

## Don't do it Dirk

Written by Don Wallace  
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I hate to tell someone not to have national pride.

Shoot, I grew up rooting for the U.S.A. in the Olympics and hating on mother Russia. Every race I ran as a kid out in the yard,

my fictional opponent was someone from the U.S.S.R. I love the Olympics and what they stand for in this crazy mixed up world.

Now it's Dirk Nowitzki's time to rest and relax. Not be a national hero.

Nowitzki just got finished taking the Dallas Mavericks to the NBA title, an incredible accomplishment. After 13 long seasons in the NBA he finally reached the promised land.

He needs to think about his NBA obligation and the big bucks he gets from Mark Cuban. He should tell the German coaches, "Thanks, but no thanks" to the offer of him

returning to the German national team after a two-year absence.

Dirk has done the Olympic experience in his homeland, he has carried the flag and been the hero. Now he needs to turn it over to younger fellas and rest.

Maybe the Mavericks can win another title next year, repeating as champs. It will be more difficult if Nowitzki is tired from playing all summer for his homeland.

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I hate to squash national pride, but Dirk has done his part for Germany. Now he needs to think about the Mavericks and be loyal to them.