unpredictability of games and the human element make them fertile ground for surprises.

Leicester City's 2015-2016 Premier League Title

One of the most remarkable recent examples is Leicester City's Premier League win. At the start of the 2015-2016 season, Leicester was considered a relegation candidate, with bookmakers setting odds of 5000-1 for them to win the league. Defying all predictions, Leicester's combination of tactical discipline, team spirit, and effective leadership under Claudio Ranieri led them to an unprecedented championship.

This victory is a reminder that in sports, sometimes the underdog spirit combined with smart strategy can topple giants.

Rulon Gardner's Wrestling Gold at the 2000 Olympics

Rulon Gardner entered the 2000 Sydney Olympics as an underdog in Greco-Roman wrestling. Facing the legendary Alexander Karelin, who had been undefeated for 13 years and was considered unbeatable, Gardner shocked the world by winning the gold medal. His triumph is often cited as one of the greatest upsets in Olympic history.

This story highlights how mental toughness and seizing the moment can defy even the most dominant champions.

Underdogs in Science and Innovation

Underdogs aren't limited to sports or warfare. In science and technology, individuals and teams often face skepticism and limited resources before achieving groundbreaking success.

The Wright Brothers: Inventors of the Airplane

Orville and Wilbur Wright were bicycle mechanics with no formal engineering education. Their dream of powered flight was initially met with doubt and ridicule from the established scientific community. Yet, through relentless experimentation and innovation, they achieved the first controlled, sustained flight in 1903.

Their story reminds us that innovation often comes from unexpected places and that perseverance can lead to revolutionary breakthroughs.

Marie Curie: Pioneering Radioactivity

Marie Curie faced numerous obstacles as a woman in a male-dominated scientific world. Despite limited support and resources, she conducted pioneering research on radioactivity that earned her two Nobel Prizes. Her work laid the foundation for advances in medicine and physics.

Curie's journey exemplifies how passion and dedication can break down barriers and change the course of scientific history.

Lessons from the Biggest Underdogs in History

What do these stories teach us beyond the thrill of an unexpected win? Here are some valuable insights drawn from the journeys of history's greatest

underdogs:

- **Resilience is key:** Failure and setbacks are part of the process. The ability to keep going despite obstacles is often what separates winners from losers.
- **Preparation matters:** Behind many underdog victories lies meticulous preparation and strategic thinking that levels the playing field.
- Belief fuels success: Confidence in one's cause or ability can empower individuals and teams to surpass expectations.
- Innovation and adaptability: Underdogs often succeed by thinking differently and adapting quickly to changing circumstances.
- Support systems help: Whether it's a coach, mentor, or community, having support can provide crucial motivation and guidance.

Understanding these principles can help anyone facing daunting challenges find strength and direction.

The Enduring Appeal of Underdog Stories

Why do we continue to celebrate the biggest underdogs in history? Because their stories resonate with our deepest hopes and fears. They remind us that life is unpredictable, that the impossible can become possible, and that the human spirit is capable of extraordinary feats.

Whether it's a small startup challenging industry giants, an athlete beating the odds, or a nation fighting for independence, underdog stories give us hope and inspire us to dare greatly. And perhaps, in every underdog, we see a reflection of ourselves — striving, dreaming, and fighting to carve out our own place in history.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is considered one of the biggest underdogs in sports history?

The 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team is considered one of the biggest underdogs in sports history, as they defeated the heavily favored Soviet Union team in what is known as the 'Miracle on Ice.'

What is a famous underdog story in literature?

David versus Goliath is a classic underdog story from the Bible, where the young shepherd David defeats the giant warrior Goliath against all odds.

Which team is known as the biggest underdog to win the FIFA World Cup?

Greece is considered one of the biggest underdogs to win the FIFA World Cup, having won the UEFA European Championship in 2004 despite being ranked low and with little expectation.

What is an example of a political underdog success story?

Barack Obama was considered a political underdog during his 2008 presidential campaign but ultimately won the presidency, becoming the first African American president of the United States.

Who is a famous underdog in movie history that inspired many?

Rocky Balboa from the 'Rocky' film series is a famous fictional underdog who rises from obscurity to become a boxing champion, inspiring many with his perseverance.

What is one of the biggest underdog victories in military history?

The Battle of Agincourt in 1415 is one of the biggest underdog victories, where the outnumbered English army defeated the French forces during the Hundred Years' War.

