

THE SPORTIER

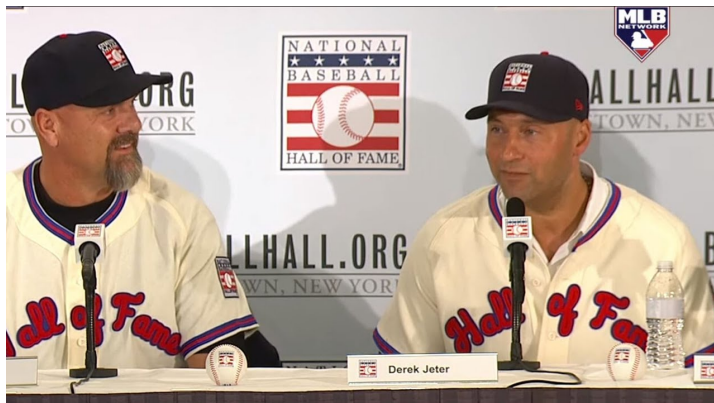
MLB: Coming Soon

This past week saw the growing development of a very real possibility for sports to return, with baseball leading the charge. Officials have begun to express optimism that late June-early July will see the start of a modified MLB season, provided that medical experts approve and that COVID-19 tests are readily available. The best part is, unlike with previous plans, MLB teams would play in their own stadiums. Though it seems hard to believe, it would require a complete temporary restructuring of the leagues, and a temporary dissolution of the American and National Leagues. This proposed plan creates three divisions, based on geographic location: the East, Central, and West. The graphic to the right shows the proposed division realignment. The one change from the traditional divisions, other than 10 teams per division, is between the East and Central. The Atlanta Braves, a team "formerly" in the National League Eastern division, and a team who had won 97 games the previous season, would be swapped out with the National League Central division's Pittsburgh Pirates, a team who won just 69 games last season. This change could prove to be beneficial for the other teams in the East division, depending on the structure of the playoffs, and could negatively impact the Central division. Though this may seem like a very quickly thrown-together plan, the MLB appears to be hopeful and convinced that the season will start, and it could be closer than you think.



Did You Know?

According to ESPN's Field Yates, all draft-eligible players from LSU Football's championship winning team have been signed to an NFL team. The first overall pick in the NFL Draft, Quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow, was the first LSU player to join an NFL team after being drafted by the Bengals.



Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Postponed

With so many events cancelled to date, no surprise should come with the next big cancellation: the 2020 Cooperstown Hall of Fame Induction, with this year's ceremony having been set to feature Derek Jeter and Larry Walker. With the coronavirus pandemic sweeping across America, the much-anticipated ceremony has been postponed until July of 2021, at which time these players will join a handful of 2021 Hall of Fame inductees. Possible players that they could be joining may include long-time members on the ballot, such as Curt Schilling, Barry Bonds, and Roger Clemens, and some newer faces, like Torii Hunter and Tim Hudson. Looking at the two players from the 2020 Hall of Fame class, Jeter and Walker had very successful careers. Jeter, selected nearly unanimously with 99.7% of the vote, played 20 incredible seasons with the New York Yankees, and won 5 World Series titles while being given the title of Captain of the team. Walker, sneaking in with 76.6%* of votes in his tenth and final year of eligibility, was a prolific power hitter in the late 1990s, and is just the second Canadian-born player to be selected to the Hall of Fame, and will be the first player to wear a Colorado Rockies uniform in Cooperstown. Unfortunately, we will have to wait an extra year until we can claim that these players are formally in the Hall of Fame.

*75% of the total voting is required to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame

Sources:

[USA Today](#), [Field Yates \(Twitter\)](#), [Baseball Reference](#), [MLB](#), [MLB](#)