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How Covid-19 Affected my Life

My name is Samuel Nooyen and the virus, covid-19, affected my life in many ways. The above picture is an image of my longtime baseball coach and myself. Maybe you are thinking it was just an end of the season picture but in actuality this was a picture taken before a season that would never happen.

Covid-19 began affecting my life around the middle of March in 2020 when my high school announced students would be staying home and completing school online until spring break where students would then return. Many students, myself included, just thought this was going to be a nice extended break and everything would be back to normal after spring break, but we were dead wrong. I remember it very clearly the day school was pushed back even further, and I knew it was just a matter of time before I received a text from my baseball coach.

It was my senior year of high school and baseball was my best sport and also my favorite sport. I was an all-conference player my junior season and was looking to take another step my senior season, and we also had plenty of other talent on our team, and we were set to have one of our better



seasons in years. Prior to the baseball season begins our team is able to get practice in in the forms of open gyms, and we had been doing these open gyms since the beginning of November and as the season neared everyone was getting excited. As the season neared though there was more and more uncertainty to whether or not would be able to have a season. Eventually all of our worst fears became true when the school established we would not be returning to school in person and would be completing the year virtually. This also meant that all spring sports would be cancelled. My friends and I were devastated as baseball was our favorite sport and we would not be able to have our senior season, and we were probably never going to be able to play all together again.

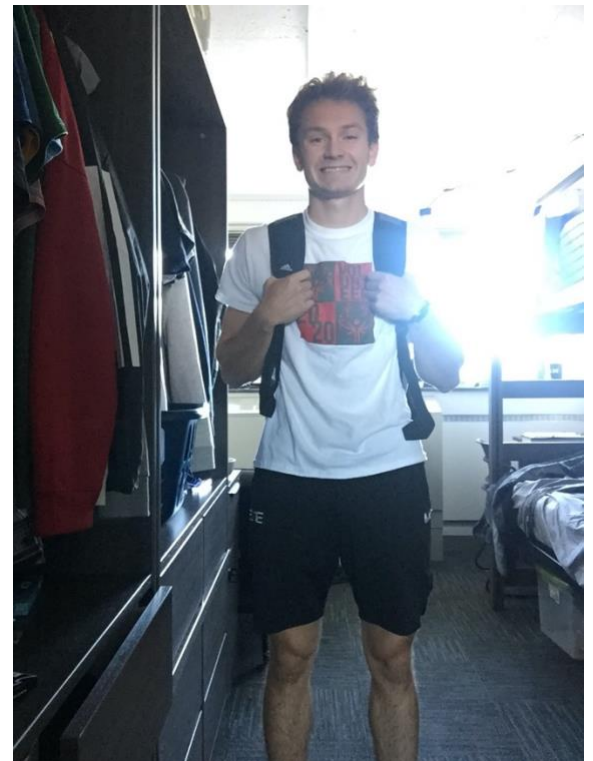
After the baseball season was officially canceled and school was moved entirely online the next thing that was up in the air was graduation. My school didn't even try to sugar coat it; it was announced right away that graduation would be moved online. An online graduation was obviously a very unappealing thing considering walking across that stage and receiving a



diploma is a monumental experience as it signifies the completion of a successful first 18 years of your life. That walk though would not be something happening for the Ashwaubenon Jaguars class of 2020, and for many other students in the class of 2020 all around the world. I ended up graduating by watching the commencement video on a tv while sitting on the couch in my living room.

After graduation I was onto the next step in my life which was college. I was to be attending UW-Eau Claire in the fall. My first semester on a college campus has been anything but usual. At the beginning of the semester, I started with having five in-person classes a week, which was already a lot compared to my friends and others. This number slowly declined as the semester continued though. About halfway through the semester I was lucky to have two in-person classes a week, and by the end of the semester all classes were moved online.

Throughout the semester I also experienced many firsthand scares with covid-19. The first scare was just the second week of school when my floor was exposed to covid-



19 and our entire floor was placed on quarantine. My roommate left to go home, and I was locked in my room by myself for what ended up only being 6 days as we were let go early. The second scare I experienced was when a close friend of mine was in contact with covid-19 and my friend group was in contact with him, but luckily none of us contracted the virus. Finally, covid-19 finally struck my friend group as I tested positive as well as one of my other friends. As a result, all of my friends and I were placed in isolation for 10-14 days. In total I spent 17 days of my first semester at UW-Eau Claire in isolation/quarantine.

Now as I am writing this it is nearing Thanksgiving. When I return home, I will not be returning for the rest of the Fall semester. I hope to return for Spring break and hopefully experience a more normal semester on campus.

