

SPORTS

Major League strike not yet reality

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The two parties in baseball's labor dispute, responding to the pleas of Commissioner Peter Ueberroth, agreed to hold one last meeting Tuesday in an attempt to avert a strike set for later in the day.

Both sides — Lee MacPhail's Player Relations Committee and Don Fehr's union — confirmed Monday night that talks would be held in the morning, but neither side would divulge the time or location.

Facing a strike deadline that would begin with Tuesday night's games, there still appeared to be little chance of averting the game's second midseason walkout in four years unless bargainers could break an impasse on salary arbitration.

Tuesday's session was characterized by a spokesman for the owners, Bob Fishel, as "an informal meeting" and not a formal resumption of negotiations.

Fehr, the union's acting executive director, called the impasse "a rerun of 1981" and said the owners were about to get "the strike they obviously wanted."

While saying the owners would not "let this go to a strike if we can help it," MacPhail said: "I can't say that I'm optimistic at this point."

Any settlement would have to come very early in the day in order to give players enough time to travel to their scheduled cities. Fehr said his union had been instructing players to return to home after Monday night's games instead of reporting to the ballparks.

Then, late Monday night, Ueberroth issued a statement saying that he had asked MacPhail to contact the union in an effort to get the talks going again as soon as possible.

"The fans deserve the last ounce of everyone's energy to resolve the current impasse," Ueberroth said through a spokesman.

Earlier in the day, responding to a statement by MacPhail that the owners would not back off their position on salary arbitration, Fehr said, "If nothing happens tonight, there'll be a strike. I'll tell the players to go home. ... In this situation, there's not much more we can do."

