

I was wrong by Austin Kim 4.20.2020

### **Short Story**

I was wrong.

### **Longer Story**

When the MLB announced the suspension of the 2020 season a couple weeks ago, Bill Shaikin wrote [this article](#) in which he presents the idea that superstar offseason acquisition [Mookie Betts](#) might never play for the Dodgers ever due to Covid-19 and his expiring contract. In response, I wrote [this article](#) to vehemently argue against Bill's point. I may or may not have also attacked Bill and LA Times' sports division's credentials because I couldn't bring myself to believe Mookie Betts never playing in a Dodger uniform was a possibility. Then the following day, the unthinkable happened. The MLB and the MLBPA came to an agreement for what will happen if the 2020 season remains unplayed. The most relevant point is that if the entire season is canceled, players under contract will gain a year of service time if they played at all during the 2019 season. In other words, players who have one year left on their contracts and have played in 2019 (i.e. Mookie Betts) will be eligible to become free agents before the 2021 season. The feeling I had when I read the news when it broke on ESPN was the complete opposite of the one when I found out the Dodgers traded to get Mookie Betts.

### **What does this mean?**

This doesn't necessarily mean that Mookie Betts will never play for the Dodgers. So there is a chance that Josh and I won't have to give up watching baseball entirely. If you're wondering what I'm talking about, Josh and I pledged that if Mookie never plays for the Dodgers, then we'll stop watching baseball altogether... When we were mourning over the reported agreement, Josh and I dubbed ourselves the Piazza Diva Boys. What can I say? We're more fans than journalists.

Nothing is set in stone and Mookie is technically still a Dodger. The MLB is actively exploring a revised, shortened season. And even in the worst-case scenario that the season remains unplayable, Mookie can still sign a new contract with the Dodgers for the foreseeable future. There is just as good of a chance that Mookie remains a Dodger after this season as there is that he doesn't. LA is a big market that can afford a superstar like Mookie while building around him. Friedman's regime isn't known for throwing money at superstars, but Mookie is a generational talent and based on how the Dodgers were tied to ex-free agents [Gerrit Cole](#) and [Anthony Rendon](#) this offseason (even though we struck out on both), I'm willing to bet that the team is willing to change that narrative.

### **What can we do?**

There is nothing that we can do right now other than hope this pandemic passes quickly, allowing for the world to resume "business as usual." And if this season doesn't pan out, then we need to hope the Dodgers re-sign Mookie to a new contract.

### **Note to Self on Bigger Picture**

Baseball fans everywhere are hoping that the season comes back sooner than later, but on a more serious note, everyone including myself needs to keep the bigger picture in mind. Covid-19 is doing far greater damage than just postponing the baseball season or even keeping Mookie from playing for the Dodgers. It's killing people, hurting families, and destroying entire communities. What's currently at stake is not a baseball season but people's lives. So let's each do our part by contributing positively in the ways that we can. If that includes postponing baseball for however long it takes to beat this thing, then so be it.

I finally wanted to end this article by giving a shoutout to all people who are working essential businesses and in hospitals during this crazy time. Your effort does not go unnoticed and when the world gets through this pandemic, my hope is that you get rewarded big time.