Dylan Rainey

July 6th, 2020

ENG 105-002

Science Podcast Script (Revised)

Intro: On todays ‘Sports Return with Covid-19’ we’ll be discussing American sports and their planned return to action, the issues being faced now and in the near future, and the likelihood of their return working. We’ll be hearing from public health expert Dr. Anthony Fauci, as well as insiders around the world sports including writers, athletes and owners.

[Insert opening song – “Electric Avenue”]

\*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. Let’s get right into it.

The fact is this virus isn’t going away anytime soon, [Insert facts about current Covid-19 new cases by day in the US] 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 with no fans.

[Insert narration of *The Athletic* article discussing the EPL’s return]

Unfortunately, the US has not been able to control the virus like many of these countries in Europe. With Covid-19 cases still rising in the US. what is the likelihood that we will see the NBA, NFL, and MLB actually return as planned?

Right now, it looks murky at best. While fans are eager to watch live sports on TV as soon as

possible, many Americans have not taken this virus as seriously as other countries. The

consequences of minimizing the seriousness of this novel virus, and frankly botching a national

approach to its containment, may play out for months to come with sports being postponed

and seasons possibly even cancelled. 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 many Americans

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]

C’mon people – just because our president doesn’t wear a mask, we don’t have to follow suit!

Pro leagues have invested significant time and money into making the environment as safe as possible for athletes and staff. All have instituted regular testing for the virus at least twice a week, and immediately quarantined in positive cases.

Let’s get into the details, the NBA has an extensive plan in effect to finish out their season and the playoffs in the Orlando bubble they have created. Teams have already arrived in Orlando and begun practicing with the official restart of games on July 30th.

There is a schedule 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. Almost all of these games will be televised. That’ll be 88 total seeding games played in 2 weeks -talk about a gambler’s paradise! Teams will go home as they are eliminated, so the number of people in the bubble will constantly be decreasing. Here’s NBA Commissioner Adam Silver discussing the NBA’s plans:

(sound effect) [Insert Adam Silver audio clip discussing NBA Restart]

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 as it is one of the states most hit by the virus (Insert current statistics). If a large number of players test positive for the virus, the restart may again be cancelled and the season may never finish. here’s a very recent comment by Silver addressing this possibility:

(sound effect) [insert clip from 7/8 of Adam Silver discussing this]

Elsewhere, 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 season will be a very exciting one for fans watching from home as almost any team has a chance of making the playoffs in such a short season. There are many protocols in place, as is with every sport returning. Here’s Trevor Bauer, pitcher of the Cincinnati Reds discussing this,

(sound effect) [Insert audio clip of Trevor Bauer discussing restart]

Sounds like the MLB has great safety protocols in place, and it surely sounds like it’ll be a unique season.

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 scheduled. 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, here’s sports writer Lindsey Jones from the Athletic reporting:

(sound effect) [Insert Audio Clip from the Athletic podcast]

Closing: While we are very excited for the planned return of professional sports in the US, we should be cautiously optimistic, and remember that people’s lives are far more valuable than sports returning, but hopefully it’ll go well with the various sports league putting extensive time and research into making it as safe as possible to return. Lastly, 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, then sports will return again one day for good.

That’s our show, make sure to tune in next week for another edition of ‘Sports Return with Covid-19’

[Closing Song – “Take on Me”] \*fades in during last sentences of closing