

KANSAS CITY SPORTS MONITOR

There are large market baseball teams that are not happy that teams like your Royals might have an unfair financial advantage in 2021. You heard that right. Teams like the Yankees, Dodgers, and Cubs feel that it's not fair that the Royals might have an unfair advantage next season. It's a baseball Tuesday...

YESTERDAY

No local games

TODAY

No local games

Do the Royals have an unfair financial advantage?

Major League Baseball executives in some states like New York, Illinois, and California are complaining that franchises in states that are more open to fans attending games like Missouri and Texas will have an unfair revenue advantage next season if lockdowns are still in place across the country. You read that right. There are large market teams that are complaining that the Royals might have an unfair financial advantage.

Now, keep this in mind. The large market teams clearly have always had an advantage because of the markets they are in. And when small-market teams were able to compete in the draft by paying above slot values, the league changed the rules to limit the spending in the draft. They won't say this is the reason for the draft changes, but it certainly feels like that when you are a fan of a small-market club.

The Royals took advantage of paying over slot value in the draft to get the organization to back-to-back World Series appearances and a championship in 2015.

Major League Baseball had a slotting system before rule changes in recent years. Under the old rules, MLB set a signing value on each draft position. It was a recommendation to teams as to how much to pay players they draft. Teams that paid above slot value were allowed to do so, but they were slapped on the wrist by the league.

The slotting system's idea was to prevent teams from spending large amounts of money on unproven players. The problem was that top players would drop in the draft because of "signability" concerns. The Royals took advantage of this and signed players to above-slot values. You see, the Royals were paying more than MLB recommended, but really nothing in the grand scheme of things when it comes to team expenses.

Since teams were not adhering to the slot values, MLB changed the rules to assign strict limits to each draft position. Those values are totaled for the first ten rounds, giving each club a limit that they can spend for players in those rounds. They can go over slot for anyone pick but cannot exceed their draft pool total.

This change caused teams like the Royals to go the opposite route. They started taking players higher than they would normally go. For example, the Royals selected Hunter Dozier #8 overall in 2013 when Dozier was considered a low first-round pick at best. They used the money saved on that slot to pay players taken lower in the draft, like Sean Manaea in a compensation round. Manaea was projected to be drafted at the top of the first round before injuries hit him. This was a risky strategy since there wouldn't always be a player to do that with.

So, when you hear about large market teams worrying about small-market clubs having financial advantages, go ahead and laugh at the sound of that. Then think of the time when small-market teams could compete financially with the big boys in the draft and how that was immediately shut down.

Chiefs

The Chiefs lead the NFL in point differential, and it's not even close. They are the only team with a point differential over 85, and the Chiefs are at 103.

Royals

The Royals are rumored to have expressed interest in free-agent starting pitcher Matt Shoemaker. The club is supposedly looking for short-term help in the rotation. Shoemaker was with the Los Angeles Angels last season. He has not started more than seven games since 2017.

Sporting

Sporting will play San Jose in the first round of the MLS playoffs on November 22 at 3:00 pm.

Local News

The Big 12 - Big East Battle matchups were released on Monday. Kansas hosts Creighton on December 8. Kansas State goes to Butler on December 11.

National News

The Associated Press released its preseason basketball poll on Monday. Kansas came in at number six. The top five teams were Gonzaga, Baylor, Villanova, Virginia, and Iowa.

We learned more details about the proposed NFL contingency plans if the league cannot play a complete schedule. There will be eight teams, as initially reported. However, once the playoff teams are selected, the seeding will be done without considering whether or not a team won their division. All division-winning teams will make the playoff, plus the teams with the four best records which did not win their division. So, a team that did not win its division could host a game against a division winner. Strange days indeed...

Former Houston Astros president of baseball operations Jeff Luhnow is suing the club for breach of contract. Luhnow was fired as part of the house cleaning fallout of the Astros cheating scandal. His firing reportedly cost him more than \$22 million on a contract that ran through 2023.

Chicago White Sox manager Tony La Russa was reportedly arrested on suspicion of DUI in February and charged with DUI the day before the club hired him. La Russa pleaded guilty to misdemeanor DUI during Spring Training in 2007 when he fell asleep at a stoplight. The White Sox said that they were aware of the recent arrest before hiring La Russa.

Today's Read

'Almost everyone is using something': Getting a grip on how MLB pitchers are cheating ([The Athletic](#))

Today's Tweet



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