About a week and a half ago it seemed that spring was here. The snow was almost gone, the rink was closed and the Charles was once again flowing. However, in the typical Boston manner, now that the calendar says it really is spring, the ground is once again covered with several inches of snow.

Despite this, spring sports are starting up although many have once again been forced to move their practices indoors. They are mostly of the traditional variety, played on grassy and muddy fields under the open sky.

Winter sports are different. Most seem very contrived when thought of in the middle of the summer. They are an odd collection: outdoor sports played in large indoor arenas, sports played on carefully maintained patches of ice, and those performed on hills of snow.

Winter is a season of snow, slush, and the icy wind off the Charles. Twenty mile-per-hour blasts frequently swept across Briggs Field and the rink in accompaniment to near zero temperatures. There is a legend about a puck breaking when it was dropped to the ice during a hockey game. Anyone who played hockey this winter can well believe it.

Here are a few images from the winter season. They come from indoor and outdoor sports, the successful and the unsuccessful.