

Principal retires after spring semester

Principal Watkins leaves the district after 41 years of service...

By Emma Coleman

Earlier this month, Principal Watkins' announcement that she will be retiring after the end of the 2020-21 school year saddened students and staff alike.

For 41 years, Ms. Watkins has been a part of the Plano Independent School District. Her first job was in the English department at Williams High School, and after that experience, she made the move to Plano Senior High School, where she has been for 22 years, 11 of those serving as principal.

"I decided that I wanted a bigger position and to teach different content," Principal Watkins said. "So I applied for an administrative job at Jasper, and eventually made my way to Plano Senior High."

Principal Watkins' dedication to students at Plano does not go unnoticed; she has been continually involved in students' lives on campus by attending games, performances, and helping in the creation of new clubs or classes.

"Getting to see students' growth, seeing them take initiative and seeing their idea through is very invigorating and inspiring to me," said Watkins.

Aside from helping students, Watkins has also provided great leadership and guidance for the teachers.

"She trusts teachers, and has embraced the idea of hiring good people and letting them do their job," said Matthew Cone, a social studies teacher, "She is always willing to offer support when teachers need it."

Like a true leader, Ms. Watkins has forged many memorable relationships with teachers throughout her time as principal.

"I will miss the ability to pop into her office and share random thoughts that I have about school and life," said Mr. Cone.

Many teachers appreciate her dedication to her job and ability to engage well with teachers not only on an academic, but a personal level.

"Over the years, we have talked about nearly every topic under the sun; literature, current events, economics, food gardening, brain science, the origins of words, history and all intersections of those topics," Kevin Magavern, economics teacher said.

Principal Watkins' 41 years of dedication to PISD has been memorable, and will forever have a positive impact on the students and teachers she has led.

"In the end, she realizes that Plano Senior isn't



Photo courtesy of PISD

just a place and schooling isn't just a process," Magavern said. "We are part of a community that grows and evolves, a community that is greater than the sum of its parts. Ms. Watkins will always be a part of Plano Senior High School."

Biden's Inauguration takes place

President Joe Biden is sworn in with the first female Vice President, Kamala Harris...

By Brooke Burnett

Wednesday, Jan. 20 marked the day president-elect Joe Biden took the oath of office and was sworn in as the new President of the United States.

The inaugural ceremony took place outside the U.S capitol, and at 11:15 AM, Kamala Harris made history as being the first woman, and woman of color, vice president of the United States. At noon, Joe Biden was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts on the capitol's West Front. There he delivered his inaugural address. The National Mall, where many people go to watch the ceremony, was filled with thousands of flags to honor those who have died of COVID-19, as well as to represent all the Americans who couldn't be there.

"And in my first act as president, I'd like to ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer, remember all those who we lost in the past year to the pandemic, those 400,000 fellow Americans," said President Joe Biden in his inaugural address.



Photo courtesy of Andre Harnik, Associated Press

Biden and Harris, along with former presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and the former first ladies went to Arlington Cemetery for the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The inauguration parade was shortened and no tickets were sold to the public.

"We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal," Biden said,

"We can do this, if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts."

Lady Gaga sang the National Anthem, and Jennifer Lopez, Garth Brooks, Bruce Springsteen and several other artists performed. The concert was hosted by actor Tom Hanks and paid tribute to healthcare workers fighting the ongoing pandemic.

"This day is about witnessing the permanence of our American ideal," said Tom Hanks in an interview with BBC News.

The nation's first national youth poet laureate, Amanda Gorman, is the youngest inaugural poet in U.S history. Her original poem called "The Hill We Climb" focused on unity, healing, and the beauty of America's diversity.

"[Biden and Harris will] Spearhead a new chapter in America, one of dignity, and integrity, and hope and unity, because there's a lot that needs to get done and a lot that needs to be fixed," said Gorman.

This Issue...

Page 2- Pippin and Local Vaccine Distribution

Page 3- Capitol Hill Riot v.s School Shootings and Fake News

Page 4- New Year's Resolutions and Tylan Hines Profile

Page 5- Marvel TV Shows and Zayn Malik Album

Page 6- Girls' Soccer, NBA on Capitol Hill, and SuperBowl

Pippin takes the stage

The theatre department's rendition of the ambitious musical pushes actors...