The union chief said if man-

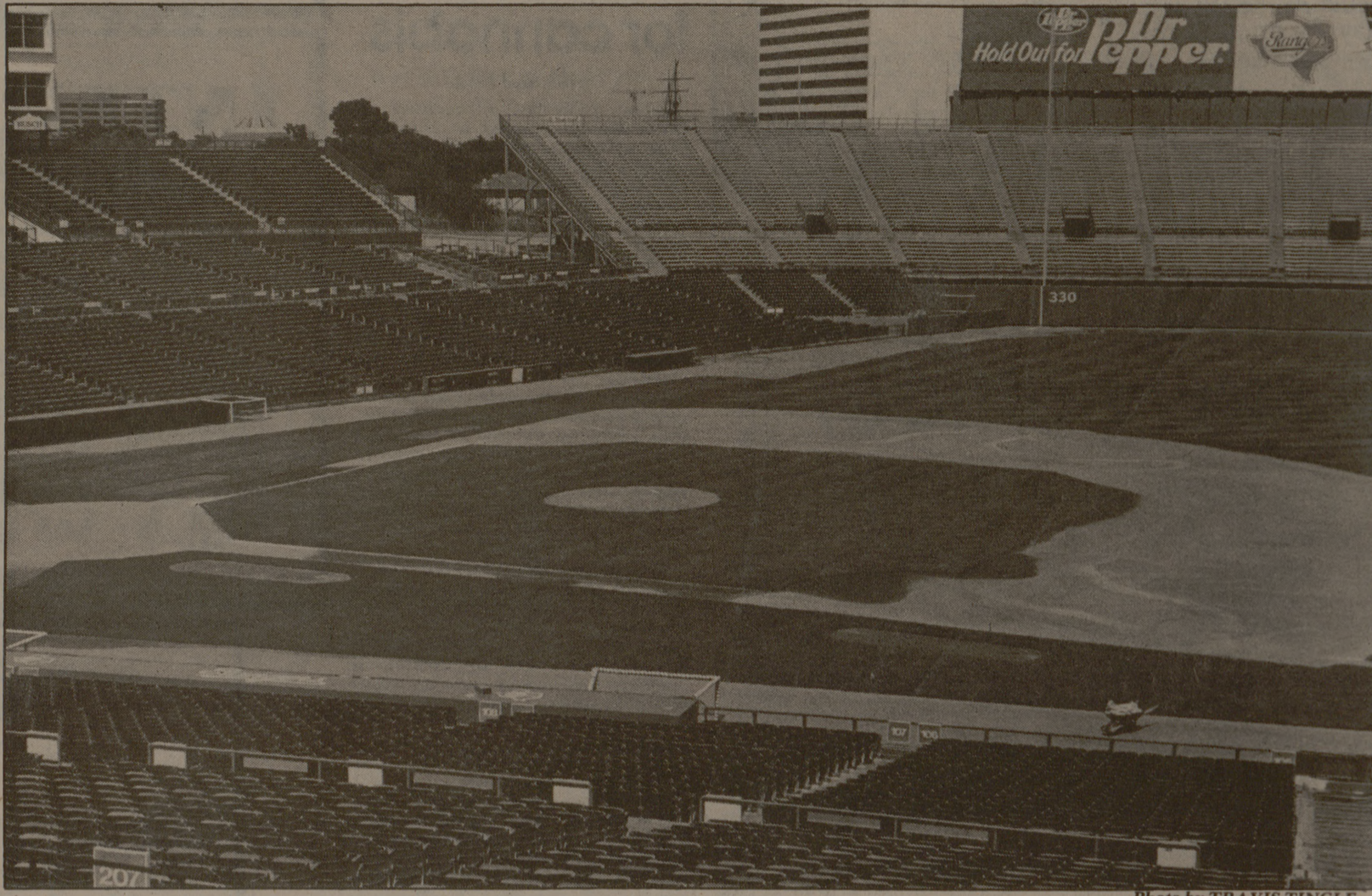


Photo by TRAVIS TINGLE

These empty seats at Arlington Stadium, the home of the Texas Rangers, might not be full anytime soon, if the Major League Baseball Players Association goes on strike tonight. If that's the case, ball parks throughout the league could take on this abandoned look.

agement "seriously wanted to resolve the issues, there'd be a hint from them. They have a strike that they apparently want."

Haggard and looking disheveled, Fehr said that players had been calling all evening. When they call, he said, "I've got to tell them to go home."

No formal negotiating sessions were held Monday. In fact, the parties took sides publicly hardening their positions.

And after meeting informally with MacPhail for 1½ hours

Monday morning, Fehr said he had "become more pessimistic" about avoiding a strike. No further meetings were scheduled, and Bob Fishel, acting as a spokesman for the owners, also said prospects of a settlement "did not look good."

That left the very real possibility that Monday's night games, six in the National League and four in the American, would be the last, at least for a while, in a season of record-pace attendance and record-chasing perfor-

mances by some of the game's biggest names.

As the hours sped away toward the deadline, the New York Mets got three home runs by Darryl Strawberry and beat the Chicago Cubs 7-2 in sun-splashed Wrigley Field, moving the Mets into first place in the NL East, a half game ahead of St. Louis. The Cardinals lost 9-1 to Philadelphia.

Los Angeles had a comfortable lead in the NL West, while the American League divisions were

led by Toronto in the East and California in the West.

Frank White of the Kansas City Royals, who were in second in the AL West, said that if he had to sit out a strike, he would "try to improve my golf game and continue to be amazed why this thing isn't settled."

Asked earlier in the day if there still was time to settle the dispute, Fehr said yes — "both sides know what the differences are."

Oilers can't satisfy Childress' billfold

Associated Press

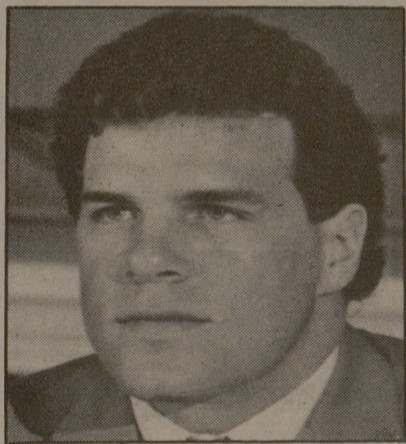
HOUSTON — Ray Childress, the Houston Oilers' No. 1 draft choice, has reached a stalemate in contract negotiations with the National Football League team and wants to be traded, his agent said Monday.

Childress, a defensive lineman from Texas A&M, also may sit out the upcoming season and work at the family construction business in the Dallas area if the Oilers continue to offer unacceptable proposals, agent Joe Courrage told Houston radio station KTRH.

"He doesn't want to sit out the season, but he doesn't want to be paid less than his fair value," Courrage said.

Childress told Oilers General Manager Ladd Herzog that he did not want to play under the contracts currently offered by the team.

"Ray said, 'please, trade me if things can't be worked out,'" Courrage said. "Ray wants no problems with the team and he wants them to get some value for him if necessary."



Ray Childress

Terms of the Oilers' proposals and Childress' demands have never been disclosed.

"There's nothing more I can do. I've submitted eight or 10 proposals and compromised down \$250,000," the agent said.

Germany engulfed in 'Borismania'

Associated Press

HAMBURG, West Germany — "Dream Tennis! Thank you Boris."

"Boris Makes It Very Clear — 6-2, 6-2, 6-1." Those jubilant headlines in the national tabloid newspapers carried to work by Germans Monday morning bespoke the euphoria over the continuing exploits of Boris Becker — Wimbledon champ last month, conqueror of the U.S. Davis Cup team this month.

The set of scores in one of the headlines referred to the climactic match in the U.S.-West Germany Davis Cup quarterfinal Sunday, when millions of West German television viewers watched Becker outclass Aaron Krickstein in straight sets.

The 17-year-old Becker's masterful performance, egged on by a crescendo of whistling and cheering from the partisan home crowd, gave West Germany its first ever victory over the United States in their six meetings going back 72 years.

The gush of "Borismania" started when the tall, strapping blond teen-ager last month became the youngest winner of the Wimbledon singles, tennis' most prestigious tournament.

A month later, with his first major victories on home soil since Wimbledon, the world's No. 9-ranked player gets congratulated by politicians, creates mob scenes of autograph seekers when he sets foot outdoors, and finds his photogenic face on posters and T-shirts.

