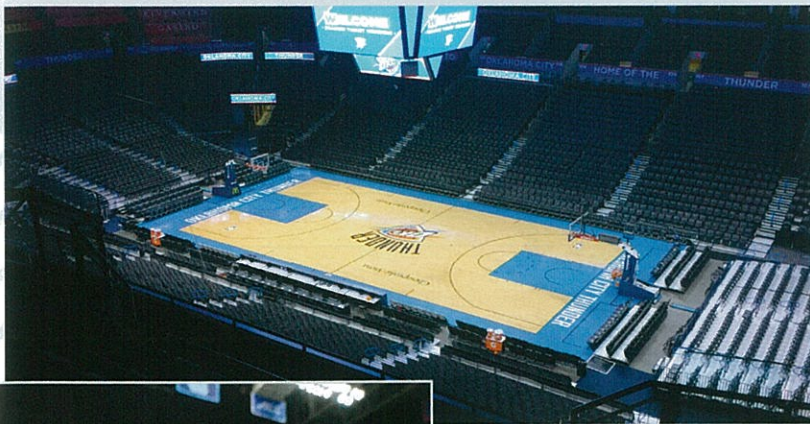


THE IMPACT ON SPORTS



Source: BFBF

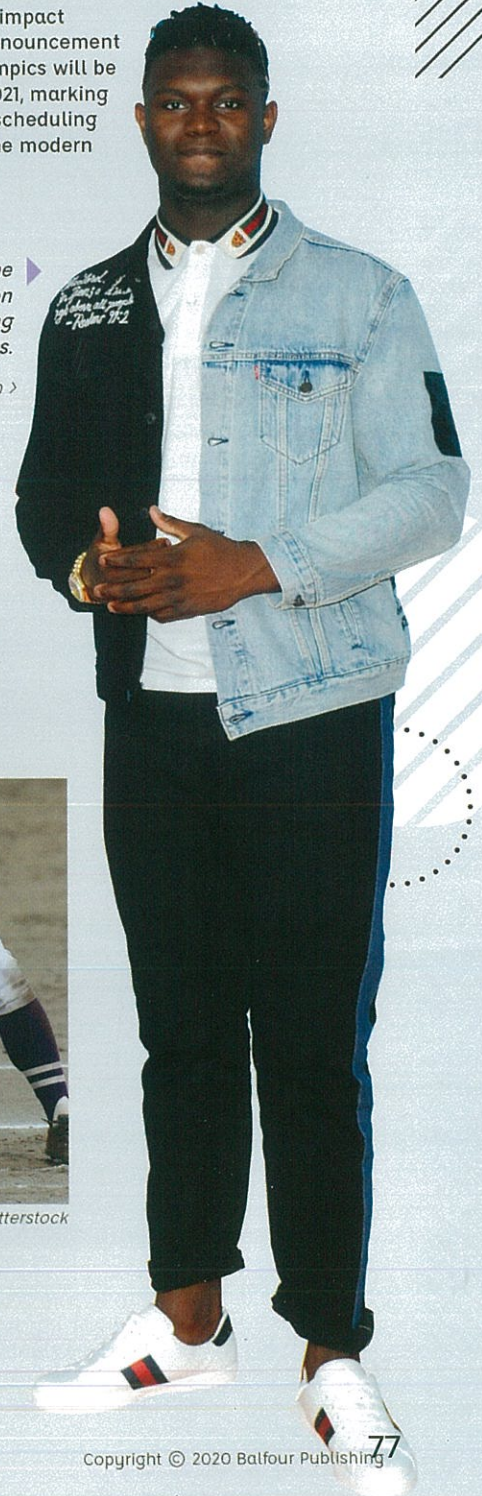
A Global Time-Out

The NBA abruptly suspends its season after Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz tests positive for COVID-19 ahead of Utah's tipoff against the Oklahoma City Thunder, sending home an arena full of very confused fans. The NHL freezes its 2019-2020 season. Major League Soccer is put on hold, along with the start of Major League Baseball. The PGA cancels the Players Championship and postpones the Masters Tournament. And Formula 1, the Australian Grand Prix and NASCAR all postpone races until it's prudent to resume social gathering. The brand new XFL barely gets into its inaugural season before suspending play.

But the biggest impact comes with the announcement that the 2020 Olympics will be postponed until 2021, marking only the fourth rescheduling in the history of the modern Olympic Games.

With the NBA season suspended indefinitely amid the coronavirus pandemic, New Orleans Pelicans rookie Zion Williamson pledges to pay the salaries of the Smoothie King Center employees for 30 days.

Source: Everett Collection / Newscom >



Source: William Howard / Cal Sport Media / Newscom

March Madness Becomes March Sadness

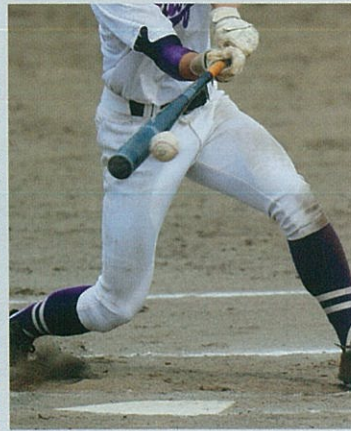
The NCAA announces the Division I men's and women's 2020 basketball tournaments—as well as all remaining winter and spring NCAA championships—are canceled because of the evolving COVID-19 public health threat. Who had "the coronavirus" going all the way in their bracket?



Source: Tinny Photo / Shutterstock



Source: WoodysPhotos / Shutterstock



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Spring Sports Fall Back

High school athletes who compete in spring sports, take a knee. Spring sports such as soccer, track, tennis, golf, baseball, softball and lacrosse are completely on hold. Many teams aren't allowed to hold practices, meetings, conditioning or workouts during the time away from school. The NCAA even put a hold on recruitment, suspending National Letters of Intent signings until at least April 15, 2020.