

Is Baseball Coming Back?

Did you know it's been over a month since our last article? Who knew it would be so hard writing about baseball without baseball. Well, Governor Newsom announced that more businesses will be able to open up soon, including sports. Here's a tl;dr of what exactly will be opening from the article:

If current trendlines continue, Newsom said, statewide announcements are expected for opening up:

- in-store retail (not just curbside pickup)
- getting a haircut
- churches within weeks, not months
- sporting events without spectators in the first week of June
- other parts of the economy

This is great news. 1) If you didn't know, my parents' own a sports retail shop so we'll be able to open for good. 2) I haven't had a haircut since October (for reasons) and I can't wait until I shave off my mullet. 3) I really miss church. But most importantly for this site, sporting events will be coming back to LA, meaning Dodger baseball could be making its return. I should be ecstatic over this news. Mookie will finally be a Dodger, I can finally watch the game I love and all would be good. The problem is, I wish baseball wouldn't come just yet.

Don't get me wrong. I miss baseball like the Mariners missing the postseason, but my issue is whether or not now is the right time. As I'm writing this, California just hit it's record for [most deaths in a day](#) due to COVID-19. California reported that the amount of hospital admits have decreased 8% from last month, which is a good sign, but, in my opinion, not enough to warrant bringing sports back. The infection and death rates are still trailing up and it seems more and more people are willing to break social distancing laws to achieve short term happiness. So while LA is achieving small victories against this virus, perhaps now isn't the time to allow mass numbers of people to play baseball.

And I do mean mass numbers. At face value, it seems like baseball only has about 60 people involved: the players, relievers, coaches, and umps. In reality, the real number is 150x that. An article breaking down the proposed Arizona League stated that [an estimated 10,000 people would be needed](#) in order for baseball games to operate again. If you want a detailed breakdown as to why that number is so large, read the article. In layman's terms, the number comes from staff such as trainers, locker staff, and so on. But there are also commentators, grounds crew, media staff, and even the hotel staff accommodating the

traveling players. On top of that, everyone would need constant testing and screening to make sure they're all healthy, and coronavirus testing hasn't been a strong point in this country. If even one of these players or workers are infected, it would result in an epidemic all on its own. We've already seen that athletes are not exempt from becoming infected, such as NBA centers [Christian Wood](#) and [Rudy Gobert](#), and if an outbreak of that scale were to occur, it would only prolong the quarantine.

While we're on the topic of players, can we remember that even though some of these guys are paid millions, they are still people and should be treated as such. [Mike Trout](#), the GOAT, expressed his concerns over the Arizona League, emphasizing how it would affect his newly starting family.

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<blockquote class="twitter-tweet"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">.<a href="https://twitter.com/MikeTrout?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw">@miketrout</a> wants MLB to come back soon as possible, but brings up a number of issues that would have to be worked out logistically before baseball returns in any fashion. <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/LunchTalkNBCSN?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#LunchTalkNBCSN</a> <a href="https://t.co/TdPflVI8Jp">pic.twitter.com/TdPflVI8Jp</a></p>&mdash; NBC Sports (@NBCSports) <a href="https://twitter.com/NBCSports/status/1250456367141437442?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw">April 15, 2020</a></blockquote> <script async src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>
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Yet fans and trolls alike attacked Trout saying he's soft for not wanting to return to baseball. There are even those saying that this virus is overblown and he's just making excuses (ignore these idiots). If I may play devil's advocate, I can see why fans would want Trout to play again. The man just signed a near \$500 mil extension and now is seeing some of that contract go to waste. But grow up. This isn't an injury that Trout, or any player, has control over. This is a microscopic virus in which one of the consequences is death, and if you think about it that way, that would be the ultimate wasted contract. So shut up trolls and "fans". People should not die for your entertainment.

Final Thoughts

In terms of wanting baseball back, I cannot be more in favor of it. As mentioned earlier, my family has a sports retail store, so not only were we forced to close, but no sports also directly affects our business (like how losing the WS in 2017 affected us, but a story for another day). On top of that, "Piazza Delivery Boys" was started this year and we've already hit a wall. So yeah, I'd want baseball to come back. But I'm also sensible enough to wait for the right time. A time where players can run on the fields without fear of death and where we, the fans, can support them knowing they are perfectly safe, either in the stands or right here at home. Hope you're all healthy and stay safe.