Can you name a business underdog story that became a huge success?

Apple Inc. was once an underdog in the personal computer market but grew to become one of the most valuable and influential technology companies in the world.

Additional Resources

Biggest Underdogs in History: Triumphs Against All Odds

biggest underdogs in history have captivated audiences and analysts alike, serving as powerful reminders that expectations can be defied and outcomes overturned. In domains ranging from sports and politics to business and warfare, these unexpected victors challenge prevailing narratives about power, skill, and inevitability. Exploring some of the most remarkable underdog stories provides insight into the dynamics of competition, resilience, and strategic innovation that enable the improbable to become reality.

Understanding the Underdog Phenomenon

At its core, an underdog is a competitor or entity perceived as unlikely to succeed due to disadvantages in resources, experience, or public support. The fascination with underdogs stems from the human affinity for stories of perseverance and the disruption of hierarchical norms. The biggest underdogs in history exemplify how psychological factors like motivation, unpredictability, and strategic acumen can level playing fields, even when conventional metrics suggest certain defeat.

The appeal of underdog narratives is reinforced by their rarity and dramatic tension. When an underdog prevails, it not only surprises observers but often reshapes cultural perceptions about fairness, opportunity, and meritocracy. This analysis delves into some of the most iconic cases where underdogs triumphed, examining the conditions and decisions that led to their success.

Biggest Underdogs in Sports History

Sporting events offer some of the clearest and most emotionally charged examples of underdog victories. The structure of competition—often single-elimination or short series—creates fertile ground for unexpected outcomes.

Leicester City's Premier League Triumph (2015-2016)

Few stories illustrate the power of the underdog better than Leicester City's 2015-2016 English Premier League championship. Starting the season with 5000-1 odds, Leicester was a newly promoted team with limited financial muscle compared to established giants like Manchester United and Chelsea. Despite this, a combination of disciplined defense, cohesive teamwork, and pragmatic coaching led them to one of the greatest shocks in sports history. This triumph challenged assumptions about the correlation between financial investment and success in elite football.

Miracle on Ice: USA vs. USSR (1980 Winter Olympics)

In arguably the most famous underdog moment in Olympic history, the 1980

United States men's ice hockey team defeated the dominant Soviet Union team, which had been unbeaten for nearly a decade. The Soviet team was a well-oiled machine with professional-level experience, while the American team was composed largely of college players. The USA's victory not only stunned the sports world but also carried symbolic weight amid Cold War tensions. This event underscored how motivation, national pride, and tactical innovation can overcome disparities in skill and preparation.

Political Underdogs Who Changed History

Political arenas have also witnessed significant underdog victories, often when outsider candidates or movements disrupt entrenched power structures.

Barack Obama's 2008 Presidential Win

Barack Obama's ascent to the U.S. presidency in 2008 was remarkable given the political establishment he faced. Initially considered an outsider with limited national exposure, Obama overcame substantial skepticism, a crowded Democratic primary field, and racial barriers. His campaign's innovative use of digital media, grassroots organizing, and a message of hope resonated widely. This victory illustrates how underdog candidates can leverage changing communication technologies and social sentiments to overcome traditional political disadvantages.

Nelson Mandela and the End of Apartheid

Nelson Mandela's rise from prisoner and political outsider to South Africa's first black president exemplifies a profound underdog narrative in political history. Against a backdrop of systemic racial oppression and decades of imprisonment, Mandela's leadership and reconciliation efforts transformed a divided nation. His victory was not merely electoral but symbolic of the triumph of justice and human rights over entrenched authoritarianism.

Business and Technological Underdogs

The corporate world often favors established companies with vast resources, yet some smaller players have disrupted entire industries, demonstrating the underdog's potential in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Apple's Revival in the Late 1990s

In the mid-1990s, Apple was considered a struggling company on the brink of collapse, overshadowed by dominant competitors like Microsoft. The return of Steve Jobs and the launch of innovative products such as the iMac, iPod, and later the iPhone, marked a stunning comeback. Apple's story is a case study in how visionary leadership and product innovation can reverse fortunes, even when market share and public perception seem insurmountable.

Netflix vs. Blockbuster

Netflix's rise from a DVD rental startup to a global streaming giant is a quintessential underdog tale in the entertainment sector. Blockbuster, a dominant video rental chain, failed to adapt to changing consumer preferences and technology. Netflix capitalized on this inertia by pioneering subscription streaming services. This shift not only disrupted a billion-dollar industry but also underscored the importance of agility and foresight in business competition.

