



The Tusker Tribune



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Why is Everyone so Banged Up this NBA Season?



By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff

Joel Embiid, Anthony Davis, James Harden, Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Jamal Murray, Donovan Mitchell, LaMelo Ball, Spencer Dinwiddie, Gordon Hayward, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, James Wiseman, and LeBron James.

What do these people have in common?



Well, yes, they're some of the best players in the NBA, but they're also some of the best players that are injured right now or have been injured sometime this season. This looks like

an All-Star team of players that have been banged up this season! Why have there been so many injuries to amazing players? Today, we'll go over the main factor that could be the reason for this and some smaller factors that could also contribute.

First of all, as you probably know, we've been living in a global pandemic for over a year now, and that completely altered sports for a large amount of time. From March 11, 2020, to July 22, 2020, NBA basketball had to be put on hold due to the outbreak of COVID-19. A normal NBA season would end in June and begin in October, so for the end of the 2019-20 season and the entire 2020-21 season, games had to be rushed dramatically.

When the NBA Bubble in Disneyworld opened up for the Playoffs in July, the last game of the NBA Finals ended on October

11, which is around the time an NBA season should start. Of course, to get back on track in a couple of years, the next NBA season had to begin sooner than later.

Usually, an NBA offseason is about four months. However, this time, that had to be cut in

half. The next season began on December 22, 2020, which means the 2020 offseason was not even two and a half months. The reason I've been explaining all of these dates and numbers is because this is the main reason the injuries have been stacked up on top of each other one by one like crazy this season.

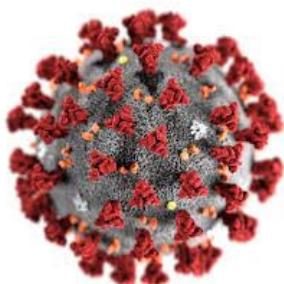
During the offseason, players have more than enough time to get their mind, skills, and body right to prepare for the next season, where they won't have over a week of rest without games. Of course, the players were still able to do this, but not to a higher level or higher extent. With much less time to get healthy, rested and better on and off the court, the players weren't as prepared for the action, contact and intensity of the 72-game season in 146 days instead of a normal 82-game season in 177 days.



Some smaller factors of the increase in injuries this season may be the lack of rest the players get due to the large amount of traveling across the country. Some teams fly across the country just for one road game, which limits the amount of time players have to rest and just calm down. They then have to play a full game and then travel back home the next day for another game. Also, with a shortened season, teams have been playing games on back-to-back days and could possibly play up to five games in a week. Five 48-minute NBA games in 7 days. That tires the players out and causes a lot of fatigue and pain in their bodies.

Just hear it from the Denver Nuggets coach himself, Mike Malone. Malone coaches Jamal Murray, who just tore his ACL on Monday, April 12. Malone said, "You can see the fatigue on our players, you can see it on their bodies, their body language."

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Proud to Share Last Name With Polish Soccer Star



By Alex Lewandowski
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family and ancestors originated from Poland. My last name is a last name of a really good Polish soccer player.

I haven't been to Poland but I plan to go in the future. However, I do speak Polish, but I am not fluent. I do



know pretty much all of the stuff my parents say to me in Polish.

Some of my favorite traditions in my heritage are making perogies, eating kielbasa and not eating meat on Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Also, Easter is really big and we go to church and it takes up the whole

day.

I am very proud of my heritage because the food is good in Poland and we love cooking and so do I.

Amalfi Coast in Italy has Awesome Views



By Vince Pomponi
Tusker Tribune Staff

Well, my nonna and pop were both born in Italy and they both speak Italian and my mom speaks some Italian because it is my mom's side. I am also taking Italian in school.

Our first and last names have no meaning, but my name in Italian is "Vincenzo". I have been to Italy twice in my life and when COVID is over, we are hoping to go again.

Some of our traditions include making "struffoli", which are tiny dough balls with honey and sprinkles on them. We make them every time we see our cousins who live in Florida. And I like being Italian because the food is great.



We have nobody in our family who is exactly famous, but when we go to Italy, we go to my nonna's brother's house because he lives there and he has a large crop field in his backyard, and a brick oven for pizza. He also has some animals, including a pen of rabbits, so when we

go, my brother and I always see the rabbits, and some of them are REALLY fat. Also, there is a place called the Amalfi coast and you can climb very high up the mountains, and you can walk around up there because it is like a little village. There is also a amazing view and it is scary to drive up because the road is narrow and there is a huge cliff with water at the bottom. But at least the view is amazing at the top.



Editor's Note: Welcome to the last of several "culture and heritage" issues, where our writers tell us about their ancestry and traditions they and their families follow. Enjoy reading about different countries and backgrounds!

Proud of the Culture and Cuisine



By Gabby Mendez Areas
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family originates from Guatemala, but I am not sure from where. I do know that they came 23 years ago when

my mom was 15 and my dad was 18.

I am not sure if my name has a meaning. I have never been to Guatemala, but I do hope I can go there soon.

I do speak the language of my heritage and so do my parents. The language there is Spanish but there are also a lot of other languages.



I do not really celebrate anything from my culture. But I do know that the holidays are on different days. For example, here, Mother's Day is May 9th and in Guatemala, it is on May 10th.

I am proud of the food and languages. My favorite food there is huevos con chicharron. It is eggs with meat and on the side, you eat it with beans and Spanish cheese and cream.



NBA

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All in all, with a shortened season and a shortened offseason, NBA players and their bodies just weren't prepared, which resulted in many injuries of NBA stars. All of the players I listed at the beginning of the article have been or will be out for over a week. That can very easily be devastating for a team competing for a playoff spot or trying to hold on to a high seed and home-court advantage. In fact, 5 of those players will likely miss the rest of the 2020-21 season and possibly part of the 2021-22 season.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all of those players and the ones I didn't list today that are currently banged up, and I'm hoping for a speedy recovery for all of those players.

The Boy and the Tree



**By Carlos Diaz Salazar
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Once a boy went to school and the teacher was teaching the students about Earth Day.

After school, he went home very excited and he told his mom everything about Earth

Day. And he told her he wanted to do something to help the earth, so he went to his room to think of some ideas and then he decided to plant a tree in order to help the earth.



He ran down stairs and told his mom about what he was going to do.

"That's a good idea. Do you need help?" mom replied.

But the boy wanted to do it himself, so he went outside to plant the tree. It took some time to plant it but he did it. He went back inside the house, excited and told his mom about what he have done.

"That awesome," his mom said.

Then he went to his room to sleep thinking about the good deed he had done.

Hoping to Go to Colombia This Year!



**By Andres Morocho Lopera
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I really hope to go to Colombia there because I think it's fun there and I want to see my family there.

I have only been to Colombia two times, both times when I was little, and I didn't even know what Colombia even looked like, so I really hope we can go to Colombia this year so I can get a chance to see it.

I also really want to see my family and taste the amazing food there.

I speak a little Spanish, so I may get a chance to speak in Spanish with my family a little bit.

Usually, though, I still have to ask my mom and dad what they're saying when they speak in Spanish. Otherwise, I might get confused if they ask me something.



Simply Proud to Have Puerto Rican Heritage



**By Joseph Guerrido
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The country my family's ancestors are from is the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which is part of the United States.

I don't think my name has



any meaning in the Spanish language of my heritage. However, I am going to Puerto Rico this summer for the first time.



I am learning Spanish in school and my mom speaks Spanish very well, although my dad does not as well.

My family does not celebrate any traditions. Overall, I am very proud of my heritage.

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