

# Players indicate they'll stick together on free agent issue

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Major league club owners, who have relied on C. Raymond Grebey to state their case at the bargaining table throughout the worst labor crisis in baseball history, will stick with him in another arena today.

The owners, charged with unfair labor practices, will call Grebey, head of the owners' Player Relations Committee, as their only witness in a National Labor Relations hearing, which resumes at 9:30 a.m. EDT today. Attorneys for the players have presented five witnesses during the past two days and will call one more to open the session.

The players want the NLRB to rule the owners have bargained in bad faith by not opening financial records.

With the walkout entering its 27th day, prospects of any major movement by either the players or the owners remained dim.

After a four-hour meeting with Players Association Executive Director Marvin Miller Tuesday night, player representatives of the 26 teams indicated they were prepared to sit out the entire season rather than give in to the owners on the free-agent compensation issue.

If anything, the players seem to be getting more militant. Although Miller said some players were beginning to feel a financial pinch, he said there had been no dissenting votes over the way the Players Association was handling

negotiations and the representatives unanimously had rejected the owners' latest proposal, which calls for direct major league compensation from the club signing a ranking free agent.

"There are some younger players with financial problems," Miller said, "but they have sent the word, 'hold tight.'"

And Phil Niekro, player representative of the Atlanta Braves, added, "They (his teammates) have said if it takes sitting out the year, they'd sit it out. We're very united on the point of compensation."

Miller also said the players demanded that any settlement reached must stipulate that the time they have spent on strike be included in their time of service toward pensions.

Entering the NLRB hearing earlier, Grebey, was asked if any new owners' proposal would come out of a scheduled Thursday-night meeting. He replied: "Definitely not, because the owners have no right to do so. The PRC is the only one to do so."

Grebey insisted the meeting had no special importance other than to keep the owners informed.

Testimony from Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, whose public statements on baseball's financial plight led to player demands that owners open their books, highlighted Tuesday's hearing.

Kuhn testified he was speaking on his own when he said at the

annual baseball meeting in December 1980 several clubs had suffered millions of dollars in losses during the 1979 season.

The owners' negotiators never have claimed teams were suffering losses because of an unrestricted

free-agency system.

Three owners, Ruly Carpenter of the Philadelphia Phillies, Calvin Griffith of the Minnesota Twins and Jerry Reinsdorf of the Chicago White Sox also testified Tuesday.

## Pittsburgh draft choice signs with Montreal

United Press International  
MONTREAL — Continuing their raid on the National Football League, the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League Tuesday signed the Pittsburgh Steelers' top draft choice, defensive lineman Keith Gary of Oklahoma.

Gary brings the number of American stars added to the Alouettes' stable this season to five. Earlier they signed Gary's Oklahoma teammate David Overstreet, a Miami Dolphins first-round pick; former Los Angeles Rams quarterback Vince Ferragamo; former Houston Oilers wide receiver Billy (White Shoes) Johnson; and former Chicago Bears wide receiver James Scott.

"I guess I made the right choice because I'm happy I'm here," Gary said at a news conference Tuesday night after he had signed his contract with the Alouettes. "I'm glad to come to a team that appreciates my talents."

Bill Putnam, the Alouettes' executive vice president, said Gary had signed a one-year contract with an option year. He did not disclose terms of the contract, but both Gary and his agent said the two-year package was worth more than the Steelers had offered for

four years and an option year.

In an interview on a Pittsburgh radio show, agent Jerry Argovitz said the contract was guaranteed, and, when asked specifically if it would be fair to say the contract was worth in the neighborhood of a half-million dollars, Argovitz said "yes."

It was reported the Steelers had offered Gary a signing bonus of \$150,000 and a base salary of less than \$100,000.

Steelers president Dan Rooney said the team was "disappointed" but had no regrets about its side of the negotiations with Gary.

"We were never really close on the negotiations," Rooney said. "We carried on the negotiations in what we felt was a proper way. We never quit on the negotiations."

Gary, 6-foot-3 and 255 pounds, termed the Steelers' offer "very displeasing" but said he had not considered opting for the Alouettes until last week.

"The idea surfaced months ago, but only because if the negotiations with Pittsburgh weren't going to work out I had to have something to fall back on," Gary said. "The money situation here in two years is better than it was in Pittsburgh for five."

# Will baseball survive?

Inside — where it counts with "Gus" Gaston



The 1984 All-Star game has just started and Pete Rose has already broken Musial's record and gone home.

Following Rose's exit, though, you realize that the excitement of this game is all but over. But, there is still a chance something might happen. Since the future of baseball will be determined by this game, (whether or not people will respond favorably to the resumption of baseball) you sincerely hope something does.

The game goes several innings and nothing happens — absolutely nothing. Each inning has lasted an average of 1½ hours because of the sloppiness of play. Wild pitch after wild pitch starts to bore you and your mind starts wandering, again.

You begin to wonder what the world would be like without baseball. After this game you wonder what it would be like with baseball. You think back to the first year of the strike when thousands of fans turned to Japanese baseball for entertainment. But, you remember how quickly Japan closed its doors to foreign entertainment. Rumors had it that it was because the Japanese resented American hot dogs. You know better though. It was the American fan and the way he took Japan by storm.

