



You done messed up Manfred

By: Austin Rader

August 1, 2020 — Rob Manfred, you did it again.

First off, you almost salvaged the 2020 season. Baseball should have returned in June. Flag Day. Father's Day. Even a Fourth of July opening day would have been iconic!

Sure, you salvaged 2020 with your "60-game season." I, along with many other baseball fans, are ecstatic to have baseball back. The fake crowd noises, the cardboard cutout fans, the players all wearing masks. It almost feels real...and it's great to see cardboard fans try to catch foul balls (by the way, they stink at it).

But you failed to accomplish one thing. You gave the players a mini-camp summer training, and then had them go out and play 60 games in 67 days which included a lot of traveling. You didn't ease your guys into a season. You threw them into the fire and prayed they didn't catch the virus. You failed to do the one thing the NBA did to ensure a safe season.

You didn't put your guys in a bubble.

You're not having fans in the ballpark anyway. The 2020 season for EVERY sport will always be known as "that weird season." Why not build a baseball diamond in an open field in Iowa or Kansas? You made \$10.7 billion dollars during the 2019 season. Your viewership so far this year has been great. But your approach jeopardized the Marlins (18 players and counting), the Phillies, and certainly to be several other teams from ever finishing the season. One series in, and these teams are already having an "all star weekend" break!

If you build it, they will come.

I know what you're thinking. "This kid probably watched "Field of Dreams" last night. I've actually never seen the entire movie from start to finish. Only bits and pieces. But what Adam Silver has done with the NBA by putting his guys in a bubble, has almost ensured that the players will remain safe. Unless Lou Williams got the virus at *Magic City*, the NBA should be in a good position to have zero cases throughout the rest of their season.

While your league Mr. Manfred, has cases rising and players dropping like flies. This isn't your first bad decision-making move - see the Houston Astros sign-stealing suspensions (oops, I mean no suspension), the Joe Kelly 8 gamer last week, and your casual comment about the trophy being a "piece of plastic."

Your players come first.

I'm not saying you should build one field for 900 players plus coaches and training staff. You could build a diamond for each division, spread across some cornfields in Iowa in a very controlled environment in faraway rural towns. Cows could fetch foul balls!!

Every few hours, I get updates on my phone saying how another player is "opting out of the 2020 season," or "another team won't play their upcoming series in Milwaukee or Miami due to new cases."

We all asked for a season, you made it happen. Yet, you squashed the opportunity with your poor leadership and ability to think outside the box and do something unique.

Having a World Series in the middle of the country would have been incredible made for TV sports. Yes, it would have felt like the "field of dreams." You could have done it. Put the cows and cornstalks and tractors in the bubble. Would have made for a safer season.

Not for you Manfred. You just don't seem to get it. Well, enjoy your extra long off-season sir, because "that" you'll get.