Only twice in the past three decades has an NBA season been halted through lockouts in 1999 and 2011. Both of these incidents occurred in the beginning of the respective season. However, the 2019-2020 campaign was halted in the latter half of the season for four and a half months due to the 2019 Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (Reynolds, 2020). Therefore, this break in the season provides a unique case study as it is the only occurrence of a midseason hiatus before reconvening to complete the season in NBA history. The problem addressed by this study is how factors in team performance differed between the hiatus due to COVID-19. Teams typically vie for home court advantage through their efforts in the best of seven game playoff which affords the team with the better record an additional home game. Tauer et al. (2009) found playoff home teams experienced a favorable home court advantage. Home court advantage has shown to be a significant factor in the outcome of team performance as NBA home teams win 63% more often when playing in their home arena (Moskowitz & Wertheim, 2012). Cheng (2019) also added that NBA teams playing at home are worth 2.23 points scored, contributing to the support that playing at home is a significant advantage. However, home courts and the home court advantage effect were eliminated through the incorporation of the NBA Bubble. This is interesting with the conclusion of the 2019-2020 NBA season as every team was required to practice and play in the same facilities. Teams performing better in the 2019-2020 regular season were not rewarded with games at home. Thus, the following research questions are being explored:

R1) To what degree, has team performance been explained by the incorporation of a neutral site in the 2020 NBA Bubble?

R2) How have NBA team performance metrics before the hiatus due to COVID-19 compared to team performance after the hiatus?

R3) Does the degree to which team performance metrics explain winning percentage change before and after the hiatus?

Basketball—primarily in the NBA and college athletics—has been a focus in team performance evaluation and prediction. Halevy et al. (2012) suggested the NBA serves as an ideal area to explore clear, quantitative measures such as team performance to gauge the effects of a variety of constructs. In this study of team performance, the phenomenon of the NBA Bubble is the case of interest. When a phenomenon occurs in sport, case study research can be utilized to explore and to gain a deeper understanding of the selected situation (Andrew et al., 2011). After data is collected and analyzed by December 2020, findings derived from a multiple linear regression between team metrics before and after the NBA Bubble could provide NBA executives along with sport management scholars and professionals more information for how neutral sites and other variables explained winning percentage in this case study.