Your mind begins to wander aimlessly back to the days when America was red, white and blue and baseball was the national pastime. You think of grandma, apple pie and Chevrolet. All of a sudden you get a tremendous feeling of national unity — something you haven't experienced since the days of the Iranian hostage crisis. But, looking back toward the diamond you return to reality. If this game fails, the entire game of baseball as you know it faces extinction.

By the looks of things baseball doesn't have much of a future.

It's now the bottom of the sixth and the American League is batting. The National League has already been through its entire bullpen and has yet to find a pitcher that will last more than a few pitches. It seems some of the players neglected to keep in shape.

Beginning to sense the boredom of the game again you think about how the players survived the three year strike. The big name players had no problems with the money they earned from light beer commercials, even though beer sales steadily dropped. But what about the "average" players?

You had heard some of them had sold their belongings and left for Europe to start an entirely new

league, the European League. A league without and supported entirely black market.

But, even the European didn't approve of the game made America famous. The league was disbanded after the third game.

A foul ball screams beyond your head and you return to the game — and reality — for long.

All of this thinking about strike begins to take its toll. Yawning, you begin to realize America has done rather without this game called baseball. Talk about national unity — more patriotic than ever — and sense that America's bright future — even without game you so stubbornly refused for years. Now, you begin like a fool.

The seventh inning strike you can barely keep your eyes open. Almost all of the crowd left and that makes you think perhaps you were not so wise after all.

As you head for the exit, you wonder what will happen to the players, managers, owners — what few fans still remain who live without baseball knows? Who cares?

# Champs to meet Sept. 1 in Las Vegas showdown

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Perhaps it is fitting Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns are staging their welterweight showdown in Las Vegas, Nev. After all, what other city on earth can better show off two such high rollers?

Leonard and Hearns made it official Tuesday at a midtown press conference — they will meet for the unofficial world welterweight championship at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on Sept. 16 in what probably will be the richest fight in boxing history.

To avoid problems with the rival WBC and the WBA and sanctioning fees which could run over \$500,000, the promoters have written the contract to read the fighters will meet in a 15-round welterweight fight, with no mention of title.

"The public will know the winner of this fight will be the true champion," said Emanuel Steward, Hearns' trainer. "It doesn't need to be written in the contract. Everyone will know it's a title fight."

Leonard, the World Boxing Council champion, is guaranteed \$8 million and could earn as much

as \$13 million with various percentage clauses. Hearns, the WBA champion, is guaranteed \$5 million and could make over \$10 million with his percentage guarantees.

Caesars Palace will construct a 25,000-seat arena on the hotel grounds for the bout, which is expected to gross about \$40 million and could go as high as \$52 million. The previous high is approximately \$30 million for the Larry Holmes-Muhammad Ali WBC heavyweight title fight last October, also at Caesars Palace.

The fight will be promoted by Main Event Productions, which is based in the New York-New Jersey area. It is headed by Shelly Finkel, who has been a key figure in major rock promotions, and Dan Duva, who heads a highly successful boxing operation in the northern New Jersey area.

For Hearns, the devastating puncher from Detroit, the Sept. 16 fight will end a long vigil.

"I'm happy the fight is going off," said Hearns. "I've been waiting a long time for this — two and a half years. I have a lot of respect for Ray as a fighter. He's definitely no pushover. He deserves respect."

Hearns then turned to Leonard: "Ray, you have been ducking me for a long time," he said, pointing a finger. "Your time has come."

On Sept. 16, you're going to see what you got coming to you. Leonard, one of the polished and popular boxers grace the ring in years, went out to back down from the "Man."

"I've also been waiting a long time, Tommy," said Leonard, native of Palmer Park, Md. "Timing was not right. The physical end and a business end. You're interested in the end but I'm interested in the business end. Now, on Sept. 16, going to get physical. I'm going to pop your head. People are eyewitnesses to who is the greatest welterweight in the world. You're in for a big son, Tommy."

Leonard won the WBC title Nov. 1979, stopping Willie Duran in a 15-round unanimous decision in June, 1980, avenged his only career stopping Duran in eight rounds last November.

Leonard, 30-1 with 21 knockouts, also won the WBA middleweight title on June 19, stopping Ayub Kalule in rounds.

Hearns, 32-0 with 30 knockouts, won the WBA version of the welterweight title by knocking out Pipino Cuevas in two rounds August.

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- God's power and God's wisdom as righteousness, sanctification and redemption to us (1:24, 30);
- our glory for our glorification (2:7; Rom. 8:30); hence, the Lord of glory (2:8);
- the depths (deep things) of God (2:10);
- the unique foundation of God's building (3:11);
- our Passover (5:7);
- the unleavened bread (5:8);
- the spiritual food, the spiritual drink, and the spiritual rock (10:3-4);
- the Head (11:3) and the Body (12:12);
- the firstfruit (15:20, 23);
- the second man (15:47);
- the last Adam and as such He became the life-giving Spirit (15:45).

This all-inclusive One, with the riches of at least nineteen items, God has given to us as our portion for our enjoyment. We should concentrate on Him, not on any persons, things and matters other than Him. We should focus on Him as our unique center appointed by God. It is into the fellowship of such a One that we have been called by God. This fellowship of Him becomes the fellowship of the apostles shared with the believers (Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3) in His body, the church, and should be the fellowship we enjoy.

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