

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



559 The Mike Tyson Rule Applies to COVID-19

It's one of the most famous quotes in sports history and it has definite application to the COVID-19 concerns we all have. I'm Jerry Roberts and that's coming next on The Extra Point.

From 1986 to 1990 Mike Tyson was the most feared boxer in the world. In his first 37 pro fights, he ended 33 by knockout or the referee stopping the bout. Eighteen of those were in the first round. Boxing analysts said he had no weaknesses.

Tyson's opponents would be asked what they could possibly do to avoid an early fate, and many said they had a plan. One day, Tyson heard a fighter make that statement and he replied with this: "Everybody has a plan until you get hit in the mouth."

This is exactly where we currently are with the virus, and all the talk about lifting restrictions to open up the economy. Countries the world over and all 50 states and territories want to get people back to work.

The key question is how to do it in such a way that all workers, their families, as well as customers receive optimum protection.

We want that. California wants that. Georgia wants it, too, as that state is taking the lead to lift lockdown restrictions. They have listed a number of procedures and guidelines to follow to hopefully keep coronavirus infections at a minimum. These moves have been criticized by many as being premature, particularly as the number of infections there is climbing.

There are some highly vocal people in Guam who want Gov. Leon Guerrero to open all businesses and government offices right now. Some of them claim she got it wrong from the start and the way they look at the numbers, COVID-19 is no worse than a seasonal flu. There are others who urge restraint, that making

a mistake now, an error in judgment, could lead to a second wave of the virus that costs more lives. People on both sides of this issue want clear answers on what the governor and her advisors are planning — and many want the ability to give input to those plans before they are finalized.

Now here's where the Mike Tyson rule applies. What's the plan if the plan doesn't deliver the anticipated results? What if Guam gets hit in the mouth with a surge of new infections that is considerably higher than projected, and the number of fatalities doubles or triples? What's the plan going to be then?

Next question: What are the numbers that would trigger the governor to reinstate the restrictions we're now under? Every responsible leader has to plan for just such an occurrence. You might have seen the abbreviation IFTTT. It stands for "If this, then that." We lay out as much detail as we can for a given situation and then work on how we will respond to however it plays out.

The best approach for Guam is to approach reopening carefully. Get a consistent flow of data from Georgia and other jurisdictions that are moving forward. Let's see what they get right and what they get wrong, so we can adjust our plan. We all should have the same goals — to minimize infections, to isolate them and use contact tracing to stem outbreaks, and to be able to avoid having to return to the restrictions we now have. Let's be cautious and get this right the first time.

That's The Extra Point. Stay home and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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