

THE SPORTIER

NFL, Online

With sports leagues closing their operations, live sporting events have yet to progress much. On Thursday night, though, sports seemingly reopened. The NFL Draft, which was scheduled to be held extravagantly at the Las Vegas strip, was broadcast from the homes of many league executives, coaches, players, and even the commissioner. It may have seemed a bit awkward, with a small screen of fans booing commissioner Roger Goodell and with several players wearing t-shirts or even pajamas, but the basics of the draft were well in place. The consensus number one overall pick, LSU quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow, was selected by the Cincinnati Bengals with the top selection. Seemingly replacing the current Bengals quarterback, Andy Dalton, Burrow was even compared to Tom Brady regarding his poise and collectedness at the quarterback position. A pick that may have surprised many was Tua Tagovailoa with the 5th overall selection. The Dolphins, desperately needing a quarterback that can eventually replace Ryan Fitzpatrick, selected Tua even with his recent injury history. Tua had a season-ending hip injury which required surgery during the college season, with many other more minor injuries in the past. The lefty quarterback is definitely a top prospect when healthy, though, and the Dolphins loved what they saw from his healthy seasons at Alabama. Even more history was made at the 2020 NFL Draft. The newly-relocated Las Vegas Raiders completed their city's first draft selection with the number 12 overall pick, selecting wide receiver Henry Ruggs III from Alabama. Though two much more heavily favored receivers were available, teammate Jerry Jeudy and Oklahoma standout CeeDee Lamb, Ruggs' speed should prove to be essential to the Raiders offense. Though the NFL Draft was different this year, sports may begin to resort to the use of technology to fuel their leagues. The NFL may just be the first of many.

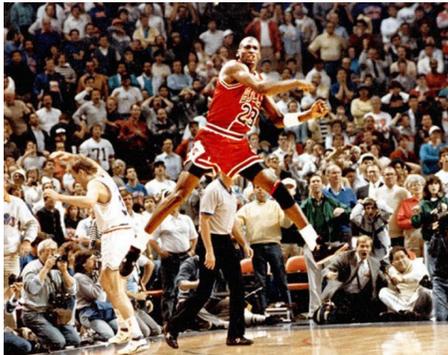
Fun Fact

With the 145th overall pick in the 4th round of the 2020 NFL Draft, the Philadelphia Eagles selected Offensive Tackle Jack Driscoll, from Madison, CT.



Did You Know?

In 1991, when Scottie Pippen was a member of the Bulls, he was the 122nd highest-paid player in the NBA with a 7 year/\$18 million contract. Today, the 122nd highest-paid player is Andre Roberson, who was in the last year of a 3 year/\$30 million contract. In 1999, when Pippen was a member of the Houston Rockets, he was the 6th highest-paid player in the league, with a contract of 5 years/\$67 million. Comparatively, today's 6th highest-paid player is LeBron James, who was in the second year of his massive 4 year/\$153 million deal.



The Last Dance

Though sports are on hiatus for now, that does not stop us from watching old footage and highlights. Last Sunday, and for another three weeks after today's broadcast, ESPN is treating all sports fans around the world to a historical documentary. *The Last Dance* details the final season of the Chicago Bulls dynasty, the 1997-98 season. The first two episodes, which aired last weekend, focused on Michael Jordan's early years with a lack of a supporting cast, showcasing his incredible talent against a great Boston Celtics teams from the 1980s. Another main focus of last week's episodes was on MJ's running mate, and arguably the second-best player in the league at the time, Scottie Pippen. With incredible length and speed, Pippen was a great forward that could do it all, and with MJ, the duo was unstoppable. The season at the center of the documentary highlights the struggles the fantastic Bulls team faced, much in part to greedy General Manager Jerry Krause. He is portrayed as a closed-minded man, wanting to carry out a rebuild with MJ and Pippen both in their prime, with the documentary describing the story of the eventual downfall of a franchise.

Sources:

ESPN, The Boardroom (Twitter), Spotrac, Spotrac, ESPN (The Last Dance)