By Drake Chambless

The school's theatre group is here with another wonderful performance of the classic 1972 musical Pippin, by Bob Fosse and Roger Hirson.

Anyone interested in attending the event is more than welcome and invited to come and watch the performance.

"As long as attendees are wearing masks of course," said performer Anne-Claire Weaver.

The play is based on real life characters with a fictional cause of events. The main character and protagonist, Pippin, was enlisted in his father, Charlemagne's, army. Pippin became upset with the killings that had been ordered by his father and had then gone to murder him. This is only the beginning of the play, where more drama and rebellion will ensue.

"I'm really excited to see how it turns out. My friends have been

working hard on this musical and I can't wait to see the outcome" junior Kensie Lee said.

Some of the performers are very excited and well prepared for this play. All of the actors and actresses of Pippin have been hard at work making the musical a great show despite the challenges and hardships the coronavirus has brought.

"It was different this year due

to the pandemic, but Plano Theatre has done such a wonderful job following COVID policies," performer Anne-Claire Weaver, a senior at Plano said.

Performances will still be safe and secure for those watching and those performing. The rules and protocols theatre has set in place have made the experience a lot safer for those performing and spectating.



Performers show off their skills for viewers of a live stream

Photo courtesy of Caroline Dieter

"There have been several challenges to overcome in a year like this but they are pulling it off with so much grace and dedication," theater teacher Racey Ballard said. "It's going to be a beautiful show."

If students are interested in attending the performance, the play will be performed on Thursday the 26th through Sunday the 31st in the D building. Masks will be required to attend in person, the theatre will be streaming the event online as well. Tickets for the in person event will be \$20 for adults, and \$15 for students. Online admissions will be ranging from \$15 to \$40.

All are welcome to attend the performances by theatre and are encouraged to have fun while supporting Plano's Theatre Group.

Collin County Vaccine Distribution

Local government officials decides how to distribute the vaccination...

By Emma Coleman

Without any adequate direction and support on a federal level for COVID-19 vaccinations, Collin County officials have been left scrambling to provide this necessity to its residents since the minuscule shipments and distribution in late December.

Despite this obstacle; leaders of Collin County are working hard to provide more vaccinations for the general public in the future.

The county has only fully vaccinated 3,808 people despite having a population of 1.03 million, and is yet to receive an adequate amount of COVID-19 vaccines from the state.

"Collin County has the worst ratio of vaccine doses received vs. the county population of all Texas counties," the Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd said.

With a vaccine waitlist of approximately 120,390 people, officials within the county have expressed their impatience with the distribution of vaccinations, and are working to obtain more.

"Collin County has tremendous resources and capabilities to get vaccines to the community today,

but the state is not taking advantage of the resources and capabilities available in the county," Collin County Judge Chris Hill stated in a Facebook post on Jan. 14.

The previous presidential administration's failure to send an adequate amount of vaccine doses, along with their insufficiency in supporting nationwide health departments financially and operationally only sets this process rearward. Hence, this logistical and reporting vaccinations to the public is expected as states have been left to construct their own plans regarding the allotment of COVID-19 vaccines.

In light of this frustration, officials within Collin County have confirmed with the Department of State Health Services that they'll be able to increase the number of daily administered Moderna vaccinations to 6,000 by the end of the month. They have also outlined the state's plans for distribution by level of risk; Phase 1A, 1B, and then the general public in the coming months.

Despite the 64,721 positive coronavirus cases in Collin County, the state and county departments are working closely and tirelessly to provide the vaccine opportunities for their residents quickly and efficiently.

For more information about the COVID-19 Vaccine Waitlist and Distribution, refer to the Collin County website: COVID-19 Vaccines (collincountytx.gov)



Photo courtesy of Daniel Packet

Students opinions on the COVID Vaccine...

"I'm really quite relieved that the vaccine is being rolled out to the people who are exposed to COVID-19 on a daily basis. Knowing that essential workers are finally being prioritized is exciting but also long over due." - McKenna Miller, senior

"I think the vaccine is very needed. If it were not for vaccines, many viruses would kill us." - Alexander Wilson, junior

"I think this vaccine is a huge step forward not only for the mission to end the pandemic but also just for public health in general. They are proven to be 94-96% effective and use a whole different technology of using your body's natural coding process to read and copy the virus' mRNA. My mom got both of her doses and has not had many symptoms but I feel so much safer around her now that I know she's immune." - Kylie Hogg, senior

"I am not very educated on the vaccine, and I am very frightened by using it." - Austin Tuggle, junior

Capitol Hill staff experiences student trauma

The same officials who denied gun reform laws are victims of violent riot...

