

NEGOTIATIONS IN VAIN MONDAY

Baseball strike appearing more likely

by Associated Press

The possibility of a strike by major league baseball players looms larger today after yet another fruitless bargaining session and commissioner Peter Ueberroth is indicating he'll take a more active role in the talks.

Ueberroth, who has said he is impartial, met during the weekend with members of the Boston Red Sox and he's also spoken to representatives of the Chicago White Sox. But, somewhat surprisingly, the commissioner has come out against the idea of a team salary cap — one of the pillars of the owners' negotiating stand.

"He talked to us about his role in the negotiations," Boston player representative Rick Miller said. "He said he isn't partial one way or another."

"(But) he did say he was 100 per cent against the salary cap (plan) and always has been."

The possibility of a strike is of particular significance in Toronto, where the Blue Jays are perched

in first place in the American League East, and in Montreal, where the Expos are just 2½ games back of the St. Louis Cardinals in the National League East.

The prospect of a season-ending labor dispute scuttling a World Series berth for either of the teams could be enough to send relatively placid Canadian fans through the roofs of their respective stadia.

The 29th bargaining encounter between representatives of the players and of the owners Monday was bogged down in an analysis of financial statements of individual teams and another meeting is set for Wednesday. Both sides were to hold news conferences today to review their positions.

The players meet Monday in Chicago to set a strike date, with the the middle of August the likely target.

Ueberroth, who appeared to remove himself from the fray initially, has stepped up his attempts to try and bring the two sides together, although he won't

discuss what role he is playing.

"My conversations with ballplayers are always private," he said.

Bob Fishel, executive vice-president of the AL and assistant to Lee MacPhail, head of the owners' player relations committee, said Ueberroth is trying to be helpful.

"He's trying to tell the players to find some common ground so this whole thing can be solved," Fishel said. "I'm told he's said both sides have made mistakes."

"But I must say I didn't know he was specifically against the salary cap proposal."

The proposal would limit the amount of team salaries, which averages about \$360,000 (U.S.) a player this season. Acquisitions of players whose salaries would put a club over the limit would be prohibited.

MacPhail has said the proposal is not etched in stone and has invited the players to suggest an alternative system.

"But we haven't heard anything better yet," Fishel said. "We have to limit the growth of salaries in some way and the players' association doesn't seem to believe us, or chooses not to."

Don Fehr, head of the players' union, says the owners have yet to make a specific proposal.

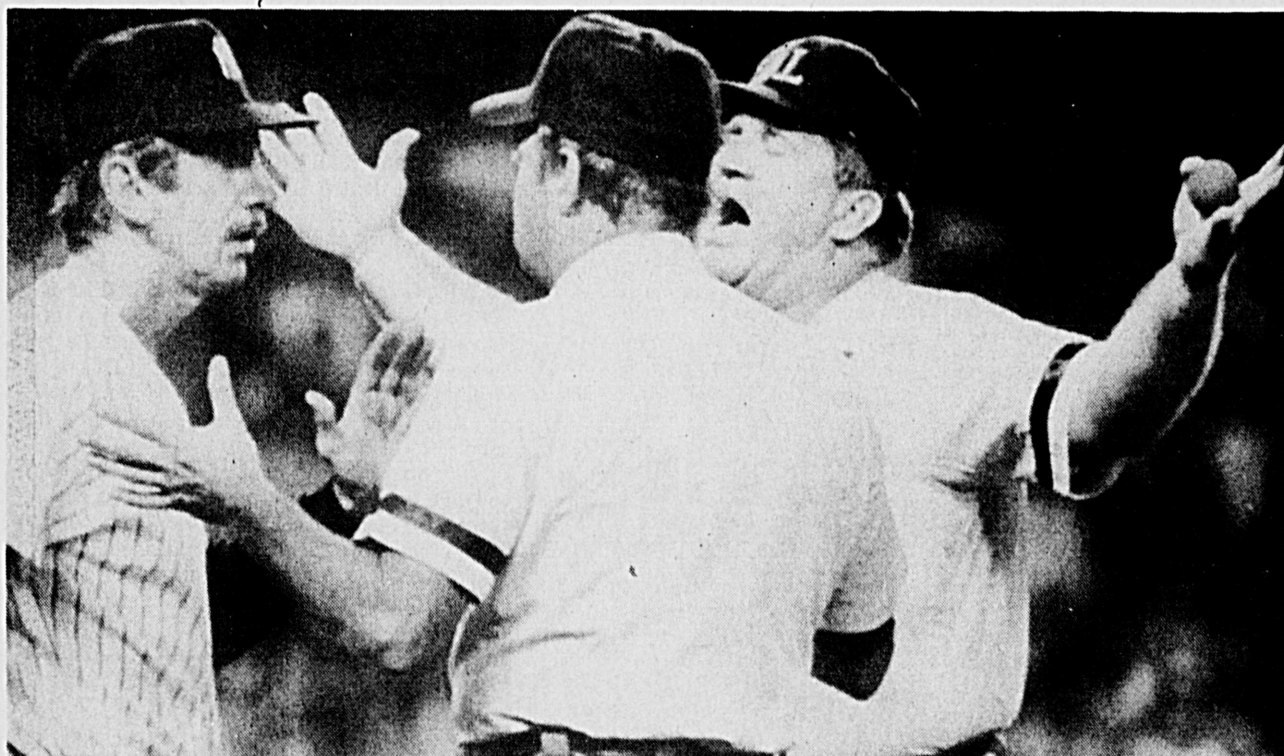
"If they say to us they want to spend \$10 less on salaries, then there are projections," he said. "Maybe I could agree to them in return for some other things."

