

# Sports

## Strike talks resume today

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Baseball strike negotiators met late Wednesday with the board of directors of the owners' Players Relations Committee, but again failed to find a common ground for ending the 41-day-old standoff. Neither side would comment, abiding by the press blackout requested by Labor Secretary Raymond J. Donovan.

The 90-minute meeting took place at the Office of Personnel Management in Northwest Washington. Donovan, federal mediator Kenneth Moffett and negotiators for both sides attended the session.

The negotiators also met for five hours Wednesday morning, and were scheduled to meet again Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn is in Washington, but did

not attend any of Wednesday's sessions.

Wednesday marked only the second time there have been three consecutive days of negotiations. This week has been called crucial — with many saying the rest of the season will be canceled if agreement is not reached soon.

There was talk the negotiations probably would recess for the week if Wednesday's session produced no progress. The stumbling blocks are compensation for premier free agents and credit toward pensions for time lost during the strike.

Minnesota Twins' owner Calvin Griffith said he saw little progress. Asked about rumors a settlement is imminent, he said:

"From what I learn, it (the situation) does not lead me to believe that's true.

"We're not sitting on any of the talks. We're being updated by messenger and by telephone. It appears the minority of their (the

negotiators) time is not being spent together."

Marvin Miller, executive director of the Players Association, said Donovan had met with both sides Wednesday. Nearly one-fourth of the season has been lost to the strike, and efforts to salvage the rest of the season have been fruitless despite Donovan.

Accompanying Miller were players Bob Boone of Philadelphia, Phil Garner of Pittsburgh, Steve Rogers of Montreal and Doug DeCinces and Mark Belanger of Baltimore.

Ray Grebey, the owners' chief counsel, headed the management negotiators. With him were American League president Lee MacPhail and National League president Charles Feeney.

Five of six members of the owners' Player Relations Committee were in Washington, being kept advised of the negotiations but not taking part.

## No strike foreseen in Japanese baseball

United Press International  
TOKYO — Baseball crazy Japanese fans must consider themselves fortunate there is no such thing as free agency in Japan's biggest spectator sport — professional baseball.

While a deadlock between the club owners and players over free-agent compensation has deprived American fans of major league baseball since June 12, no such problems exist in Japan, where baseball also is a major source of summer entertainment.

A strike by the ball players in Japan's professional baseball enterprise, which started in 1934, is inconceivable under the present setup. The players do not belong to a union, although they have a representative in dealings with the presidents of their respective leagues, Central and Pacific, and with the baseball commissioner.

In the United States, any player may declare himself a free agent after spending six years in the major leagues and be free to negotiate for higher pay with any club.

There is no such provision in Japan's organized baseball. A professional ball player in Japan negotiates a yearly contract with his club — not any other team. If he is dissatisfied with the contract offered him, he can refer his case to a mediation committee or remain idle without compensation. And he can be traded to another club.

It is difficult even to imagine the advent of a free-agent system in Japan because there is no outstanding player who would be confident of being sought by other clubs with fantastic money such as Pete Rose and other top American stars.

Although there appears to be room for improvement in the treatment by the club owners of the players, there has been no organized movement by the players themselves toward such action.

The pay and retirement funds are far below standards in the American major leagues.

That is one reason there are three All-Star Games each year in

Japan, as opposed to the single gala affair in the States. The main objective of all three games is building up the retirement fund for the players.

If they ever decided to unite, players in the Japanese leagues, a number of whom are American, could draw power from their great fan appeal. Just how wild about baseball Japanese fans are can be seen by the fact a paid attendance of 47,000 attended a recent game between the Central League's front-running Yomiuri Giants and the last-place Taiyo Whales.

## Sports Festival to open tonight with ceremony

United Press International  
SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Symbolic of the season, the opening ceremonies for the Third National Sports Festival will be light and bright.

One day later, though, a long week of frenzied competition will begin with this country's top amateur athletes showcasing their abilities in 33 sports.

The National Sports Festival, which begins tonight with an Olympic-style opening ceremony, represents something new with the framework of a long-established format.

Basically, it is a national championship open to all athletes who are eligible to represent the United States in the Olympics or Pan-American Games.

In terms of quality athletes, the Festival is the largest sports event ever to be held in Syracuse, and the response has been outstanding. As far back a week ago the

advance sale already surpasses the previous record of 210,000 at Colorado Springs in 1979, and there is some expectation that the final total can reach 300,000.

The opening ceremonies will begin at 6 p.m. CDT at the 52,000-seat Carrier Dome, which was opened last fall, and are expected to last an hour and a half. The 3,300 athletes and coaches will enter the closed stadium in Olympic-style grandeur, grouped by region and wearing their respective colors, followed by the lighting of the Festival Flame.

The torch, which will have been run in two sections from Albany and Buffalo starting July 18, will be carried the last leg by two athletes.

There will be music, principally provided by the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, playing in tandem with a modernistic laser show which will be played off the roof of the dome.

Speechmaking will be limited — or so goes the promise. New York Gov. Hugh Carey is scheduled to open the Games and William E. Simon, the former secretary of the treasury and now president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, will address the athletes.

No travel problems are anticipated. Events will be held at 22 sites, each of which can handle cars, and the competitions will be spread out over the community at different times.

For the purpose of competition, the country is divided into four teams — East, South, Midwest and West.

A slate of 24 sports will begin competition at 6 a.m. CDT Friday, and the Festival will conclude July 29 with finals in basketball, ice hockey, judo, indoor speedskating and volleyball. The highlight events Friday are basketball, figure skating and swimming.



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