

A LETTER TO MY SENIOR SEASON

Seniors write a 'letter to COVID-19' about the hardships of their final seasons

written by Bella Terhark and photos courtesy of Riley Baker, Jonathan Heese

RILEY BAKER '21

"If I could say anything to COVID-19, I would just say 'screw you.' I know that's a little harsh, but COVID-19 has negatively affected so many people around the world. When it comes to COVID-19, I feel like complaining about not having a season seems pretty lame compared to the people who have lost multiple family members and are struggling to pay for bills and groceries because they were out of work for so long during the quarantine/lockdown period last year. So while I'll be very disappointed if we don't get a season this year, especially since we didn't get one last year either, I

best of my ability. When I heard about my junior season being canceled, it was the day that we were supposed to play our first game of the season against Legacy High School. I had my uniform on and was about to walk out the door when Coach Nicole texted all of us and said the season was canceled. It was really sad and super sudden. We had prepared for the season for so long and then it was just canceled. When I heard about the delay of this coming season however, I wasn't shocked at all. I'm just happy that the people in charge are trying their best to give us a semi-regular season. COVID-19

has affected my senior season in more ways than one, from forcing me to miss out experiences with the team, to putting a halt in my development as a player. I value soccer more than most things in my life and it has been really

difficult not knowing whether or not we're going to have a season. As of right now, our first game is scheduled for the beginning of may, but with the consistent outbreaks of COVID-19, and all the rules in place to keep us safe, anything could change at any point. It's been really difficult to keep my hopes up with regards to having a season, but I know

that there's nothing I can do to influence CHSAA's decision on whether or not to let us play, so I'm just doing everything I can to be prepared."



FINAL SEASON: In a game before COVID-19, Baker looks down field for a teammate. Baker's senior season begins in April and ends in June. "COVID-19 has affected my senior season in more ways than one, from forcing me to miss out experiences with the team, to putting a halt in my development as a player," Baker said.

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think more of everyone's focus should go to helping keep people safe and supporting our communities. Since we didn't even get a season last year, I wouldn't have done anything differently. However, if we did get to have a season, I don't think I would've done anything differently. I feel like I live in the moment and I always perform to the

NOLAN MOORHEAD '21

"I don't think I would say very nice things to COVID-19. It's very upsetting and really makes you appreciate what you have when you have it. I don't know what I would say exactly, but it's very upsetting how it has made our senior year and senior season a lot more stressful. COVID-19 has made our new season very interesting. We are starting late and have a lot more games in a very limited amount of time. Having lots of games in a limited amount of time will be very challenging on all of our bodies and will be very exhausting. We also have no spectators as of right now and are hoping we can have some by the end of the season. Not having spectators is going to be very challenging because of how much they can change the game and give us energy out of the stands. I think I did everything I could last year no matter how it ended. I believe I made the best of it. When I first heard it kept getting pushed back,

I was very upset because I was very doubtful about it happening at all. It was a deep feeling of uncertainty.

That feeling of uncertainty was just not knowing if we would have the opportunity to play. We never really knew if we would have a senior season and that feeling left all the seniors stressed and worried."

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ANMARIE HOLLINGSHEAD '21

"If I could say anything to COVID-19, I think it would be thank you for making my senior year extra special but also that I hope I never hear your name again after this. COVID-19 has brought down a lot of things that I was excited for this season like senior night, the DC game, and honestly just being able to have fans for my last season of basketball because I feel like everything I've worked for the past three years of basketball is for nothing now. It changed a lot with preseason things too because we just haven't been able to do as much as we usually do so just not having as much fun and excitement in preparation for the season. When I heard about how this season was going to look, it obviously brought me down but not as much as you may expect because now that I've started my senior year this way. I've kind of just had the expectation that this is how things were going to look this year so I didn't want to get my hopes up for anything. With that said, when I step back and think about the way this season is going to

look, it makes me sad to think about every time. Having the end of last year get cut short too, I think if I would've done anything differently it would've been to live every moment like it was my last and to take advantage of everything I have because it could be gone in the blink of an eye."

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JONATHAN HEESE '21

"COVID-19 actually completely took away our junior season. Last year, when COVID-19 sparked up, was when we were just about to start playing our first few games. So our last normal season was sophomore year, which feels like forever ago. And if I would've known my sophomore year would've been my last normal season of baseball, I would've enjoyed it and messed around a lot more, definitely not taken it as seriously. We have yet to hear any news about our season, whether we will be playing or not. But if we can't play that will be a huge bummer. I love the group of guys I've been thrown into after joining the baseball team. We can hang out off the field, not having one more season with them would

be sad. Honestly, I think I'd be more mad at the fact COVID-19 took away our privileges to be in school, because online school is such a pain. COVID-19 has yet to impact our senior season, besides delaying it. Hopefully that's all COVID-19 will be doing to us. I do believe we will get out on the field, especially if football did."

"If I would've known my sophomore year would've been my last normal season of baseball, I would've ENJOYED IT and messed around a lot more."



HIGH HOPES: Jonathan Heese looks on the bright side of the potentiality of his senior season. "Hopefully that's all COVID-19 will be doing to us. I do believe we will get out on the field, especially if football did," Heese said.