The country's mass-circulation newspapers are having a field day with the Becker phenomenon, running front page-headlines trumpeting Becker's hero-

ics on the tennis court as well as tracing his every move off it.

"Boris and Friends Clean Out the Amis — Lendl Can Come Now," blasted Bild, the country's biggest-selling daily newspaper Monday morning. The headline referred to Ivan Lendl, the top player with the Czechoslovak team that West Germany will meet in the Davis Cup semifinals in October.

"Boris Raises His Arms High, Germany Successful!" crowed the Hamburg-based Bild on the opposite page, alluding to Becker's now-trademark gesture at the end of a winning match.

Becker, for his part, was down to earth. "It is a matter of pride when one can play for (West) Germany, a totally different thing from normal tournaments," said Becker, who is from the small town of Leimen in southern West Germany.

The Americans, too, jumped on the Becker bandwagon after they watched him demolish his singles opponents Friday and Sunday.

"There was just no chance. Becker was simply too good for me," murmured a shellshocked Krickstein after his match Sunday night.

Said U.S. Coach Arthur Ashe, a onetime Wimbledon champion: "After our doubles victory (Saturday) and (Eliot) Teltscher's singles success (earlier Sunday), I again believed we could win. But we don't have any Boris Becker in our ranks."

The latest chapter in the Becker saga?

He is donating at least \$35,080 to a charitable organization for handicapped children, Bild reported Monday.

Silver star worshippers gazing at Cowboys

By DENNE H. FREEMAN
AP Sports Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — If you are a worshipper of the silver star on the helmet, there are certain signs coming out of Dallas Cowboys' training camp that might cause your pulse to race away like a confused comet.

The Cowboys are looking good, danged good, even with Tony Dorsett facing fourth-and-goal against the Internal Revenue Service.

The oft-maligned offensive line is beefed up and taking no bull from the Dallas defense, which was the savior of a 9-7 no-playoffs season in 1984.

Third-round draft pick Crawford "Crowdaddy" Ker of Florida has been throwing his considerable bulk (290 pounds on a 6-foot-4 frame) around, and could be a starter at guard.

Chris Schultz, a solid 292 pounds and a dominating force in camp, is back at tackle after spending last season on the injured reserve list.

At any rate, there are encouraging happenings in the offensive line,

which was the Cowboys' sick child in 1984. Injuries were so bad Coach Tom Landry was forced to use an all-guard line for several games.

Although Dorsett's early absence has hurt, the Cowboys already had decided to go to a more controlled passing game in 1985. In other words, they're going to use the pass to set up the run instead of Dorsett's dashes to make the aerial game go.

The quarterbacks and receivers are excited about this season. With an offensive line that's sure to be better, the Cowboys can be counted upon for more points.

Also, Landry is going to pick a starter at quarterback and stay with him. The unsettling quarterback yo-yo of last season won't be a distraction.

Last year, the Cowboys dropped from an average of 31 points per game to only 19.

The Cowboys couldn't run — Dorsett had only two games over 100 yards — and quarterbacks Danny White and Gary Hogeboom couldn't get their passes off without big

hands in their faces.

The receiving corps also received some criticism, but Tony Hill and Mike Renfro have been looking sharp. And look out for eighth-round pick Leon "Speedy" Gonzalez of Bethune-Cookman, who can go after the ball in a spectacular fashion.

On the flip side of the line of scrimmage, the Cowboys could have one of the best — if not the best — defenses in the National Football League.

End Jim Jeffcoat and tackle Randy White will have spent a training camp working alongside each other, which they didn't do last year since White was a holdout. The line-backers, with enthusiastic Eugene Lockhart and promising rookie Jesse Penn, will be much improved. The secondary should be excellent.

And look for the Cowboys to be dropping Randy White off the line of scrimmage from time to time in a three-man front. He also will play from a standing position and move around to confuse the blocking. "We're going to give the other

teams as many different looks as they give us," says safety Dexter Clinkscales. "We're going to keep them off balance."

Indeed, the spirit is gung-ho here. Bill Bates even showed up wearing a Marine Corps-style haircut.

Most experts are picking the Cowboys fourth in the National Conference Eastern Division — as in next-to-last — but the Cowboys always seem to respond better after the media writes them off. They play more relaxed.

There's also the site of this year's Super Bowl XX — New Orleans. The Cowboys have two Super Bowls victories and both have been in New Orleans.

The signs are all there for a rousing Cowboys' comeback.

Gazing into my frozen margarita, I'm going to pick them as the surprise team of the NFC, returning to the playoffs again with or without Dorsett.

We'll see if it's just happy hour hallucination.

Flying Tomato is coming!
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SCHULMAN THEATRE
SCHULMAN 6
2:15-4:30-7:15-9:50
E.T.
2:35-4:55-7:35-9:45
THE MAN WITH ONE RED SHOE
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THE HEAVENLY KID
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RAMBO
First Blood Part II
BACK TO THE FUTURE
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