

THE SPORTIER

The Washington...?

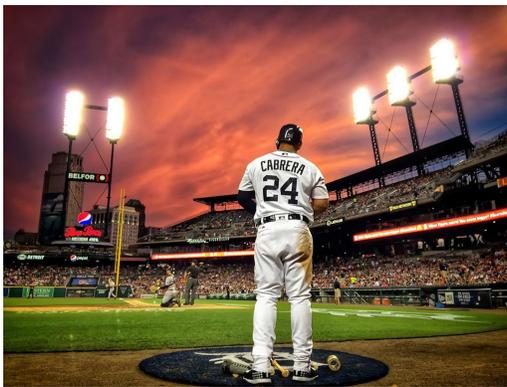
Needless to say, it's been a rough week for the Washington... Football Team. As we are in the midst of major social change in the United States and around the world, on July 3rd, the formerly Washington Redskins commenced the review of their controversial name, one which has been seen as offensive to the Native American community. This past Monday, the team officially removed its name, one that had been with the franchise since 1933 during their days in Boston. Many suspect that the decision comes on the heels of numerous sponsors of the team pushing to remove the potentially racist imagery to instead portray a more welcoming public image during the current social uprising in the country. Another reason why this change may have been put in place at this time was in order to build a new stadium. Both the mayor of Washington, D.C., Muriel E. Bowser, and the nonvoting House of Representatives delegate from D.C., Eleanor Holmes Norton, both play a large role in the decision of whether or not a new stadium can be built in the nation's capitol. Both women expressed their approval of the decision to change the name.

As if the organization was not already struggling, on Thursday, 15 women that were employed by the Washington Football Team reported that they were sexually harassed by other employees, including some that had very close connections to owner Dan Snyder. Three employees of the team, radio announcer Larry Michael, director of pro personnel Alex Santos, and assistant director of pro personnel Richard Mann II, were removed from their positions, having either stepped down or been fired over the past two weeks amidst allegations of sexual misconduct. An attorney is currently looking further into the matter.

As you can see, things are not looking up for the Washington Football Team. Between their controversial name and logo, as well as, as one employee put it, fostering a "hostile, manipulative, passive-aggressive environment," the team is already set to be fined a hefty sum of money. While the "Redskins" name will still be the official name of their website and social media platforms, as they will also continue to use the logo depicting a Native American, a revamp of the Washington Football Team will be coming just in time for an NFL season that is also being modified due to the still-alive COVID-19 pandemic.

4 More Days: The Final Countdown

The time has finally come. Major sports are returning to America, in the form of none other than our country's favorite pastime: baseball. At a time when the world seems crashing down, a sense of normalcy will return in the form of sports. To start off on a more negative note, as much of this year has been, this season, other than the obvious shortening of schedule, will be different for another reason: there will be no baseball in Canada for the first time since 1968. The Canadian government recently denied the request of the Toronto Blue Jays to play in their normal home at Rogers Centre in Toronto, as the country argued that it would be dangerous for players of the team to be traveling in and out of the country regularly, as well as players from American-based teams to be traveling to Canada. It is likely that they will use the home of their Triple-A affiliate, which is located in Buffalo, New York, as their home for the shortened season. Regardless, this coming Thursday, July 23rd, the day before the official Opening Day for other teams, will feature a marquee matchup of the reigning World Series Champion Washington Nationals hosting none other than the New York Yankees. Former Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer is the projected starter for the Nationals, while the newly signed Gerrit Cole, who inked a 9-year, \$324 million dollar contract in the offseason, will start for the Yankees. To allow for the safest travel routes, there will be 3 total divisions: the East, the Central, and the West. These divisions are a combination of the National League and American League subsets of these divisions (ex. The West = the National League West + the American League West). Though each division features some great matchups, especially the showdown of a bolstered Los Angeles Angels roster after signing MVP-candidate Anthony Rendon and the World Series favorite Los Angeles Dodgers out west, the most exciting division is the East. With seven 80-win teams from the prior season, the most out of all of the divisions, exciting clashes such as the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry, the Subway Series, the face-off between the Nationals and Yankees, and many other rivalries will be more prominent now more than ever. With a 60-game season, every game counts. A game of streaks is the current state of baseball, and it's any team's chance to snag the World Series crown. The new champion quite possibly could be a powerhouse team, like the Yankees or Dodgers. Or, it could be a rising team, such as the Rays or the Reds. It could even be a true underdog story, such as the Mariners or the Marlins. It could be anybody, and that is why the brightest stars of the game will be valued the most during these 60 games more than ever before in their careers. Whether the outcome is expected or out of left field, at least sports are back in business.



Detroit Tigers First Baseman Miguel
Cabrera

Sources:

[Pro Football Hall of Fame](#), [Washington Redskins](#),
[The Washington Post](#), [Bleacher Report](#), [ESPN](#), [MLB](#),
[MLB](#)