

May 22 is regular season showdown

# Baseballers strike exhibition games

United Press International  
DALLAS — The Baseball Players Association voted Tuesday to strike the remainder of the exhibition season, but agreed to play the first six weeks of the regular campaign in hopes of settling a contract dispute with club owners.

An ultimate strike deadline was set for May 22.

Marvin Miller, director of the players union, said the players were showing "one last hope" that the owners would enter into meaningful negotiating sessions.

"To this point," said Miller, "they have not."

The 1980 season will thus begin on time next week, but in the following weeks — if no agreement is reached on a basic players contract — tension will again build toward a showdown between almost 1,000 major leaguers and the men who pay their salaries.

"If we don't have an agreement by May 22," said Larry Bowa of the Philadelphia Phillies, "we're gone. It won't make any difference if a guy is batting .040 or .840, he will strike."

"The players came to this meeting in an angry mood. But we want to think about the fans as much as they can. That's one reason we are going

to open the season on time." Although the players voted not to compete in the final week of the exhibition season, they said they would be willing to continue workouts at their respective training sites.

"I think it would be in the best interests of the owners to let us work out," said Minnesota's Mike Marshall. "If you owned a club you would want it to get off to the best start possible and you probably wouldn't do that if you had missed the final week of spring training."

The players decision was reached in a two-hour meeting which had opened with many of the major league clubs wanting to strike immediately.

"Now," said Texas Ranger pitcher Jon Matlack, "I have to go back to my ball club and do a selling job. There was occasional concern expressed that by delaying a strike until after the season started there might be a loss of solidarity."

"But everytime somebody said

something like that it was argued down. The feeling was that by doing it this way we would get a few paychecks in our pocket. I don't know if that will help solidarity, but it will keep players out of the bread lines."

Miller prefaced his announcement by reciting a brief history of the contract negotiations from a players standpoint. He said the negotiations had accomplished nothing toward a settlement.

The chief barrier toward a settlement concerns compensation of a major league club for the loss of a player to free agency. Teams currently are allowed to acquire a draft pick from the club that eventually signs one of its players lost through the free agent route.

"The owners called in a federal mediator (last week) and we met with him in Palm Springs," said Miller. "Usually when you call in a mediator you have new proposals you want to put on the table. But all they did was

waste our time. There were no new proposals at all. I have never seen anything like it my life."

When asked why he thought the owners would negotiate now when they have not been able to reach a settlement during the past year, Miller said:

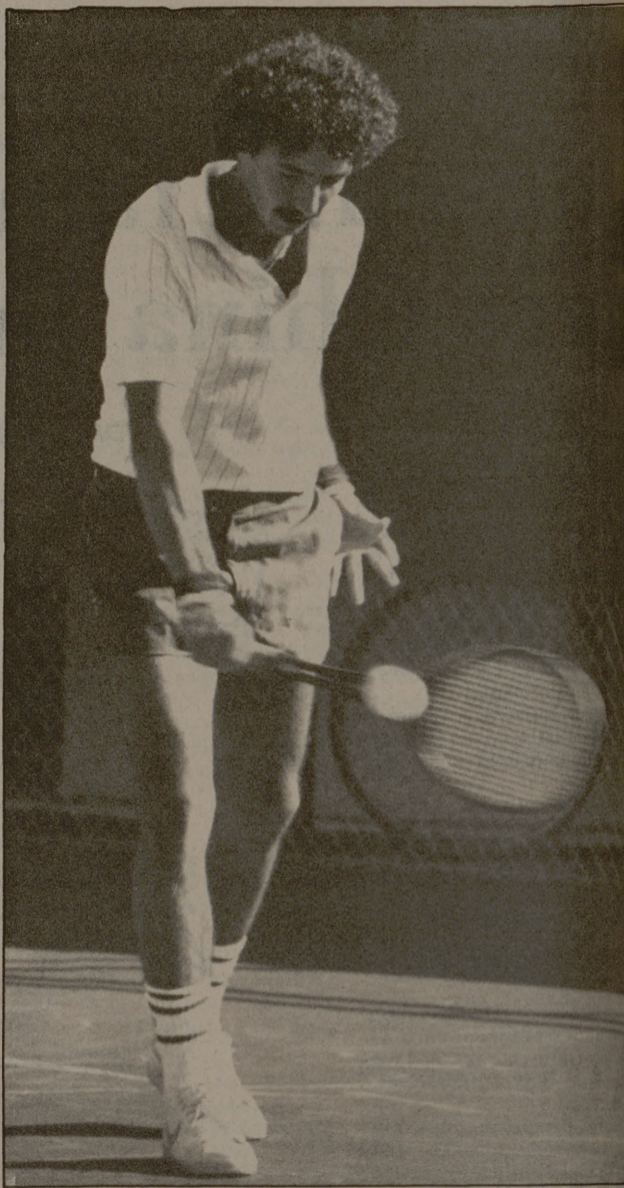
"I hope that some of the more sensible owners will play more of a role than they have to this point."

