

## ***DC Fanguish***

Every season, no matter what the sport, each fan holds the same hope, a hope that by season's end, their beloved team will become the league's champion. It's the hope that your team will live up to the hyped offseason expectations. It's the hope that your home city will be able to live in glory and that for a year their team will be the reigning champions. Unfortunately, Washington, DC sports teams haven't felt this glory in a long time. We all still hold hope each season, but as every year passes by without success, the hope wanes a little more. DC Fanguish is the constant feeling of disappointment stemming from each and every major sports team that has "Washington" in front of their team's name.

I'm a DC sports fan; there is no question about that. I've been exposed to sports ever since I was a baby. Unlike my parents who can reminisce of the Redskins glory days during the 1970's and 80's, I've yet to experience a league championship appearance, let alone a championship win. The Redskins have made the playoffs only four times in the last 20 years. I saw the Wizards, DC's basketball team return to prominence and make the playoffs two years in a row. Quickly after that, the team's star and leader was arrested, and it's been downhill since then. DC Fanguish has shown when teams succeed and make it to the playoffs, only for them to crush the hopes of a fan. There have been more losing seasons by DC teams in my lifetime than there have been winning ones.

DC Fanguish, the letdown any team gives to fans when the team fails to succeed or live up to expectations, is the most frustrating type. The Washington Capitals are very guilty of this as well. It's

the case of when teams breeze through the regular season year after year, show that they are more than capable of bringing the trophy home, and end up choking in the playoffs. The Capitals have made the playoffs for six years straight since the 2007-2008 season. Not once in that span have they made it past the second round of the playoffs. It's similar to a parent or teacher who can see so much potential in a student, but the student's potential never comes to fruition through some unknown reason.

Another major example of DC Fanguish occurred just one year ago. The Washington Nationals had been mediocre and at times a horrible team since their inception in 2005. In 2008 and 2009, they were the laughing stock of baseball with the worst record in each of those years. Eventually the team rebuilt itself and became a winning team in 2012 and made the playoffs for the first time. There was a magic felt in the city, just like getting everything you wanted on Christmas. Baseball was more than just something to watch in DC; it was now a force to be reckoned with. This only led sports fans to much anguish when the Nationals lost the series in a heartbreaking game in the playoffs while leading in Game Five by six runs, but in the end lost the game and ultimately the series. With this comes the old saying, "There's always next season." However, after much hope in the offseason, "next season" ended up being just more DC Fanguish.

My hopes crushed, I am one of thousands and thousands of people who have experienced DC Fanguish. We all have a lot to hope for. We put a lot of time and energy into the support of our teams and receive no reward in the end. This may sound disheartening, but to me, it is the reason to be a sports fan. We will go through many highs and many lows. Eventually, though, we know our time will come.