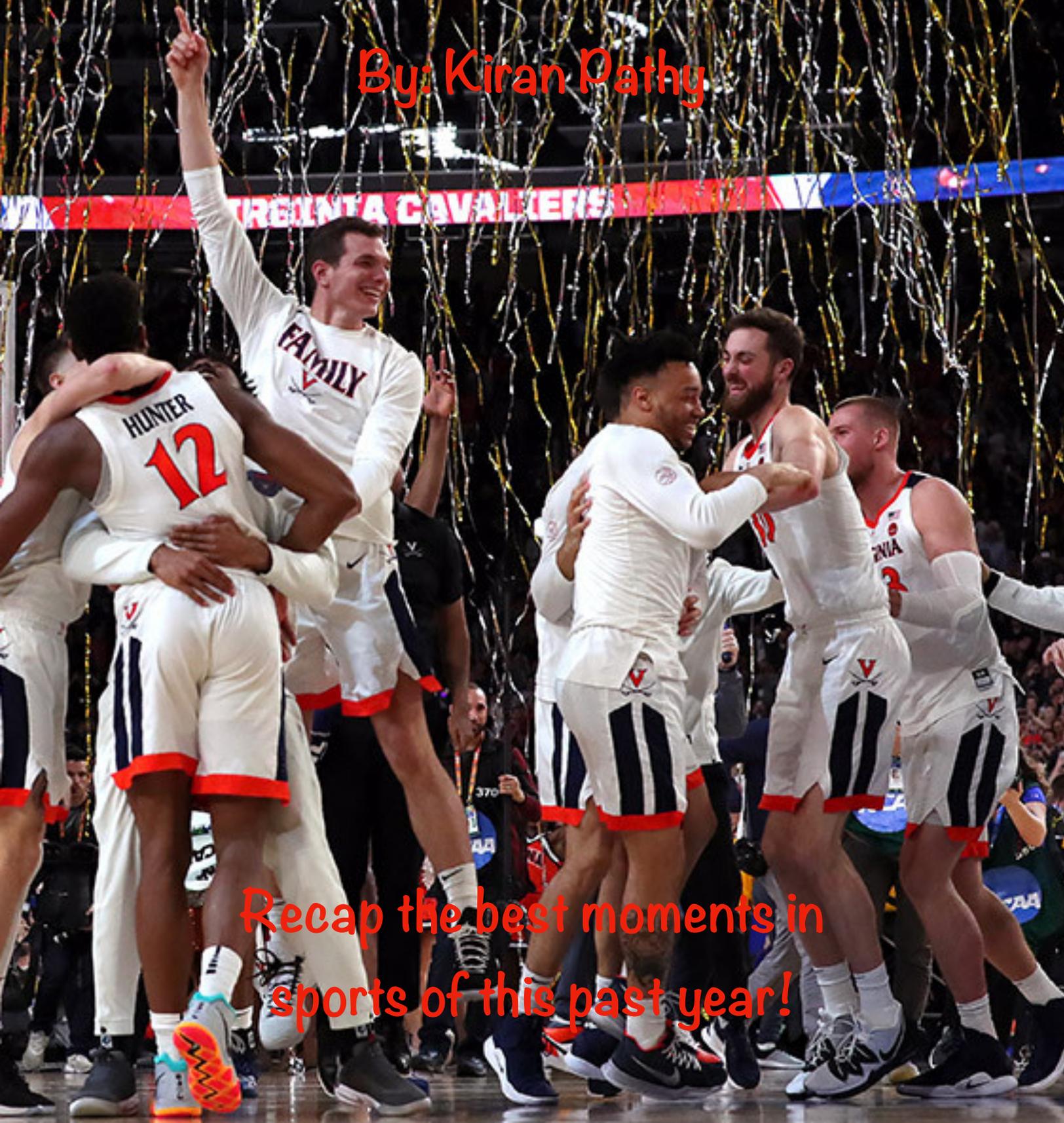


The Sportier: Year Review 2019

By: Kiran Pathy



Recap the best moments in
sports of this past year!

6

Joe Burrow and Tua Tagovailoa

Entering this NFL season, it was known that Tua Tagovailoa, the starting quarterback for Alabama, was the prized player. After replacing Jalen Hurts at Alabama and breaking out as a college superstar, whoever was gifted with the number one overall pick was most likely going to take him. In the most unfortunate turn of events, Tua went down with a season-ending dislocated hip injury. This severely impacted the NFL and many of the worse teams. Teams such as the Bengals and Dolphins, teams in need of a new franchise quarterback, seemed to be doomed with Tua injured. Little did they know, a quarterback named Joe Burrow, a graduate student who was playing his senior year at LSU, was going to take over the conversation. Burrow broke on to the scene only this year, as he threw 48 touchdowns in the regular season, with many more in the playoffs. He won the Heisman trophy seemingly out of nowhere, and he carried his LSU Tigers to the number one seed in all of college football (See Edition 71 of The Sportier for more information on Joe Burrow). Those teams that were relying on Tua had suddenly been given a new star, and with the Bengals lined up for the first overall pick, they will most likely select Burrow. Through this, Tua's previous dominance will still get him into the middle of the first round, but Joe Burrow stole the show, and his number one overall spot.



