



TRHS.

When asked both head football and volleyball coach agree that there will be a long-term effect to their programs.

Stein states, “Yes. We had a varsity player transfer that was only a 9th grader. The other four 9th graders on our varsity will also be behind developing with a full season of experience of games and practices.”

Moore also states, “Absolutely. We have lost athletes, lost time in the weight room, lost opportunities to continue building our culture, and lost

ability to better at football without playing games.”

There are those who say its just sports or offer up an adult perspective, life is full of disappointment and missing a season will not matter in ten years. Well, it does matter. It matters to those who coach, it matters to fans, and it matters to the athletes. Its more than just sports, it is missing the camaraderie of teammates, its missing cheers and school pride, and its missing the, what could have been. Memories, especially for senior student-athletes, will be of disappointment, anger, and sadness.

## Why play sports in high school?

People who played competitive sports in high school demonstrate more confidence, leadership, and self-respect. They are better at setting goals and managing their time. They have a better appreciation for diversity and a more developed sense of morality. They are better at setting goals and managing their time.



# Seasons Lost

By Adrien Hanson and Staff

**N**ot a day, an hour or even a minute goes by without hearing of or being impacted by COVID-19. COVID-19 has changed our lives tremendously. Every day we see the impact of COVID as it affects people's health, social gatherings, human contact, delivery of goods and services, online vs in-person education, as well as its impact on large venue entertainment like concerts or sporting events. Professional, college, high school, and youth sports programs have been affected by COVID. Limited crowd numbers, scheduled delays, mandated masks, and even were placed in the bubble to play. For some, like Theodore Roosevelt High School fall sports programs, the impact from COVID was disappointing and devastating to

student athletes and coaches; the seasons were over before they began.

Roosevelt High School and its athletes and coaches were also forced to deal with the ramifications of COVID. Fall sports: football, volleyball, girls swimming, and cross-country seasons were halted abruptly, leaving those involved to deal with the fallout. Head Varsity Football Coach, Mitchell Moore, responds to the frustration of the season ending decision, "the negative impact it has had on the kids ability to be a team, stay active, and have

trust in a system that should support them. It was a failure from top to bottom."

For the volleyball team, they ended with a home match against Fort Dodge. In a near empty gym of saddened coaches, student-athletes, and parents along with an impromptu senior night ended the season. Senior volleyball player Tabitha Keith, "The hardest part about our season being cancelled was losing everything I'd worked for the past 3 years. The hard work and dedication that

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- Tabitha Keith

I put in, in order for my program to succeed only for it to be taken from me in my last moments."

The decision to cease activities was not only frustrating but had a huge emotional toll on both athletes and coaches. "Ever since my season was cancelled my mental health has continued to decline. Volleyball was my escape, my second home, where I got to be a completely different person. Since season was cancelled, I've had a spike in my depression and anxiety. I lost my coping mechanism I've had all four years of high school" states Keith. The objective of school sports is the enrichment of the high school experience. Sports are about teamwork, citizenship, respect, fair play, and fun. Losing these experiences left a huge hole in coaches and

athletes' hearts. There is grieving involved due to this loss.

"I have had the full run of emotions." Head Volleyball Coach, Mark Steinbach says. "It was an emotional rollercoaster," Coach Moore states after being asked the emotional impact of COVID and the cancelation to their season.

For senior student-athletes, the ending of the season was even more disheartening because there is no "next year". For seniors wanting to play beyond their four years at TRHS, the opportunity to do so has its own challenge. Senior football player Asante Scott states, "A lot of us needed more film, more exposure for college coaches to see and make fair judgments of our abilities."

Players may have lost scholarships or never given the chance to receive them due to limited play.

"It has cost some of them an opportunity to further their education and the opportunity to play football at the next level" Stated Moore when asked about the effects of the season being cancelled.

Hopefully, one day COVID will be a memory; our lives will return to "normal." However, there will be long-term effects, both negative and positive from the time during the virus crisis. Will there be an impact on the future of football, volleyball, cross country, and swimming at TRHS? Des Moines Public Schools has always had to work harder to earn respect from suburban opponents and ending these seasons is just another setback for DMPS and