

THE SPORTIER

COVID-19: Sports Slayer

The sports world has been destroyed by the outbreak of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus. Here is where the sporting world stands as of now:

NBA season suspended indefinitely after Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert contracted disease. He had mocked the virus by touching all microphones at his press conference on Monday before having tested positive. His teammate, Donovan Mitchell, Jr., also subsequently tested positive.

MLB regular season pushed back at least 2 weeks, with all Spring Training games cancelled.

NHL season put on hold.

MLS season put on hold.

March Madness Tournament cancelled.

The Masters Tournament postponed.

UEFA Soccer club matches in England, France, and Germany were cancelled at least for one month.

The XFL, a revitalized football league occurring in the NFL offseason, has been cancelled for the rest of its season.

NASCAR and IndyCar postponed races for this weekend and the next.

Little League International has suggested that its baseball and softball league begin no earlier than April 6.

The 2020 Summer Olympics has been suggested to shut down, though there has been no word from Japan.



By: Kiran Pathy



March Madness Becomes Sadness

Probably the largest event to be impacted was the NCAA March Madness tournament for Men's, and Women's basketball. With major American professional sporting leagues shutting down, the NCAA had originally planned to simply ban fans from attending games, while also considering playing in fewer and smaller venues. The cascade of league tournament cancellations, however, changed the NCAA's plans. The Ivy League Conference was the first Division 1 conference to cancel their tournament, and instead gave their regular season champion the automatic bid to the tournament. In the past week, the ACC, SEC, Big Ten, Pac-12, Big 12, AAC, MAC, Atlantic-10, Colonial, Conference USA and WAC conferences all shut down their tournaments, and were prepared to simply send their top teams to the tournament. The NCAA had also contemplated simplifying the tournament to just 16 teams instead of the original pool of 68. Possibly the most significant event that led to the NCAA's final decision was Duke University's decision to cancel all of its athletics going forward, including men's basketball, one of the most prolific basketball programs in NCAA history. Minutes later, another highly regarded NCAA basketball program, the University of Kansas, withdrew from the tournament. As conferences began to withdraw from tournament contention, it was clear that the NCAA had to cancel their Men's and Women's tournaments. Seniors vying for a championship run, including schools like Dayton and Baylor in position to make school history, were all erased. The NCAA has now given seniors in spring sports an extra year of eligibility, and as they contemplate whether to do the same for winter sports including basketball, this March has a little less magic to it.

Sources:

[Fox News](#)

[Quartz](#)

[USA Today](#)

[Washington Post](#)