

THE SPORTIER

MLB vs. The Players

With baseball on the verge of return, the agreement between the players and the owners has yet to be settled. Last Monday, the Major League Baseball owners devised a revenue-sharing program that would center around a 50/50 money split that would require all teams to give 50% of their revenue to the MLB Players Association. These funds would then be divided amongst the players. The reasoning for this from the owners' side is because of the tremendous loss in revenue associated with the delayed start and the changes required to the season. With a proposed 82 game regular season, as opposed to the normal 162 game season, the league will already be losing significant amounts of revenue, but there will be a 40% decrease in overall revenue solely based on the lack of ticketing, parking, and in-stadium concessions. Recently, the MLB announced that with the players' prorated salaries, with their contracts being paid according to the fewer number of games played, the MLB would be losing approximately \$640,000 per game in an 82-game season. However, during the past week, players like former CY Young winner Blake Snell and former MVP Bryce Harper have announced that they are unhappy with the owners' plan, as it would place players in financial trouble. Many players are requesting their prorated salaries rather than any revenue sharing, as they believe they are taking a pay cut while still playing and generating the revenue for the league. Either way, the MLB projects an approximate \$4 billion loss to owners with no season, with many big market teams losing a few hundred million dollars apiece. This holdup could be the reason why baseball may not return until 2021, which would be entirely unfortunate.





Major Sports Return

Yesterday marked the return of major league sports in the world, albeit not in America. The Bundesliga, an elite soccer league in Europe, played its first games since March 11th yesterday, starting with Borussia Dortmund and FC Schalke 04. Ending in a 4-0 victory for Dortmund, the game was eerily quiet with no fans in attendance due to the continued precautions regarding COVID-19. With players on the bench placing masks over their faces, and goal celebrations seeming awkward, soccer had an unusual return.

Dortmund and Schalke 04 have a historic rivalry, as their stadiums are close to each other, but without fans, the only additional people in attendance were the handful of journalists allowed into the stadium. A negative occurrence within the league has been a recent increase in injuries. With players having just starting to train just 10 days ago, the league has rushed into games very quickly during the pandemic, with no scrimmages taking place. As a result, many long-term and short-term injuries have arisen.

Yesterday itself, 17-year-old American Giovanni Reyna was slated for his debut, but as he was not completely in shape without proper training, was injured in warmups and did not return to the game. Thankfully, sports are back. Unfortunately, the prevalent injuries, with the additional factor of what teams can do to stop the spread of the virus while playing, are going to be issues seen in many leagues and sports across the globe.

Sources:

[USA Today](#), [USA Today](#), [CBS Sports](#), [The Boston Globe](#), [ESPN](#)