By Maya Pragji

The recent events that occurred at the United States Capitol have left the nation in disarray because of the previous neglect to issues of the same nature.

On Jan. 6, the U.S. Capitol’s security defense was breached in an attempt to reverse the results of the 2020 election, and the lives of Congress were put at risk as they cowered under desks in fear for their lives.

This quickly caught the eye of the media, but not in regards to safety of the Congress members themselves, but rather this situation in comparison to the school shootings that have occurred throughout the United States.

Though the general public is empathetic for the members of the Congress and the trauma that encompassed the day of the Capitol attacks, as well as the trauma that will follow them forever. Many people hope that lawmakers will take this situation into consideration and think more critically about gun reform and the effect it has on school shootings. There is hope that this day will stick with them forever, and haunt them the next time they have a chance to support gun safety.

For once the government got a firsthand experience of the trauma that many children have already gone through, and if not, they fear it everyday.

Children from the ages of five to 18 are taught in school how to take shelter, and protect themselves in the event that a gunman were to come in with the intent of taking their lives.

They are taught that it is normal to be prepared in any moment to have their lives be threatened. Children go to school to learn about math, science, english, history and the arts.

Nowhere in the student description does it include learning about how to fear for their lives in an organized manner.

NBC News first reported on the situation, and took the words of a Stoneman Douglas survivor and put it into perspective. In 2018, the lives of hundreds of highschool students and staff were put in the hands of a 19 year old boy with a gun.

The tragic day left 17 dead and 14 seriously injured, 13 of the casualties were students under the age of 18. The survivors and families of victims came forth after the attack on Capitol hill, and openly expressed how they hope this opens the eyes of the government to protect its people.

In addition, the March For Our Lives organization, which promotes gun restrictions for the safety of school children, expressed their disappointment with the ordeal.

“The same legislators condemning this behavior in the last hour have been inciting it for months,”



Photo courtesy of Twitter user @Developed_India

the organization posted on their Twitter, “The same legislators who refused to do anything in the face of gun violence are now in its midst, no one deserves this.”

The normalization of school shootings has scared America’s youth in ways that no child should have to go through. The events that took place at the Capitol gave a taste of an everyday normal fear that goes through the mind of a child in the public education system. It is hopeful that moving forward this changes the way that laws are chosen and lives are protected.

Fake news threatens credible journalism

Social media apps make fake news outlets easy to access...

By Dylan Kinney

Due to the increase of daily social media use, more than 55% of adult Americans rely on the internet for their news, often an unreliable resource for the truth.

Growing up, individuals are taught not to believe everything posted online, though everyday people are depending more on social media for important information, which is not necessarily a bad thing. This last year was proof enough how affordable the accessibility to media platforms can be.

“Social media allows a more realistic and vulnerable approach to brutal topics,” senior Sheena Amir said, “Unlike the news having limitations and sugar coating significant information.”

According to Pew Research Center, more than 55% of adult Americans often use social media for daily news updates, which is an 8% increase within the past year.

“Relying solely on social media for your only source of information can be unreliable, just how believing everything on Fox or CNN can be,” senior Jade Martinez said, “For reliable information you need to do research.”

Since 2016, the use of cable-television, newspapers, media websites and the radio have rapidly decreased. This leaves other media apps, such as

Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook to quickly rule over society. Facebook is probably the most significant and wide reached platform for social media, nearly around 1.50 billion people are active users on the site.

“I know a lot of people that use Facebook, even my dad uses a good amount,” said senior Gabby Silvestre.

In 2006, Facebook launched its very own news feed, giving users the access of easy-reachable news. Unfortunately, not everyone was a fan of the new accessory. In 2016, Facebook released a video explaining how they personalize their News Feed to best fit what the user is interested in. Many were unhappy due to the large amount of users using the app as their only source of news.

“61% of millennials use Facebook as the prevailing source for news about politics and government,” Forbes writer Nelson Granaods stated, “Without realizing it, you are likely to develop tunnel vision when the personalization is based on your past click and like behavior.”