Military and Historical Underdogs

Military history is replete with instances where smaller or less-equipped forces have overcome larger, better-resourced opponents due to strategy, terrain advantage, or morale.

The Battle of Agincourt (1415)

During the Hundred Years' War, the English army, heavily outnumbered and exhausted, achieved a decisive victory at the Battle of Agincourt against the French. The English longbowmen's effective use of terrain and weaponry neutralized the French cavalry's numerical superiority. This battle is often cited as a classic example of how tactical innovation and leadership can overturn numerical disadvantages.

The Vietnam War's Guerrilla Warfare

Despite overwhelming military superiority, the United States faced significant challenges during the Vietnam War due to the Viet Cong's guerrilla tactics and popular support. The Viet Cong's ability to blend with local populations and use asymmetric warfare techniques frustrated conventional forces. This conflict highlights how underdogs can leverage unconventional strategies to counterbalance disparities in conventional

Common Traits Among the Biggest Underdogs in History

While the contexts differ widely, the biggest underdogs in history often share certain characteristics that contribute to their success:

- Resilience: A refusal to capitulate despite overwhelming odds.
- Innovation: Employing novel strategies or technologies that disrupt traditional expectations.
- Motivation and Morale: High levels of intrinsic motivation and group cohesion.
- Exploiting Weaknesses: Identifying and targeting vulnerabilities in stronger opponents.
- Adaptability: Ability to rapidly adjust tactics in response to changing circumstances.

These elements interact to create scenarios where perceived disadvantages are mitigated or reversed, reshaping the competitive landscape.

The Enduring Appeal of Underdog Narratives

The stories of the biggest underdogs in history resonate not only because of their surprising outcomes but also because they embody broader human themes of hope, justice, and perseverance. In an era increasingly driven by data and predictive analytics, underdog victories remind us of the unpredictability inherent in complex systems. They challenge deterministic views and reaffirm the potential for disruption in all spheres of life.

Whether in the arena of sports, politics, business, or war, these narratives continue to inspire and inform. As new challenges emerge on the global stage, the lessons from past underdogs remain relevant: success often depends on more than just resources or conventional strength; it hinges on ingenuity, spirit, and the courage to defy expectations.

Biggest Underdogs In History

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biggest underdogs in history: Biggest Underdogs Ava Thompson, AI, 2025-02-20 Biggest Underdogs examines the captivating phenomenon of underdogs achieving the impossible in sports, offering a blend of sports history, biography, and psychological insight. It explores how teams and individual athletes overcome significant odds to achieve remarkable victories. One intriguing aspect is the role of strategic innovation, where underdogs often devise unique game strategies out of necessity. Another is the psychological advantage gained from embracing their underdog status, turning perceived weaknesses into strengths. The book uniquely combines statistical analysis, interviews, and historical accounts to dissect the anatomy of underdog wins. It progresses by first establishing the significance of the underdog concept. It then delves into case studies and is further divided into three key parts: psychological fortitude, innovative methodologies, and societal contributions. By analyzing team dynamics, motivation, and leadership, the book provides actionable insights applicable beyond the sports arena, making it valuable for anyone interested in performance enhancement and overcoming adversity.

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reflect—over the significance of his role as a cultural subject. Blurring the lines between tradition and modernity, Adams and his group have used Yoruba rituals to simultaneously claim authenticity and champion new movements for democracy and self-determination. How to Become a Big Man in Africa encourages us to understand the full complexity of Adams's political trajectory and how it reflects the structural and personal realities of becoming a Big Man in the contemporary postcolony.

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Philadelphia Eagles triumphantly capped off one of the most improbable runs in NFL history by knocking off the vaunted New England Patriots, and captured their first Super Bowl win in franchise history. Eagles Fly: The Underdog Philadelphia Eagles' Historic 2017 Championship Season takes fans through the exhilarating ride that was the 2017-2018 season, from Carson Wentz playing at an MVP level and leading the team to nine straight wins, to Wentz's devastating late-season injury, to Nick Foles stepping in and helping the franchise finally win that elusive first Super Bowl. Featuring thrilling stories and photos from This is Philly, this commemorative edition takes fans from the Week 1 win against Washington all the way through a night that Eagles fans will never forget in chilly Minneapolis for Super Bowl LII. This keepsake also features in-depth stories on fan favorites' Wentz, Foles, Malcolm Jenkins, Vinny Curry and more.