Miller insisted the decision to postpone a would-be strike until May was not a sign of weakness.

"The players want to demonstrate a show of good faith," said Miller. "But they have made it clear that if there is a continuation of the lack of effort on the part of the owners they will strike."

Before the meeting opened Miller said the owners had established a strike fund with which they had purchased insurance in case a large portion of the season is wiped out.

Miller said insurance had been taken out with Lloyds of London.



Alberto Jimenez, graduating senior on the Aggie tennis squad, burns a backhand down the line for a winner against Texas Tech. Jimenez a long with partner Max King (not pictured) compose one of the Ags major backbone double teams.

## Ags take tough tennis victory

By MIKE BURRICHTER  
Sports Editor

When Alberto Jimenez and Max King broke serve in the 11th game of the deciding set, the Texas Aggie tennis team had wrapped up one of its toughest wins this season.

The break allowed Jimenez to serve for the match and the two went on to beat Morris Smith and Mark Holland of Rice, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 in a thriller that clinched a 5-4 victory for the Aggies.

It was the sixth consecutive triumph for the Ags over the but three of the last four have won a score of 5-4.

"It had been close for the last years," Brian Joelson, the Aggie player said. "But I didn't think it would be that close. We should have won a lot of those matches, just weren't there."

Joelson, a freshman from Denton, went into the match with a singles record of 18-1 on the season. He was easily the best on the team at the time, however, the whiz was stopped. Jay Evert survived match points to hand Joelson a loss in over a month, 4-6, 6-2.

"I didn't take advantage of opponent's mistakes," Joelson said. "I didn't press him enough until I just let him slip away."

The Ags, now with a season record of 14-6 and a conference record of 23-22, will play North State at Denton Friday.

## Support growing for Moscow trip

United Press International  
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — President Carter's Olympic boycott proposal may no longer be a popular theme with the American public, according to the latest mail statistics from the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The USOC reported Monday 80 percent of the letters, telegrams and other communications it has received in recent weeks now favor sending an American team to the Summer Games in Moscow.

The question of whether the USOC will go along with Carter's proposal of a boycott will not be decided until the committee's House of Delegates meets later this month. However, a USOC official said support for sending an American team to Moscow has been growing since the close of the Winter Games at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Dennis Keegan, public relations director for the USOC, said prior to the American team's strong showing at Lake Placid, 60 percent of those who wrote to the USOC indicated they supported a boycott.

During the weekend, representatives from 20 of the 21 governing sports bodies met with White House officials and made it clear the American athletes are not interested in any alternative form of international competition.

"None of the options presented were greeted with very much enthusiasm," said F. Don Miller, USOC executive director. "It was quite clear that, in the minds of the people here, there is no viable substitute for the Olympic Games."

Carter recently rejected a proposal from the Athletes Advisory Council calling for the American team to compete in Moscow but boycott both the opening and closing ceremonies. The athletes also had said they would be willing to refuse to take part in any victory celebrations while in the Soviet Union.

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