

# Pittsburgh sale still up in the air

United Press International

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Pirate President Dan Galbreath appeared Thursday to be moving farther away from potential team buyer James C. Roddey, at least in the realm of words.

Roddey, who heads an outdoor advertising firm in Pittsburgh, and Edward J. Lewis, partner in a Pittsburgh real estate development firm, are putting together investors who will attempt to buy the 97-year old club from its 51 percent owner, the Galbreath family, and Warner Communications, which owns 48 percent.

But Galbreath told The Pittsburgh Press he doesn't like everything he's heard from Roddey so far. In a story printed in the Press' Thursday editions, Galbreath was quoted as saying Roddey's public statements on how he would change the team's operation "premature."

"It sure isn't very constructive for him to be talking about how he's going to change things and get rid of guys who have been in baseball promotions all their lives," said Galbreath, according to the Press. "... Why is he saying what he's going to do with our ballclub when he doesn't even own it?"

The comments were prompted by Roddey's word that the club should be promoted differently because the Pirates' current techniques have not worked. The Pirates lost \$6 million in 1984.

But Roddey said Galbreath's displeasure was surprising, the Press reported, and added, "I think every person who buys a business likes to do something different."

Galbreath also said several other interested parties had phoned about the team but he did not name them, saying only Edward DeBartolo Sr. was not one of them, the paper reported.

DeBartolo, a Youngstown, Ohio, developer, counts among his holdings the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins, the MISL's Pittsburgh Spirit and the city's Civic Arena; his son, Edward Jr., owns the San Francisco 49ers.

The paper also reported Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth says he cannot guarantee the Pirates will remain in Pittsburgh.

"I would say most definitely that baseball should remain in Pittsburgh because it has such a rich history," according to a Press story. "But it is not my position to make guarantees (that the Pirates will stay)."

A lease with Three Rivers Stadium through 2011, however, indicates the Pirates probably will stay until at least then, say both team and city officials, who indicate lawsuits would be brought to make the team honor the lease.

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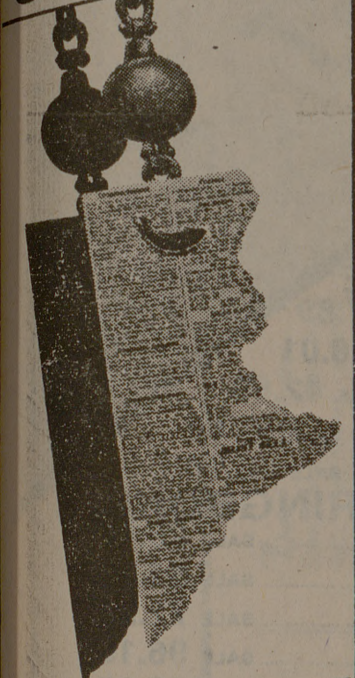
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