

Cards being overlooked as World Series champs

by Milton Richman
UPI Sports Editor

NEW YORK — At the very top, let's get one thing straight. The St. Louis Cardinals are the world champions and certainly deserve to be.

They played by the rules, they won the World Series as prescribed, in seven games, and nobody is trying to take their victory away from them. Nobody could, anyway.

But in losing the World Series, the Milwaukee Brewers seemed to capture the fancy of people and swing them over to their side more than the Cardinals did in winning.

The Series has been over almost a week now, but everywhere I go, everybody still talks about the Brewers, not the Cardinals.

"What a shame they lost," and "I was pulling for them so hard." That's all I keep hearing. I'm hearing it at airline ticket counters in the Midwest as well as in the East, in such diverse places as supermarkets and barbershops and astonishingly enough, even among many of my journalistic colleagues. There's supposed to be no rooting in the press box but the World Series was

one athletic event in which that rule was violated.

Maybe it was because the Brewers had never won anything before or because of the way they battled back to beat both the Orioles and the Angels in those final games where they would've been all finished had they not. Or maybe it was because Milwaukee symbolizes America's Heartland to most people more than St. Louis does.

I don't really know what it was, but I do know the Brewers are emerging as the most popular losers in sports since Roberto De Vicenzo erased himself as the winner of the Masters championship by not using his pencil properly.

The Brewers lost with style. They went to war with one of their biggest guns spiked when their Cy Young relief ace Rollie Fingers had to merely stand around and watch but they never offered that as any excuse for losing. They didn't whine, they didn't alibi, they didn't complain, and maybe that's what made so many people take to them all the more.

Last Thursday was a cold and cloudy day in Milwaukee, the kind of day you feel like

staying indoors. But, according to police estimates, some 100,000 people lined Wisconsin Avenue to show the defeated Brewers' players how they felt about them as they came along in a motorcade.

Later at Milwaukee's County Stadium, Pete Vuckovich, who was charged with the seventh game defeat against the Cardinals, got up to speak to the crowd. His choked emotion showed in his voice.

"I don't feel so good today because we lost the game," he started to say to the crowd, but it never let him finish, answering him back in a rising but loving chorus, "It doesn't matter ... it doesn't matter."

Bud Selig, the Brewers' owner, became so excited when they won the pennant by beating the Angels that he bloodied his hand on the roof of his private box. He bled some more, inside where nobody saw, after the defeat by the Cardinals. In light of what he has seen, and how much it has meant for his club even to reach the World Series, he's feeling a lot better.

"It has bound this state and community together like nothing else has in the past three decades," he said Sunday from his home in Milwaukee.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Salazar shakes Gomez to win NY marathon

NEW YORK — In the last half-mile of Sunday's 13th New York City Marathon a small dust storm kicked up in the faces of Alberto Salazar and Rodolfo Gomez, who were waging a grueling duel.

When the dust cleared, Salazar had shaken off Gomez and pulled away to a four-second triumph in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 29 seconds — his third straight New York victory. For the second time in three years, he had withstood a challenge from Gomez, the veteran Mexican runner.

Salazar, the 24-year-old from Eugene, Ore., who now is undefeated in four marathons, played down the significance of the dust, saying: "When you have 600 yards to go in a 26-mile race, you don't worry about little things like dust."

The Cuban native had begun his charge to the finish 10 meters before the dust kicked up, stunning Gomez, who was unable to respond.

"I was surprised that he increased the tempo so drastically," Gomez said through an interpreter. "I didn't expect it. Then we entered the dust storm and I couldn't see him. The surprise was the spurt Alberto did."

Salazar knew from the start, along with 14,308 other runners, that he wouldn't have much of a chance at his world record of 2:08:13 which he set last year; the cold headwinds which gusted out of the northeast at up to 23 mph made sure of that.

Still, the pace was even slower than expected. At the sixth mile, the lead group's time of 29:42 was 30 seconds behind the record. By the half mark, the time of 1:04:55 had fallen 45 seconds off the pace.

NFL situation bleak as talks break off

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Just in case there was some doubt, the striking NFL players sent league owners a message that there will be no pro football in 1982 without a collective bargaining agreement.

Even those union members who don't always agree with the leadership either agreed with the union line Sunday or stayed silent following a meeting of about 100 players in Washington.

The 34-day strike apparently won't end before games next weekend are called off, the sixth straight weekend without pro football.

"If anyone came here looking for us to blink, I'm sorry," said Dan Jiggetts of the Chicago Bears, a member of the union negotiating committee.

No further meetings have been set to resume negotiations that broke off Saturday when mediator Sam Kagel pulled out. Kagel walked out when both sides refused to budge on the crucial issue of how wages will be distributed.

Ed Garvey, NFLPA executive director, said he will ask chief NFL negotiator Jack Donlan for further talks "as soon as possible." No meeting is expected before midweek since Donlan is scheduled to meet today in New York with members of the league's executive committee.

Garvey also said the union plans to push for further action by the National Labor Relations Board. NLRB General Counsel William A. Lubbers said last week he will issue a complaint against the NFL for refusing to bargain in good faith.

Union attorney Joseph A. Yablonski said the NFLPA will decide soon whether it will seek a rehearing of an appellate court decision allowing the NFL to challenge in state courts the players' right to play in a series of union-sponsored all-star games or appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Yablonski also said the union may go back to U.S. District Court in Washington this week seeking to have the standard NFL player contract ruled invalid. The union sought an injunction against the contract, but Judge John Penn said the matter needed further hearing.

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Rod O'Connor
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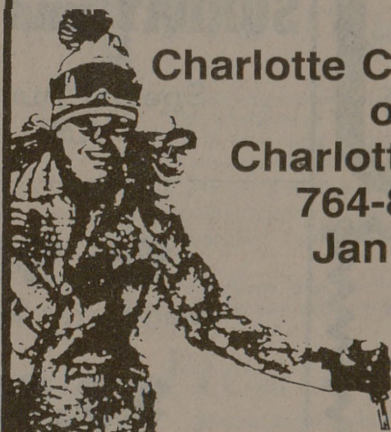
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