

The Long Wait is Over

By: Jesse Almeida written 2/26/2021

The long awaited wait is over and the question many people have been asking has been answered. Boston sports is coming back. Gov. Charlie Baker announced on February 25, 2021 that Fenway Park, Gillette Stadium, and TD Garden will reopen their doors to the fans on March 22, 2021. Sports venues will be allowed to hold 12% capacity at first and it may look like more fans will be allowed later on in the year. Fenway Park will hold around 5,000 fans, Gillette Stadium will allow about 7,500 fans, and TD Garden will allow about 2,200 fans.

About a year ago, the beginning of a horrible nightmare struck the world. A terrible disease that would halt the regular lifestyle of many human beings. This terrible virus caused a lot of businesses to close down, and forced entertainment to close their doors. This includes our very own Boston sports arenas. This put a lot of fans down and made them upset that they could not go out and root for their favorite teams on the field, ice, or court. With numbers consistently going high and deaths increasing every day, it looked like it would take a long time for us to see a sports event anytime soon.

Over the summer of last year we saw sports come back but in a very odd and different way. The NBA restarted their season with a bubble plan that invited teams to Orlando to compete for a playoff spot and then to play in the playoffs if they would make it. The NHL did a similar strategy but in Toronto and in Edmonton. The MLB constructed a 60 game season that involved west teams playing each other, the central teams playing each other, and the east teams playing each other. The divisions remained the same and the playoffs were held at set sites in LA, San Diego, Houston, and Arlington. For the NFL they remained the same seeing that their season would not get delayed.

Each league had a different set of rules but one thing that was common for the most part was that there were no fans in Boston. Some states allowed sports venues to open up but Boston venues were still closed. Even though our favorite Boston teams

were back in action, that special feeling was still missing. There was this energy that was missing that made sports not as fun as they used to be. Hearing the white noise that arenas would play during the games just made it even more fake. No chanting at the refs when they make a bad call, no booing at the opponents, and the clutch moment did not feel as clutch anymore. When a Boston team would go on the road to an arena that had fans, it made you miss fans even more, and it was clear as day that Boston athletes missed the fans at their home venues as well.

Fans will be back into Boston sports venues and it is an extraordinary feeling. We all missed bonding with strangers as we would watch our teams fight against others, we missed that feeling where we would have a hot dog and a beer roasting on a sunny summer afternoon, and we all missed watching our teams win and celebrate them with each other. Attending games will be different at first, but it will be glad to see the best fans in the world back at our sports venue. Fans, the wait is finally over.