With technology on a never ending growth spurt, it leaves the future in a vulnerable position. Just this past year Americans were hit hard with emotional protests, vulgar politics and a deadly virus.



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons user @mikemacmarketing

That being said, the need for rapid news updates is high. Digital technology will continue to provide fast and personalized info, but it’s unknown how far the boundaries will continue to be pushed.

“Society clings to approval, so it leaves our future in a scary place,” senior Breyanna Neville said, “Just because news is markable doesn’t mean it’s considered real news.”



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Wildcat Tales is a student produced publication that serves to educate, inform and entertain the student body in a professional manner which will provoke thought while upholding the principles of a free press. The publication is a forum for the students of Plano Senior High School. Any opinions expressed in Wildcat Tales are the opinion of the writer and of the writer only.

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Senior Tylan Hines to be airman football star

Hines accepts a full-ride scholarship to the Air Force Academy...

By Abby Carroll

Senior running back, Tylan Hines begins to prepare for college, graduation and all the goodbyes that come with it.

Tylan Hines, who first enrolled at Clark his sophomore year, quickly became the varsity football team's running back.

"Never give up, times will get hard, but you have to push through it because in the end it will make you stronger and it will be rewarding," Hines said.

True to his own advice, Hines was able to push through not only a difficult career as a running back, but also with the unprecedented season he's been through during the COVID pandemic.

"I pushed to be the best I can everyday, so I couldn't just slack off just because we're facing adversity," Hines said. "I was always taught to overcome adversity."

And overcome adversity he did. Hines recently accepted a full-ride scholarship to play as running back on the Air Force Academy's football team. Although a difficult decision to choose where to play from many offers, Hines eventually landed on the Air Force Academy.

"It has one of the top world class education programs and also has a great football program as well," Hines said.



Photo Courtesy of PISD

As Hines was looking for a college of which to commit; he said he found it difficult to narrow down the choices, but eventually decided on what he was looking for.

"Basically, I decided on somewhere where I could feel like home," Hines said. "The coaches and I connected really well; the trust in me and I trust in them to better me on and off the field."

In addition, Hines focused on a school that would be better for him in the long run.

"Looking for a school who has the best opportunity for me for the next 40 years rather than just four years," Hines said.

One of Hines' goals is to make it to the NFL. So for Hines, there were a lot of steps he had to take in order to be able to get to where he is right now, one of these being his ability to lead a team. When asked what he felt he most improved upon during all his years playing, Hines says that it was his leadership.

"When I first got to Plano I was the new kid, I was just trying to get used to everyone and getting a feel of how things are going to be," Hines said. "But over the years I saw myself as being a leader to the ones younger and older than me."

Throughout his ongoing career, Hines has suffered challenges and adversity but continues to push through to see his goals to the end.

"My family pushed me the most throughout my years of playing football," Hines said. "Just me wanting the best for me and my family had really self-motivated me to become better".

Hines credits not only his family for the support throughout his time at Plano, but also former teammates that he looked up to as a big brother.

New Year's resolutions motivate students

Students are determined to make 2021 the best year yet...

By Brooke Burnett

Millions of people around the globe make New Year's resolutions every year, and with the start of 2021, many students hope that their resolutions will help make 2021 their best year yet.

Some of the most common resolutions made by students across the country are improving themselves physically, making better school habits and bettering themselves spiritually.

"Some of my New Year's resolutions are to pick up a new hobby, procrastinate less, and have a more positive attitude on life and myself," said senior Danna Djinigou. "My best friend Chelsea is helping a lot with thinking more positively and my friends Ashleigh and Kylie always make sure I have done an assignment or taken a test before it's due."

About 188.9 million people in the U.S make resolutions, however 23.1 million Americans do not believe they'll reach their goals. The most popular resolutions for 2021 are improving health by exercising, improving diet, losing weight and saving money.

"[My resolutions are] to get ready for college, I'm going to try to do a 3D art portfolio this year and create financial goals pertaining to college," said senior Avery Carlile. "My resolutions have helped me be more focused on long term goals."

Setting clear goals, making a detailed plan, taking small steps every day, having others to keep you accountable and celebrating your progress can all be helpful in achieving New Year's resolutions.