"But that's not the kind of response we've been getting. They've been unwilling to tell us what they want at all."

Fishel says he's more pessimistic now than ever.

"If they threaten not to play the World Series, the incentive to find a quick solution would be gone. So, if we close up, you can be sure we'll close for a long, long time."

Baseball's collective bargaining agreement expired Dec. 31.



New York Yankees' manager Billy Martin (left) makes his case in vain after a single was taken away from Don Baylor. Umpire Durwood Merrill holds Exhibit A, a small rubber ball, at far right. The ball was

thrown from the stands at Kansas City third baseman George Brett and time was called a second before Baylor swung his bat.

JAYS WIN WITH STIEB

Evans' arm still works properly

by Associated Press

The average is a paltry .234 for Dwight Evans, a lifetime .269 hitter. Only four of his 240 career homers and 27 of his 801 runs-batted-in have come this season.

But Boston's right fielder is a seven-time Gold Glove winner and his rifle arm shows no sign of misfiring.

Officially, Steve Crawford was credited with the save in a 2-1 American League baseball victory Monday night over the Oakland A's. Unofficially, give it to Evans.

With Boston leading 2-0, Donnie Hill opened the bottom of the ninth with a single and scored on Carney Lansford's two-out double. Pinch-hitter Bruce Bochte singled to right and Lansford headed home with what he thought would be the tying run.

But catcher Rich Gedman had Evans' peg waiting.

"It was a strange feeling making the turn and seeing the catcher taking the throw," Lansford said. "I felt I could make it easy, but he had me by 20 feet."

"He really has a cannon out there, and an accurate one."

Evans called it an easy play, adding: "I'd rather throw a guy out at

home to win a game than hit a home run."

Evans didn't hit any homers but drove in Boston's first run with a fifth-inning groundout and had one of three singles that made it 2-0 in the ninth, with Wade Boggs getting the RBI.

Elsewhere, it was the Toronto Blue Jays 4 Seattle Mariners 0, California Angels 3 Milwaukee Brewers 2 in 11 innings, Chicago White Sox 9 Detroit Tigers 3, Kansas City Royals 5 New York Yankees 2, Minnesota Twins 7 Baltimore Orioles 4 in 10 innings, and Cleveland Indians 4 Texas Rangers 0.

Blue Jays 4 Mariners 0

Dave Stieb pitched seven shutout innings and Ernie Whitt broke up a scoreless game with a seventh-inning triple. Stieb, 9-5, walked one, struck out five and lowered his earned-run average to 1.84. Jim Acker pitched the last two innings for Toronto, allowing two hits. The victory increased Toronto's lead over second-place Detroit in the AL East to 3½ games.

Angels 3 Brewers 2

Doug DeCinces singled home Brian Downing with the winning run with one out in the bottom of the 11th. Rupert Jones, with his 15th, and Rob Wilfong homered for California. Cecil

Cooper and Ben Oglivie homered for Milwaukee.

White Sox 9 Tigers 3

Carlton Fisk hit a pair of home runs, including his fourth career grand slam, and tied Oakland's Dave Kingman and Atlanta's Dale Murphy for the major league home run lead with 21. Fisk upped his RBI total to 50, seven more than he had in 102 games last season.

Royals 5 Yankees 2

George Brett had three hits and two RBIs, while Lonnie Smith and Steve Balboni hit solo homers for Kansas City.

Twins 7 Orioles 4

Mark Salas singled home the lead run in the 10th inning with his third hit as Minnesota manager Ray Miller made a successful return to Baltimore, where he was the Orioles' pitching coach until late last month. Gary Gaetti had a two-run homer for Minnesota, which snapped a four-game losing streak.

Indians 4 Rangers 0

Neal Heaton snapped his six-game losing streak by pitching a six-hitter for his first shutout in more than a year. Carmen Castillo hit a solo home run.

Padres 8 Chicago Cubs 4. The San Diego-Chicago game followed the completion of a suspended game between the teams, which Chicago won 6-3.

Braves 7 Expos 1

Dale Murphy hit his 21st home run, a two-run shot in the first inning, as Atlanta snapped a five-game losing streak. Chris Chambliss and Ken Oberkfell followed the homer with consecutive singles and Glenn Hubbard hit a two-run double.

Mets 7 Reds 5

Keith Hernandez, Darryl Strawberry, George Foster and Howard Johnson all homered to give New York its seventh straight victory. Hernandez had four hits, including his two-run homer and an RBI single that broke a 4-4 tie in the seventh.

