

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Team could fold or move

Capitals' owner gives plans

United Press International
LANDOVER, Md. — Often amusing but seldom successful, the Washington Capitals may exist next season only if their amusement isn't taxed.

Owner Abe Pollin said Tuesday the club will either fold, or move, if four conditions, including a waiver of a county amusement tax, are not met within 30 days.

Reducing the arena rent presents little problem since Pollin owns Capital Centre that also houses his NBA Washington Bullets. The rent amortizes arena construction bonds and the Equitable Life Assurance Society, the bondholder, must approve the reduction.

"O'Malley has talked with the council and nine members have indicated favorably," said the spokesman. He added that Hogan was considering the idea.

Irving, partners in Tycon Construction Consultants, a Northern Virginia land development company, along with Prince Georges County builder Robert Turner. They would be limited partners in the Capitals.

Hogan has been active in the "Save the Capitals" movement in recent weeks. He suggested several financial remedies to Pollin, including industrial revenue bonds, but the spokesman said the only response has been the tax-reduction proposal.

Under the plan, Pollin would be the general partner maintaining 50 percent ownership and remaining as president.

Peter F. O'Malley, the Capital's legal counsel and alternate governor, presented the tax-reduction plan to the Prince Georges County Council, according to a spokesman for County Executive Lawrence J. Hogan.

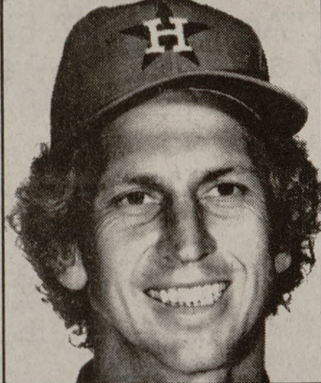
Pollin's new investors are Dick Patrick, Jim Lewis and Marty Hogan.

Patrick, a cousin of New York Rangers' General Manager Craig Patrick, is a partner with Lewis in a Northern Virginia law firm.

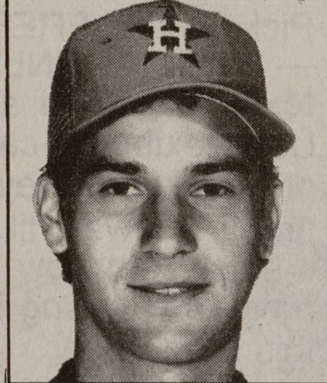
Heep's misplay enables Cubs to top Astros, 5-3

United Press International
CHICAGO — Bobby Molinaro says he thrives on pressure and is a much more effective pinch-hitter when there are runners on base and the game is on the line.

Molinaro lived up to his claim Tuesday afternoon, delivering a three-run, two-out, bases-loaded double in the eighth inning to rally the Chicago Cubs to a 5-3 victory over the Houston Astros.



Don Sutton



Danny Heep

The win was the Cubs' ninth against only two losses vs. Houston this season. Another pinch-hitter, Jerry Morales, popped the game-winning hit for the Cubs in the bottom of the 10th with two out in Monday's game.

Molinaro's double greeted reliever Randy Moffitt, who had come in after Don Sutton, 9-6, walked the bases loaded in the eighth. The hit went over the head of right fielder Danny Heep, who had taken a step in when the ball was first hit.

"I guess I just hit better with a runner on second at least," Molinaro said. "I think I'm something like five for 10 as a pinch-hitter with runners on base."

Moffitt fell behind Molinaro

2-0 when he threw a fastball that the left-handed hitting veteran pulled to right field.

"I saw Heep take a step in but I saw it start to rise," Molinaro explained. "With the wind blowing in like that, your initial reaction is to come in on the ball."

Heep said the ball took off on him.

"I anticipated it right but I found myself too far in," Heep explained. "I knew it was going to sink but the next thing I knew it

was 15 feet from me."

Sutton, who owns the only two victories the Astros have over the Cubs this season, had been touched for 10 hits but still owned a 3-2 lead entering the eighth. Walks to Keith Moreland, Jody Davis and Larry Bowa loaded the bases and forced Sutton to exit.

"He was just high all day," said Houston manager Bill Virdon. "He pitched excellent, no doubt about it."

If the conditions are not met, the club will either be sold and moved, merged with another NHL club and moved, or dissolved, Pollin said.

"The challenge is laid down to all segments of the community," said Pollin. "I came very close to washing my hands of the situation, but I'm not a quitter."

"I've lost \$20 million in cash. This is not a ransom note. I'm just trying to find a way to keep the team here. If all four of the conditions are not met by Aug. 19, there would not be time for other alternatives to be worked out."

The Capitals, who have never made the NHL playoffs, are 163-375-102 in eight seasons.

Pollin introduced four area businessmen whom he said are willing to invest in the Capitals if the conditions are met.

Evans reveals news of his son's tumor

United Press International
BOSTON — Boston Red Sox star outfielder Dwight Evans is coping with another family tragedy — his 5-year-old son is battling an inoperable tumor at the base of the brain, a newspaper reports.

Evans' son, Justin, is undergoing daily radiation treatments for the tumor at an area hospital, the Lynn Daily Item reported. His other son suffers from so-called "Elephant Man's Disease."

Justin's battle against the tumor was revealed publicly for the first time in an interview with Daily Item Executive Sports Editor Red Hoffman.

"Yes I guess you can write it,"

Evans said last week, fighting back tears. "You can write it is an inoperable tumor at the base of the brain."

The Item reported that every day for weeks, the 31-year-old star, who tied for the American League home-run lead last year, visits the hospital when he is not on the road with his wife, Suzie.

"The man upstairs never sends down more than you can handle," Evans said.

Further details about the illness were not revealed.

The couple's other son, Timothy Scott, 9, has undergone a series of operations for neurofibromatosis — an illness characterized by tumor growth often known as "Elephant Man's Disease."

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