"It's a good idea to have a resolution and to have a goal in mind to get you through the year," said junior Prana Govindacharyula. "My resolutions are to be kind to everyone and to not procrastinate."

Lots of students have similar goals, such as trying not to procrastinate, having a more positive outlook on life and doing other work for high school and college. Several students said that they were not sure if they would be able to stick to their resolutions, but were hopeful.

"I'll definitely have days where I'll slip up, but for the most part I think I'll be able to stick to it," said Djinigou.

With COVID some resolutions are a little harder to achieve, like being positive, being kinder to others, and preparing for college next year.

"Focusing on school is kind of hard which affects my Texas Tech [goals] because if you don't graduate you can't go to college," said Carlile.

Some students believe that resolutions are not very important, however some said that they help them to better themselves, stay on track, and improve the lives of others.

"I usually make it my goal every year to maintain [my resolutions], so we'll see how I'll uphold that! I don't know exactly what the future holds, so hopefully I do stick to them and maybe it will make my year better than last year," Govindacharyula said.



Student's New Year's Resolutions...

"Eat Healthier"
- Henry Wisner

"Read more on my own time."
- Sylvia Wentroble

"To get into college."
- Brianna Pollard

"To chase my dreams and not let anyone stop me."
- Tatcha Santos



Marvel TV shows to storm Disney +

The silver screen heroes save Television...

By Maya Pragji

This year Marvel Comic fans are entering the Marvel Cinematic Universe in a whole new light, through new series of Marvel shows.

Although Disney Plus was late to the game, unlike its competitors Netflix and Hulu; the streaming service has reached 73.7 million subscribers in only a year following its release in November of 2019. The service has gained subscribers due to its unique shows and Disney originals users are able to stream.

This past year Disney has delved into the world of Marvel Comics, and has announced the upcoming releases of many shows. The first show to be released, *WandaVision* has been in the works for quite some time and has just been released, the series follows Scarlet Witch and Vision around their 1950s household.

“Wanda and Vision are living their lives in the suburbs, but yet everything’s not exactly as it seems,” said Elizabeth Olsen, who plays Scarlet Witch.

Due to the character death of Vision in *Avengers: Endgame*, viewers have assumed that the

show itself is based around a version of life that Scarlet Witch created or manifested in her mind.

“As mad as that trailer you’ve seen is, it’s actually really elegantly put together,” said Paul Bettany, who plays Vision.

Following the release of *WandaVision*, Marvel will be releasing *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* which is set in the time period after *Avengers: Endgame*. The series features Anthony Mackie as the Falcon and Sebastian Stan returns as the Winter Soldier. The two work together to carry on the legacy of Captain America, who was a good friend to both heroes.

The role of Captain America was played by Chris Evans who has allegedly left the MCU, as his character no longer lives on in the Marvel Universe. The series is set to air in March 2021, and is expected to be a six episode season.

The last set release date that has been announced by Disney is that of the new series *Loki*, which is set to air in May. The show is said to also be a follow-up to *Avengers: Endgame*. As the movie comes to a close, the Avengers travel back to the Battle of New



Photo courtesy of Gage Skidmore

York, which was fought in *Avengers*. However, when they travel back Loki gets his hands on the tesseract and then disappears, leaving the audience with a cliff-hanger.

The series is to pick up after this and follow Tom Hiddleston as Loki in a newfound version of the character.

Tension is sparking amongst Marvel fans, as the new shows are

set to run off-path from the original Marvel comics.

This is not common in the MCU as Marvel Movies were made to tell the comics’ story in live action.

Though the MCU has created a franchise full of critically acclaimed movies alongside Disney, it is up to the critics and fans to decide if they are able to execute the upcoming series as well.

New Zayn Malik album

One Direction alumnus wows fans with winter album...

By Kai Kuntz and Rose Wright

Zayn Malik has been a solo artist for quite some time now, but as of recently with his new album release of *Nobody is Listening*, he takes his music to a whole new level of production.

The birth of his daughter with supermodel girlfriend, Gigi Hadid, last year garnered Malik more attention preceding the release of the album. These events seem to have inspired the relaxing and loving album subjects.

