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Target Audience:

- Demographics: males and females ages 15+, lower to middle class income
- Psychographics: interested in sports, particularly baseball, but not necessarily Dodgers fans, family and faith centered, generally optimistic
- Motivating self-interests: entertainment

Target Outlet:

- Sports Illustrated

Content:

LA Dodgers win the 2020 World Series—no asterisks about it

Jenna Vasquez | Opinion Contributor

The year 2020 is a winning year. Yes, I said it. Now, I make no attempt to discount or downplay the countless tragedies that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our world, but I do think that when there's a glimmer of success or happiness, we should embrace it.

For many, sporting events have brought just such a glimmer—and victories deserve to be celebrated, pandemic or not. That's why I'm here to tell you that the Los Angeles Dodgers deserve their title of 2020 World Series Champions, without any asterisks or disclaimers to go along with it.

Some might say...

Opponents to this view might claim that a shortened, 60-game season doesn't require the same amount of effort or work as would a normal baseball season. The players don't have the same grueling 162-game schedule to power through, so why should the reward at the end be the same, they ask. Plus, according to Dayn Perry and Mike Axisa, both with CBS Sports, some teams such as the Cardinals had their seasons shortened even more due to complications with the pandemic or faced financial hardships due to loss in ticket sales, which made it so that players received only a percentage of their regular salaries and lost motivation to compete at a high level. How, they think, does this merit crowning a World Champion in such bizarre conditions?

But the fact of the matter is this: the season, its terms, its complications, and its consequences, were all agreed upon before one game of baseball was ever played in 2020. The pandemic was upon us, the world was in commotion, and the teams knew what was at stake. But they chose to play anyway.

Every coach, player, and administrator entered the season wanting to win and willing to accept the consequences and terms of the game. The fact that the Dodgers (often a polarizing team, you either love 'em or hate 'em) were the ones to pull out the win is simply that—a fact.

Why asterisks exist

According to Gabe Lacques from USA Today, historically, asterisks have been used to mark World Series wins with other complications, shortened seasons, or scandals involved—as a way to remind everyone that something wasn't quite “right” about the win.

However, a quick trip down memory lane will remind you that the Houston Astros, who won the 2017 World Series (defeating the Dodgers!) and were later discovered to have cheated their way to victory, *still hold the 2017 World Series title* and have no asterisk to show for it. Nothing was “right” about the Astros win. Thus, why would we punish an honest team like the Dodgers with an asterisk, when an actual scandal remains un-asterisked, so to speak?

We're all in the same boat

On top of the lack of scandal involved this season, we can also consider the fact that every team was on an equal playing field. All players were constantly being tested for COVID, an outbreak could have hit any team at any time, and the shortened season was experienced by all.

Plus let's face it, the normal 162-game season is a bit of a grind. We all prefer the postseason to the normal season, because the stakes are higher, and the wins are bigger. Jay Busbee from Yahoo! Sports argues that if anything, the shortened season due to a pandemic got us to the exciting part even quicker, and there's no need to deprive the Dodgers of their fully earned postseason win, just because the regular season didn't last as long.

Take wins, cut losses

To be sure, this past baseball season that culminated with a World Series win by the Dodgers on October 27 was unprecedented, but what isn't these days? There's no reason to strip away the effort and hard work of a job well done, just because world circumstances are different this year than they have ever been before. A lesser number of games has no effect on the caliber of play—that part is up to the players, and the top teams brought it this year, arguably more than ever before.

We're all grateful a season of baseball was even able to happen, and if it were your team that walked away with the title, you wouldn't want the asterisk either. Let the Dodgers have their win and cross your fingers we get this pandemic under control soon enough, so that next year we can crown the next victor with a full crowd cheering them on.

About the author

Jenna Vasquez is studying public relations with minors in business and French. She is from Spokane, Washington, and she hopes to build a career in the social impact sector. She is currently the director of communications for Ballard Brief—a social issues publishing startup

based out of Brigham Young University's Ballard Center for Social Impact. She is also a big Dodgers fan (so yes, biased) and plans to name her next dog after Mookie Betts.