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Science Podcast Script Draft

Intro: On todays ‘Sports and Covid-19’ we will be discussing sports in the US and their plans for return to action, what issues they are facing now and in the near future, and how likely the return will actually happen. We’ll be hearing from Dr. Anthony Fauci, disease and public health expert, as well as insider info from various sports personalities, athletes and owners.

[Insert opening song] Its Sports and Covid-19 presented by Spotify \*say this as opening song fades\*

Welcome to the Sports and Covid-19 radio podcast, today is Wednesday July 8th, I’m your host, Dylan Rainey, we’ve got an exciting show for you today as everyone it itching to hear more about the approaching return of sports in the US. Lets get right into it.

The fact is this virus isn’t going away anytime soon, so how safe is it for sports to come back in the US. We’ve seen sports returning successfully in other countries, with soccer specifically working efficiently so far, all be it without the same intensity as there are no fans allowed. (sound effect) [Insert audio clips discusses sports return in other countries vs the US]. But unfortunately, the US has not been able to control the virus like many of these countries in Europe. With Covid cases still rising in the US. what is the likelihood that we will see the NBA, NFL, MLB actually return as planned.

Right now it looks murky at best, while fans are eager to see live sports on their televisions as soon as possible, the fact that many Americans have not taken this virus as seriously as other countries could result is us not getting that satisfaction of live sports for quite some time. Since the college sports landscape varies greatly from that of Professional sports, and there are so many different factors at play in their potential return like whether colleges will be having students on campus at all, today we will be focusing strictly on professional sports and their plans of action for a return to play during this ongoing pandemic.

The NBA has a detailed plan in place to finish out their season and the playoffs in the Orlando bubble they have created, while the MLB has a plan in place for a shortened 60 game season after finally having agreed to conditions between the players and the ownership. Meanwhile, the NFL is planning on having as regular a season as possible, with a full 16 game season going on as scheduled. But how likely are any of these plans to actually start as scheduled, or finish how they are planned without being cancelled. That’s the question we face today as the virus is still running rampant in the US with no signs of slowing down.

So how did we get here, it seems that poor leadership and the inability to truly care about others is at the core of this ongoing dilemma in our country. Athletic teams are posting on their social media sites that “if you want our sports to return or go on as planned, then wear a mask” but the true issue is that people haven’t been wearing masks already when it is scientifically proven that it will help save lives! (sound effect) [Insert interview clip with Dr. Fauci discussing importance of masks] We know we aren’t going to change anyone’s world view from this podcast, but that’s an issue that worries us as a nation that the chance of saving lives has not resonated with millions of people.

Since this is a sports podcast, we will try to stick to sports without being too political, so lets dive deep into the current plans for a return to sports.

In the NBA, the bubble is already in place and teams have begun traveling to Orlando and starting their stay in the bubble (sound effect) [Insert audio clip from Silver], with the official restart of games on July 30th.

There is a schedule already in place for the seeding games, where all 22 of the participating teams will each play 8 games in 2 weeks in order to get to the top 8 teams in each division. Teams will go home as they are eliminated, and players who are still in play will have to stay inside the Disney Resort bubble. (sound effect) [Insert Adam Silver audio clip discussing covid protocol]

There are many fears that those who are working in the Disney Bubble around the teams and players may bring in the virus, as they are not required to sleep in the bubble like the players and staff. On top of that, the cases in Florida continue to rise and is one of the states most hit by the virus. If a large number of players test positive for the virus, the restart may again be cancelled and the season may never finish (sound effect) [insert clip from 7/8 of Adam Silver discussing this]

The MLS is planning a tournament style playoff in Orlando as well, beginning today, July 8th, and this may prove to be a good barometer for whether the NBA restart plans can be a success.

Elswhere, after long and strenuous negotiations between the players and ownership, the MLB has agreed to a shortened 60 game season that will begin on July 23rd. The schedule has been released, and the short season will be a very exciting one for fans as almost any team has a chance of making the playoffs in such a short season. There are many issues still being faced with this plan (sound effect) [Insert audio clip of Trevor Bauer discussing restart]

Finally, the NFL, who has benefitted up to this point from being in the offseason when the virus hit, is gearing up for training camp and a full 16 game season to go on as planned. While there are already many plans in place that will make this season different from any other, including a virtual training camp and 2 pre-season games instead of the regular 4, there is still significant hope around the league that the season can happen as close to normal as possible. However, there will be most definitely be more issues that come to light as the season gets closer that must be addressed (sound effect) [Insert Audio Clip from the Athletic podcast]

While we are very excited for the potential return of professional sports in the US, we must proceed with caution, and remember that people’s lives are far more valuable than sports coming back, and whatever the outcome may be we hope that the leaders of various sports league make the smart decision without greed and ignorance, and of course we hope that we can step up our efforts to be selfless and limit the spread of the virus, and eventually if we do what’s best for ourselves and our neighbors, than sports will return again one day.

I know it needs to be way more concise and have better transitions I’m working on it\*