5

Tom Brady Continues Dominance

Though it was one of if not the ugliest Super Bowl games of all time, it drove it home that Tom Brady is the greatest of all time. The Brady-Belichick era alone produced 6 rings, which is tied with the Steelers for most in a franchise's history. Additionally, Tom Brady now owns the most rings out of any other NFL player, as he passed former Cowboys and 49ers pass rusher Charles Haley with his sixth. Though Brady didn't even throw a single touchdown against the Rams in the Patriots 13-3 Super Bowl victory, this game made it even more evident that Tom Brady is the best and most dominant football player that we have seen.



4

Lillard and Leonard Make Insane Shots in Playoffs

These two shots were defining shots, some of the best we have ever seen. Damian Lillard's 37-foot buzzer-beater three pointer sent the Oklahoma City Thunder home in the first round of the playoffs. As Lillard waved to the Thunder bench after the shot, he essentially ended this era of the Thunder. The series loss threw the Thunder into full rebuild mode, and they can thank Damian Lillard for that. As for Kawhi's shot, it was one of the most incredible shots the NBA has ever seen. The improbable running, fade-away jumper from the corner over Joel Embiid of the 76ers ended Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Semifinals in style. This lucky shot propelled the Raptors past the 76ers, which eventually lead to the first-ever championship in Raptors history.



3

Raptors Win First Title

Before the 2018-19 NBA season, the Toronto Raptors traded franchise player DeMar DeRozan to the San Antonio Spurs for NBA star and former Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard. Kawhi had sat out the whole of the previous season, making many people question the decision. Though Raptors fans were skeptical of the decision before the season, they could not have been upset at the result. Kawhi carried the team, averaging a career-high 26.6 points per game. He brought them to and through the playoffs, which included one of the most memorable shots in NBA history. Kawhi and the Raptors, which included breakout star and Most Improved Player Pascal Siakam and veteran point guard Kyle Lowry, defeated the Warriors in the Finals, clinching their first championship. This Finals series additionally was a telling sign that the Golden State Warriors reign was over. It seemed as though superstar Kevin Durant would be traded after his injury in the playoffs, and other Warriors star Klay Thompson got injured in the Finals, which will prevent him from playing this whole season.



2

Nationals Win First World Series

Another first, the Washington Nationals won their first World Series in franchise history. Starting the season off at 19-31 made the Nationals' hopes seem bleak, but they did not quit. Rookie standout Juan Soto and MVP candidate Anthony Rendon, along with great pitching from guys such as Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg, propelled the team to a Wild Card game appearance. In the Wild Card game against the Milwaukee Brewers, the Nationals were saved by an error in left field, when a base hit ball rolled through the legs of Trent Grisham of the Brewers. This drove in two runs, giving the Nationals the lead that they needed to win the ball game. The next round, the NLDS against the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Nationals were in a final Game 5 when Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw blew a 2 run lead in the eighth inning with back-to-back home runs from Anthony Rendon and Juan Soto. In the top of the tenth, after the game had been sent to extras, veteran infielder Howie Kendrick hit a grand slam, which led to the Nationals getting the come-from-behind victory that pushed them to the next round. The NLCS round against the St. Louis Cardinals was a complete domination by the Nationals, as they torched the Cardinals in the offensive end. Juan Soto continued to shine, and so did Anthony Rendon. This led to an effortless 4-0 series sweep and a World Series Berth. Only the Houston Astros stood in the way of the Nationals now. After taking a 2-0 lead in the World Series, again with big offensive numbers and great pitching performances on the Nationals side, the Astros stormed back, winning the next three games. The Nationals offense had gone totally silent, and now the Astros only needed one win to clinch another title. Unfortunately for them, that would not happen. Washington protected their home field advantage while routing the Astros with their offense coming alive. In the deciding Game 7, the Nationals pitching, with fantastic efforts from Max Scherzer and Patrick Corbin, shut down the Astros offense, and the Nationals finally won their first title as a franchise.





Virginia's Comeback Story

The 2018 NCAA March Madness tournament may have been one of the most shocking ever. Undoubtedly the biggest upset to come out of this tournament was 16 seeded University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) defeating 1 seeded Virginia, the first time a 1 seed had lost to a 16 seed in tournament history. This ended the disappointing season for Virginia, but they weren't going to give up. They came back roaring the next year, and as they pushed through difficult matchups, winning in the final seconds of many March Madness games, they defeated Texas Tech in overtime in the championship for their first title in school history. The moment that Virginia had won sealed one of the greatest comeback stories of all time.



Thanks for reading this year's review, and
Happy New Year!



Sources:

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