

THE SPORTIER



Mets, Yankees Honor 9/11

After long last, the MLB decided to do the right thing on Friday. On the 19th anniversary of the tragic events that transpired on September 11, 2001, the New York Mets and Yankees were granted permission to wear caps honoring first responders - FDNY, NYPD, Sanitation, Port Authority, EMTs - for the first time since the Mets wore similar caps at Shea Stadium in their first game post-9/11 on September 21, 2001. The push for the teams to wear these caps was largely from the Mets side, and, most notably, from Mets first baseman Pete Alonso. Just last year, in his rookie year, Alonso purchased custom 9/11 cleats for his whole team without permission from the league, then donated his pair to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York City. Alonso and Mets owner Jeff Wilpon have pushed for the Mets to wear the caps, and even in 2011, on the 10th anniversary of the tragedy where the Mets had prepared to wear the caps, the MLB foiled the plan and took the caps away from the team. Since then, the Mets have only worn the caps during batting practice on 9/11. With the Mets leading the way, they were able to sway MLB Commissioner Robert Manfred to allow both New York teams to wear the special caps. Next year, the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the Mets and Yankees will play each other for the first time, in a game that will no doubt be full of emotion and honor.

10 Days 'Til Kickoff

2020 has begun to stumble back onto its feet. Thursday was the kickoff of the first NFL season amidst a pandemic, in a game between the Houston Texans and Kansas City Chiefs, where Arrowhead Stadium in Missouri was filled with 16,000 fans, or 22% of its total capacity. Since the Super Bowl in February, it seemed that the world completely sunk. Possibly it was just a sign that showed us that we needed football desperately to save the day and be a welcome distraction. Though this year has been tough, the NFL offseason brought us a flurry of big moves that should make you excited for the return of football. Most notably, will Tom Brady and his new, potentially prolific offense with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers be able to meet lofty goals of reaching the Super Bowl? On the other hand, can the New England Patriots heal from losing their franchise quarterback and many defensive stars, now be led by Cam Newton? Have the Cincinnati Bengals found their savior in number one overall pick quarterback Joe Burrow? And can the Baltimore Ravens crack the first round after a disappointing exit last year, still led by MVP quarterback Lamar Jackson? There is a lot that remains unknown with the season that is set to begin, but there's one thing we know for sure: football is back.



LeBron Returns

LeBron James is back to dominating in the playoffs. For the first time since 2018, when LeBron was a member of the declining Cleveland Cavaliers, the 3x MVP is back in the Conference Finals, except he will be in the West, donning a Lakers uniform. The Lakers, led by both LeBron and superstar center Anthony Davis, won Games 3-5 by double digits against the Houston Rockets in the conference semifinals. LeBron, who nearly averaged a triple-double in the series, also passed Derek Fisher for most all-time playoff wins after a Game 3 victory, and now sits atop the list with 162 wins. The Lakers will either face the Los Angeles Clippers in their first Conference Finals appearance as a franchise, or the Denver Nuggets, leading up to the NBA Finals. LeBron has proven that he is still a tough opponent, and either team he faces will be fighting an uphill battle.



Sources:

[CBS Sports](#), [ESPN](#), [Fox News](#), [Basketball Reference](#), [NBA](#)