The album consists of 11 tracks, all of which could be considered as chill R&B and pop music. This album is much shorter than his past albums which included up to 29 songs on one album. Malik’s angelic voice is perfect for the soft tones, electronics, and guitar heard within the album. His selective choices paid off as fans are absolutely melting over his dreamy album.

Even though the release week of the album was during Malik’s

birthday, fans were the ones receiving a generous gift from the former One Direction singer.

The first song up on the album is “Clamity,” which sets the tone for the rest of the tracks to come. However, it interestingly differs from the rest of the album as it’s in spoken verse.

His song “Better” has become a mass favorite amongst his fans, and for good reason. The simplicity of the guitar combined with Malik’s smooth, but raspy vocals makes the song easily lovable. “Better” owns a steady drum beat throughout the whole song, and a repeating guitar riff can be heard as well.

The song seems to be centered around the subject of love, the singer crooning poetic lyrics about wanting to save the love he’s found with another person, presumably his girlfriend, Hadid.

Following “Better” is “Outside,” which definitely continues the story of love, trial and error as



Photo of Malik, courtesy of Twitter user @MikeAdamOnAir

Malik sings about trying to make a relationship work despite the hardships the couple has faced together.

“When Love’s Around” is one of two songs that actually features another artist on the album. Fellow musician Syd can be heard singing along Malik, her voice sounding as smooth as honey. This song is more electronic sounding, using synths and funky beats it creates a groovy sound that is worth taking the time to listen to.

Another track on the album is “Vibez,” which has a short intro that may lead fans into assuming that it is going to be a slower paced song. However, not too long into the song shows that this is not true. The song is something that anyone could get down and dance to, as it does have a more upbeat and exciting feel to it.

The truth is the only way to form a proper opinion about the album is to go home and listen to it.

Girls' soccer season kicks-off

The lady wildcats finally take to the field...

By Kai Kuntz

Plano Senior High School's girls soccer team has always been known for their hard work and perseverance, and to showcase this they're off to an astounding start for the upcoming game season.

Having just finished their preseason, the players' friendships and strong bond as teammates has strengthened dramatically. The team's onslaught of supporters will not be let down, as the team is confident that they are ready to put on a good show.

"Preseason was very good for us and we were able to form chemistry with all the new additions to varsity," senior player Emma TenBrink said, "We also switched formations, Preseason allowed us to test out new positions."

With their preparation looking good, their bonding off the field has not been the same ever since the start of the COVID pandemic. The threat to their health and the health of others outside of their team, has put the girls' in a difficult position. Spending time together outside of practice is not easy.

"I feel like we don't get to do as much hanging out together, especially with the lower classmen," varsity player and senior, Maura Bengston said, "Wedon't all ride the bus [to games] together, and we didn't have a chili cook-off this year either."

The girl's soccer team's annual chilli cook-off is a tradition that was made to spark new camaraderie



Photo courtesy Plano Soccer

and friendship between the players, giving them a chance to bond over some delicious home-cooked food.

Even though the overall dynamic of the team has shifted, the players still take a lot of joy in the sport they love. Nothing could ever prevent such a strong feeling.

"The team is like a second family that I get to be a part of," Bengston said, "I also met so many new friends, that I may not have met outside of soccer."

As time has passed, the girls soccer team has progressed in more ways than one. From freshmen to seniors, not much has really changed other than their grade. Having fun is still something the team experiences on a daily basis.

"Plano soccer has helped me a lot and helped me grow as a teammate, player, friend, and person," TenBrink said.

NBA speaks about Jan. 6 riot

Outspoken players upset with Capitol raid...

By D'mariyon Lloyd

Around the NBA there was much to say about the tragic mishap America had on Jan. 6, when the government's Capitol Hill building was raided by Trump supporters and members of the neo-facist organization, the Proud Boys.

There was an outrage from many Trump supporters that were upset about the presidential election loss Donald Trump faced, but the riot could not come at a worse time as the U.S is already fighting inner turmoil in the battle with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Many BLM protests have been deemed destructive and violent, which is why many of these rallies have been shut down or met with force by police and national guard as they are seen as a threat or danger to society. Donald Trump's influence at the time made many angry about how he spoke down towards these protests, but emphatically sugar coated the seriousness of the Capitol Hill break in.

This scenario sparked more major influences to speak on the situation, that being some of the top stars in the NBA, as they used their platform to express their disappointment and disgust with the situation with their season being in full effect.