Dodgers 4 Pirates 3

Fernando Valenzuela, 9-8, gave up eight hits but only two after the third inning when Pittsburgh grabbed a 3-2 lead. Dave Anderson's two-run single in the fifth proved to be the winning hit.

Phillies 7 Astros 4

Glenn Wilson, a Houston native, drove in three runs with three singles, and Von Hayes, Ozzie Virgil and Rick Schu also had three hits each in a 20-hit Philadelphia barrage.

Padres 8 Cubs 4

Kevin McReynolds broke out of a 3-for-31 slump with a home run, triple and double as he drove in four runs for the San Diego, which had 14 hits. The game followed the completion of a suspended game, which the Cubs won 6-3. It was halted after six innings May 5 because of darkness with Chicago leading 4-3. Leon Durham hit a two-run homer in the eighth for the Cubs.

The Expos play Atlanta today at 4:30 on The Sports Network (cable 16).

Becker unaware of family death

LONDON (AP) — Boris Becker, who became the youngest Wimbledon men's singles champion Sunday, played through the two-week tennis tournament unaware his grandfather had died, British Press reports said Tuesday.

Becker's parents, who watched the final, kept the news secret from their 17-year-old son so it would not affect his game, reports said.

Becker's 78-year-old grandfather, also named Boris, was reported to have died of a heart attack 15 days ago in Becker's home town of Leimen, near Heidelberg, West Germany.

The reports quoted the teenager's uncle, Hans Becker, as saying: "Boris loved the old man very much."

"The two were very close. We held a family council and decided not to tell the boy until after Wimbledon. It would have upset him too much."

The uncle also was quoted as saying: "It's sad that his grandfa-

ther didn't live long enough to see his victory in England on TV."

Becker and his parents are vacationing in Monaco and his uncle could not be contacted Tuesday.

The reports said Becker looked "sad and dejected" when he left London bound for Monaco. He is due to return home later this week to a hero's welcome.

Meanwhile, Becker suffered an ankle injury in winning the men's singles championship at Wimbledon and might withdraw from a tournament next week in Washington, his father said in a report published today.

"We'll just have to wait and see," Karl-Heinz Becker told the Washington Post on Monday after being reached by telephone at a celebration at Becker's home town of Leimen, West Germany. "His ankle is very swollen — it's the same leg he had an operation on a year ago."

"It's up in the air whether he can play or whether the foot has to be treated."

COMMENTS COSTLY

Tennis umpire out

LONDON (AP) — Bob Jenkins, one of Britain's leading tennis umpires suspended from his duties during the Wimbledon championships,

was expelled Tuesday from the British Tennis Umpires' Association. Association secretary Janet Jones said Jenkins, who became the first official to umpire consecutive finals when he took charge of the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1981 and 1982, was expelled for breaking the umpires' code of

conduct.

He has 30 days to appeal the decision.

The 41-year-old Welshman was suspended from umpiring and line judging duties halfway through Wimbledon's first week for comments attributed to him in a national newspaper calling for stiff disciplinary penalties against top players.

He also was said to have cast aspersions on fellow umpires.

Wimbledon referee Alan Mills barred Jenkins from the rest of

the championships and his decision was subsequently confirmed by Wimbledon's management committee.

The expulsion by the umpires' association follows a further newspaper article last weekend in which Jenkins appeared to criticize fellow umpires, Mills and the Wimbledon championships themselves.

Two quick wins for Baldy Hughes

Baldy Hughes won its first two games Monday at the Canadian Armed Forces Pacific region softball championship in Kamloops.

Baldy Hughes beat Aldergrove 14-5 before edging the host team 6-5.

The victories virtually assure Baldy Hughes a berth in the final of the four-team round-robin. The top two teams advance to the final.

Baldy Hughes played Holberg of the Vancouver Island at 10 a.m. today in its final game of the round-robin.

Dave Mowat hit a home run and a pair of doubles in the first

Grant trails by one shot

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) — Teenager Jennifer Wyatt of Richmond grabbed the first-round lead with a one-under-par 71 Monday in the British Columbia women's amateur golf championship.

Former Prince George golfer Patty Grant of Mission was one shot behind with par 72.

She carded 37 on the front nine, the same as Wyatt, then matched Wyatt's 35 on the back nine.

Canada wins again

FARGO, N.D. (CP) — Byron Demoe of St. Catharines, Ont., gave up two hits and struck out nine Monday night as Canada defeated the United States 1-0 for its fourth consecutive win at the world junior softball championship.

In women's play, Canada had its first win in four games, defeating Japan 3-1.

A crowd of 3,000 watched Demoe notch his second shutout of the tournament. Saturday, he tossed a no-hitter and struck out 12 as Canada defeated defending champion Japan 2-0.

The Canadian men's team remains undefeated in preliminary round-robin play.

In women's play, Angela Sosnoski of Vancouver was the winning pitcher, giving up one run on three hits.

Final-round play begins Friday night.

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