**COVID-19**

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I remember it like it was yesterday, a cold and rainy week in Reidsville, Nc. A crowded Ap literature classroom, at Rockingham County High school. The school was silent, everyone was on edge wondering what was going to happen on that cold Friday in March. Four days prior to the start of the worst school year in history, and the unlucky week, which would also be the last time I stepped foot into the high school as a student.

             Monday, at aproximently 12 pm, a bomb threat surrounded the school for an hour, until police finally calmed everyone down. Wednesday came along, and again, at aproximetely 12 pm, a shooter was on campus with a hit list. This one lasted a little bit longer, but still eventually calmed down. Two days later, everyone walked in anxiously wondering if something else crazy was going to happen, well needless to say, it did. The principal announced over the intercom, “school will be closing this afternoon, and will remain closed until further notice for the cause of COVID- 19.” My heart sank just like everyone else’s, because I knew I was not going to have the normal high school ending. Graduation was not easy, my school unfortunately was super unorganized, so we had the worst graduation in the county, (personal opinion of course.) Many like me, have very mixed emotions of COVID-19. As this deadly virus started out as a viral meme on social media, no one actually knew the cause and the effect of this flu- like virus.

            Though 2020 has historically been the worst year yet, I also had such great experiences that I would not trade anything for. I am and have been a competitive golfer since the age of seven, so naturally every summer would consist of traveling every weekend to a new location for a tournament. Now, golf is not a contact sport at all, and could be considered the safest sport out there, but tournaments were still not being held. Thus meaning, I got the privilege of staying home all three months in the summer. This was a blessing in disguise, as I would meet some of the best friends I’ve ever had in my life. The memories I made with them consisted of; beaching, golfing (of course), sharing as well as learning the gospel, lake days, and so much more.

            Summer of 2020 was possibly the weirdest, but most fun summer for me, so naturally the leave for college was not going to be easy. As a competitive golfer all my life, I got the amazing opportunity to play division one golf, here at East Carolina University. As my friends say to me all the time, “that is amazing” or “you are so lucky,” maybe I am, but during a pandemic, not so much. Don’t get me wrong, the privileges of being an athlete on this level is something I cannot even begin to fathom how thankful I am, but nothing in college is fun right now. This is easily the hardest time to be a freshman in college, as well as a senior in either high school, or college. Many have mentioned all of my life growing up, “these are the BEST four years of your life, enjoy it while you can!” Yes, but why does this worldwide pandemic have to happen right now.

Currently, 3/7 of my teammates are here on campus right now, and one of those three is me. This makes practicing super hard and not as fun as it would normally be. Across the country, so many non- revenue sports are having their seasons cancelled, or their entire program being cut altogether. Thankfully, our program won’t be cut, but the season is cancelled. My freshman college experience will not even amount to what it is supposed to be, but I am trying to see the good out of the situation. From my religious standpoint, the rough seas cannot even compare to what God has planned in the future.

“WEAR YOUR MASK,” is often shouted every day, no matter where one is at. Wear a mask from your door to your car, or in the restaurant just to get seated and take it off, regardless it is said multiple times a day. Personally, I am overly tired of hearing that, it is like a broken record. Though, it sucks for everything to be super abnormal right now, everyone is dealing with the same thing. As far as this whole life thing goes, I am going to continue to push through the COVID-19 pandemic and be a part of the craziest story in history.