

Sports

Players, owners resume talks today

United Press International
NEW YORK — Negotiators in the 49-day old baseball strike, fresh from caucus and needing a quick settlement to salvage the season, are scheduled today to revive the talks that collapsed a week ago in Washington.

Marvin Miller, executive director of the Players Association, briefed some 70 players of the progress of the talks at a Los Angeles meeting and later said he would offer no new proposals in the session called by federal mediator Kenneth Moffett for 2 p.m. EDT in New York.

The owners, who held two meetings, said they plan to seek a settlement vigorously but stressed they would need the cooperation of the players.

"It was a matter of everybody stating what they felt," said Lee MacPhail, president of the American League and a member of the owners' negotiating team. "We still have to reach an agreement with the other people, though, before the strike can end."

The strike has forced the cancellation of 79 games, or 28 percent of the season, and caused the indefinite postponement of the All-Star Game. Today originally was reserved as the rain date for the classic.

In the unlikely event a settlement is reached soon, the players would need a reconditioning period of about two weeks before resuming regular play. At that rate, the "stretch drive" would consist of about six weeks.

Steve Garvey of Los Angeles said he thought it would not be "fair to the fans" to finish the 1981 season "if something doesn't happen within a period that would allow us to get in 10 to 12 days practice and 100 games."

Bobby Grich of California said he could be ready to play on one week's notice and said he thought it would be worthwhile to finish as little as two weeks of the season. "I think any part of the season we can salvage, it would be important to do that," Grich said.

Owners of each league met for about three hours at separate locations before convening for their joint session, where Player Relations Committee director Ray Grebey brought them up to date on negotiations.

"The member clubs asked questions," said Ed Fitzgerald of Milwaukee. "We gave the PRC all the helpful advice we could. The consensus was we want to bring the

strike to a conclusion and the only way that can be achieved is by collective bargaining. We instructed the PRC to resume that process at the earliest possible time."

Fitzgerald's pointed reference to collective bargaining appeared to rule out the possibility the owners would submit the issue to binding arbitration. Miller has said the union, in the interest of resuming the season, would go to arbitration.

As happened to the owners early this month, the Players Association has been plagued by voices of dissent. Miller, however, attributed most of the dissent to bad communication and said he has the support of the players.

"The players got a full report of all the developments in the negotiations," Miller said, "with particular emphasis on the last two weeks. I never had any doubt about the players' support."

Miller said he still plans to hold more regional meetings — the next one is scheduled for New York on Friday — to inform the players about the status of the negotiations.

Miller also acknowledged that many baseball fans are upset by the strike, but said the walkout should be compared to labor disputes by service workers.

"Fans are important," he explained, "but they are not more important than other consumers. We're all annoyed when we're inconvenienced, but that doesn't give us the right to dictate the terms of a contract."

The two big issues on the table are free-agent compensation and accredited time for players during the strike.

If the parties fail to reach an agreement this week, the dispute could prove more costly than merely ruining the season. Former Oakland A's owner Charlie Finley already has discussed the possibility of starting a new major league, and the players appear receptive.

An even wilder scenario has been raised by Dick Moss, former general counsel for the Players Association. Moss claims the owners may have defaulted on their contracts with their wording of the June 12 announcement of a strike, thus setting all 650 players free on a technicality.

In addition, the Reagan administration has discussed re-examining baseball's exemption from anti-trust status. And still pending are the results of the National Labor Relations Board hearings into alleged unfair labor practices by the owners.

Football walkout could be inevitable but lessons learned would help talks

United Press International
AKRON, Ohio — The New York Yankees are seeking \$4.5 million damages from Cessna Aircraft Co. and Flight Safety International, Inc., in the 1979 death of their All-Star catcher Thurman Munson.

The baseball club filed the negligence suit Wednesday in Summit County Common Pleas Court, about four weeks after a similar image claim was dismissed by a federal judge.

Munson, who lived in nearby Canton, died Aug. 2, 1979, when his two-engine Cessna jet crashed and burned at Akron-Canton Airport. He had been trained to fly the plane by Flight Safety.

The Yankees' suit said Cessna and Flight Safety were negligent in training Munson "and said negligence prevented Munson from making a safe landing, and caused the aircraft to crash."

The defendants also were negligent in permitting and encouraging Munson to fly the aircraft knowing he did not have the requisite training and instruction to operate the aircraft, the suit said.

The suit also alleged Cessna exerted high-pressure sales techniques and tactics to induce the

purchase of the aircraft by Munson even though the firm knew the Yankee captain was a "pilot of very limited experience."

The jet was a "highly sophisticated" plane that was not suitable for use by a novice pilot such as Munson, the baseball club alleged.

The Yankees argued they should receive \$4.5 million in damages because that would have been the market value of Munson's contract had the club decided to trade him.

U.S. District Court Judge Leroy J. Contie Jr., in dismissing the Yankees' federal court suit July 2, said the club was not entitled to compensation for the loss of Munson's services.

Still pending is a \$42 million suit filed against Cessna and Flight Safety by Munson's widow, Diana, and the couple's three children.

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