Although many of the points that circulated around the NBA about the riot are common, they all vary in their optimism of a better future. This optimism can be seen by legendary coach Doc Rivers saying "pretty disturbing" but implied "democracy will prevail" when speaking on how he felt about the riot.

"When you saw the BLM protests in the summer you saw the riots or more the police and national guard and the army," said Rivers. "And then you see this and you saw nothing."

This idea echoed through the league as the top players of the NBA spoke their truth, and presented their personal beliefs on the matter.

"If the roles were reversed, if those were African-Americans, Black people, it would be totally different," NBA all-star Russel Westbrook said, "It's very disheartening in a lot of ways a lackof sense of urgency to respond to what was going on versus



Capitol Hill rioters, photo courtesy of Julio Cortez

protestors at Black Lives Matter over the summer."

Many players also expressed their shock at the drastic actions that took place within the heart of the nation's government.

"The people who were invading our capitol, that's unheard of, and it's disheartening this is where we're at as a country" star player of the Washington Wizards Bradley Beal said.

Others players, like Kawhi Leonard, a player for the LA Clippers, see this as a clear sign of unfair privilege in the nation.

"You see the privilege in America and it's sad to see 'cause if any of us was out there, I think it would've been tear gas, mace, probably gunshots," said Leonard.

This seemingly unfair advantage white people own in society is one of the major issues the BLM movement is fighting against.

"The policing system was built against balck people, black and brown peoples," said two time NBA champion Draymond Green.

Overall, the aftermath of this riot simmered out peacefully as Trump went on to make a speech about it, and many BLM organizations decided to leave the situation alone. However, the stars of the NBA went on to express their outrage of the situation, as many of the games started out both 24 second shot clocks taking a knee in action against the riot that happened.

The NBA has proven to be a big influence on this subject matter, as the organization and players have been in step with BLM ever since the summer when the movement began to take off.

D'mariyon's

Discussion

SuperBowl Predictions

The 2020-21 NFL season was an important question to be answered last fall as the world wondered if the season would go on or not, and long and behold there was an amazing season with spectacular moments and more history made.

Now that the season has reached into the second half, and entering the 2021 year playoff, action has started. This part of the season is the most anticipated, only the best teams are left. There are one game elimination stakes, all for the glory of bringing home the Lombardi Super Bowl trophy.

This year some of the top teams in the NFL, have already advanced with a win to the next round of the playoffs. Even some surprising underdog teams like the Los Angeles Rams, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Cleveland Browns have been advancing with wins.

However, only two of these teams will go on to face the two best ranked teams in the NFL (Green Bay Packers and the Kansas Chiefs.) They need to prove their skill to advance to the championship round and the Super Bowl.

With the matchups already being set, there are Super Bowl odds for the teams based on their matchups in the playoffs. The divisional round only hosts the best of the best so all of the games will be great to watch but even some teams in this round just outmatch the others.

Concluding this round, the chances of the Buccaneers and Packers moving on to the NFC is more than certain, and in the AFC these odds are parallel for teams such as the Chiefs and Bills.

The four teams advancing should be the best in the NFL, and will battle it out to punch their ticket into the Super Bowl in a chance to win it all. In the aftermath of this round, the Chiefs are more likely to prevail over the Bills as they had a 37% chance to move on and win the Super Bowl over the Bills 10% chance.

This round will be even more electric in the NFC as the two top dog teams, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Green Bay Packers, will battle it out in a close game. With only one being able to advance, the Packers have the numbered odds as they have a 15.4% chance to move on and win over the Buccaneers.

As shown this year, the odds have been very close. The odds this week have especially shown to be a tricky deception as Green Bay Packers are favored over the Tampa Bay Bucs. The Packers have been on a roll starting later in the season and ultimately have a better chance to move on with the odds. However, this outcome may coming to a screeching halt with quarterback Tom Brady working his magic to win this game and send the Bucs to the Super Bowl.

It is a likely outcome that the Kansas City Chiefs and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will play for the chance to bring home the Lombardi trophy. It will have to be a valiant effort by the Buccaneers to defeat the defending Super Bowl champions, but when all is said and done, the Chiefs have good odds at this point to win the game and bring it all back home to Kansas City with their MVP quarterback Patrick Mahomes' third year in the league.