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to life some of the most thrilling moments in rugby history.

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kahoot | Finansavisen Kahoot-gründer dumper aksjer Kahoot-gründeren eide aksjer for 1,7 milliarder kroner, men har lempet ut aksjer på stadig lavere kurser. I februar har han solgt aksjer for nye

Tore Aksel Voldberg er blitt milliardær etter vanvittig aksjeår Tore Aksel Voldberg har vært i kraftig minus mange ganger. Nå har han reist seg og flyr himmelhøyt på galopperende kurser i Vaccibody, Kahoot og Nordic Semiconductor

Kahoot lanserer abonnementstjenesten Kahoot!+ | Finansavisen Læringsselskapet Kahoot har lansert en ny abonnementstjeneste som skal føre familier og venner sammen enten fysisk eller virtuelt. Navnet på den nye

Avanza Avanza erbjuder ett enklare sparande i fonder och aktier. Kom igång med ett sparande på 3

minuter. Välkommen till Avanza - en bank som den borde vara

abonnement - Finansavisen 2020-02-23T21:07:45.000+01:00 Lanserer business-abonnement med Etihad Norsk IT-selskap skal tilby abonnementsløsning til flyselskapet Etihads forretningskunder. – En milepæl, sier

Pangstart utenfor børs for Kahoot og Eilert Hanoa | Finansavisen Goldman Sachs og Eilert Hanoa bød på Kahoot til en pris flere mente var for lav. Siden har Nasdaq steget 40 prosent, mens Kahoot har levert solide tall. – Et godt kjøp, sier

åsmund furuseth | Finansavisen Ledergruppen i Kahoot! eier aksjer for 547 millioner kroner Ledergruppen bestående av Åsmund Furuseth, Martin Kværnstuen og Morten Versvik er blitt rike på Kahoot!. Tilsammen eier trioen

Flowcase har fått innpass i 35 land på fire kontinenter Flowcase hevder de gir konsulenter full kontroll på CV'er, kompetanse og referanseprosjekter for å vinne tilbud og anbud. Nå har de innpass i 35 land på fire kontinenter

Dette bør Kahoot-aksjonærene gjøre nå - Finansavisen Dette bør Kahoot-aksjonærene gjøre nå Fredag går budfristen ut i Kahoot. Hva skal man gjøre som aksjonær? Vi lister opp alle alternativene

Tidligere finanssjef gjør comeback i Kahoot | Finansavisen Styrtrik eks-direktør gjør comeback i Kahoot Martin Kværnstuen sluttet som finanssjef i Kahoot og solgte aksjer for en kvart milliard. Da årsrapporten ble lagt frem i forrige

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Seznam - najdu tam, co neznám Zjistili jsme za tebe, který toaletní papír je nejlepší na trhu. Čti dál a navíc zjistíš, jak zvolit toaletní papír tak, aby co nejméně škodil zdraví i přírodě

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Seznam - najdu tam, co neznám Přejít na Seznam.cz Nápověda Technická podpora Copyright © 1996- 2025, Seznam.cz, a.s

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Seznam Zprávy - Je užitečné vědět, co druzí milují, nenávidí nebo čím je vždy spolehlivě naštvete. Co musíte vědět o svém životním partnerovi (a také sami o sobě)?

Seznam najdu co neznam | TV program Kdy a kde sledovat seznam najdu co neznam v televizi? V přehledném TV programu od Seznamu zjistíte, kdy a na které TV stanici budou dávat seznam najdu co neznam

Seznam najdu co neznam seznam | TV program Kdy a kde sledovat seznam najdu co neznam seznam v televizi? V přehledném TV programu od Seznamu zjistíte, kdy a na které TV stanici budou dávat seznam najdu co neznam seznam

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Seznam najdu tam co neznám | TV program Kdy a kde sledovat seznam najdu tam co neznám v televizi? V přehledném TV programu od Seznamu zjistíte, kdy a na které TV stanici budou dávat seznam najdu tam co neznám

System - Wikipedia Ein System erfüllt zielgerichtet einen bestimmten Zweck und hat dazu mindestens eine besondere Eigenschaft, die nicht in seinen Teilen enthalten ist, sondern erst durch deren Kombination

System Rechtschreibung, Bedeutung, Definition, Herkunft Duden Definition, Rechtschreibung, Synonyme und Grammatik von 'System' Auf Duden online nachschlagen Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache

System - Schreibung, Definition, Bedeutung, Etymologie - DWDS In seinem System - wenn man von einem solchen sprechen darf - hat ein eigentümlicher systematisch religiöser Unterricht keine Stelle. [Eberhard, D. Otto: Pestalozzi ein Klassiker der

System - Wiktionary [3] Die Wissenschaftler hatten ein System ausgedacht. [1-3] "Eine Religion ist ein System menschlicher Werte und Normen, das auf dem Glauben an eine übermenschliche Ordnung

System | socialnet Lexikon "Als System gelten aus einer Beobachterperspektive als zusammenhängend bestimmte Gebilde, deren interne Relationen quantitativ und/oder qualitativ von ihren

Definition: System - Gabler Wirtschaftslexikon Offene und geschlossene Systeme: Ein offenes System ist ein System, das mind. ein Element ("Randelement") enthält, das zu Elementen anderer Systeme in Wechselwirkung steht

System (Begriffsklärung) - Wikipedia System (von altgriechisch systema "das Gebilde, Zusammengestellte, Verbundene"; Adjektive: systematisch, systemisch) steht für: System, Gesamtheit von aufeinander bezogenen oder

system Duden Wörterbuch-Suchergebnisse Suchertreffer für SYSTEM Bedeutung, Rechtschreibung & Grammatik 'SYSTEM' auf Duden online nachschlagen Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache

Windows PC-Daten auslesen: Systeminformationen herausfinden Die hier präsentierten Windows-Programme liefern Ihnen detaillierte Einblicke in Ihre Hardware

Startseite - ssystems GmbH - Ihr Dienstleister für die digitale Mit über 20 Jahren Erfahrung mit IAM-Lösungen zeichnet sich ssystems als Dienstleister durch seine umfassende Dienstleistungs-

und Produktpalette aus

Br24, **Märklin 36244** Br24, Märklin 36244Dat een onderdeel van de 36244 volgens Märklin niet meer leverbaar is, vind ik eerlijk gezegd nogal vreemd, aangezien de loc nog gewoon in het

BR24 - Die Br24 van Roco ziet er puur mooier uit dan de Marklin versie, maar dat is een hobby versie, de Roco niet. Maar waarom nu meteen die foto's direct guoten Eddie?

Märklin nr. 36244 - BR24 - Stichting 3rail Forum Märklin nr. 36244 - BR24Ik denk dat dit een gevalletje is van oude handleiding versie online. Marklin is namelijk steeds meer locs met decoders aan het uitrusten die ook

Br24, **36240** - Br24, 36240Citaat van: marklinfan op maandag 21 juli 2008, 19:52:05 deze loc bestaat al heel lang Het klopt dat Märklin al een tijd de BR24 in het programma heeft. Maar **Rookgenerator in BR24 (3003)** - **Stichting 3rail Forum** Rookgenerator in BR24 (3003)De Seuthe 24 is te gebruiken voor inbouw in digitale locs waarbij de rookgenerator tussen sleper en railmassa wordt aangesloten en dus de

Loc 36240 (BR24) en rookgenerator schakelbaar maken Loc 36240 (BR24) en rookgenerator schakelbaar makenDank, ik heb de BST52 genomen via Farnell en mijn electroinica winkel, ik kon niet aan de eisen van Farnell voldoen.

Ombouw Marklin 3003 - Stichting 3rail Forum De 3003 (BR24) kun je met een ESU LokPilot V3.0 en een permanentmagneet 51961 gemakkelijk naar digitaal ombouwen. Mvg, Peter Re:Ombouw Marklin 3003 Rieske #3

Handboek Marklin Aandrijftechniek Handboek Marklin AandrijftechniekOp de website van Märklin is alweer een elektronisch boek te vinden, ditmaal het handboek aandrijftechnieken. Begeleidende tekst:

Micromotor klokankermotor ombouwsets voor Märklin Modellen Dat is interessante informatie voor mij, omdat er diverse loc's in m'n collectie zitten, die met xx-sinus aandrijving zijn uitgerust. Is het makkelijk om de locomotieven om te

ombouwen analoog naar digitaal marklin - Stichting 3rail Forum ombouwen analoog naar digitaal marklinCitaat van: Basroc-1961 op donderdag 19 maart 2020, 18:18:50 terwijl de 60653 een gelijkstroom geeft. Dat is niet waar. Uit een CS of

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