

SPORTS

It's official; Major leaguers on strike

Associated Press
NEW YORK — The strike is on. For the second time in four years, major league baseball players went on strike in mid-season Tuesday when the clock ran out on a last-minute effort to settle a dispute over salary structure.

"We are on strike," union lawyer Gene Orza said Tuesday afternoon. Shortly after 7 p.m., the American and National leagues announced that all 13 games on Tuesday night's program had been called off because of the strike. Officials said there was no immediate word on when or if the games would be made up.

The announcement came a half-hour after union chief Don Fehr, management negotiator Lee MacPhail and their aides resumed bargaining after reportedly coming dramatically close to a settlement earlier in the day.

The stumbling block, both sides said, was salary arbitration, with the union seeking to hold on to the system it has had for the last decade and the owners seeking to change it by limiting eligibility or putting a cap on salary awards. Both sides were stinging firm on their positions.

Pension funding was also on the table, although it seemed to be an issue that would soon be resolved.

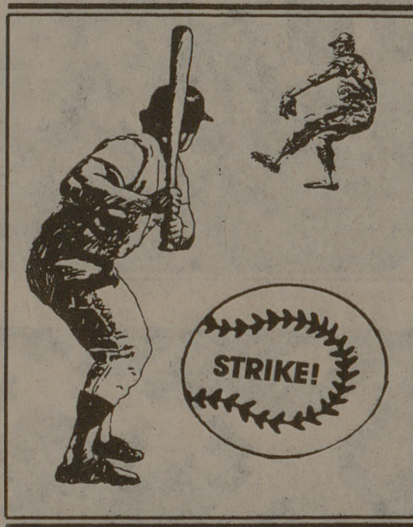
A day before, Commissioner Peter Ueberroth had pleaded with the two sides to return to the bargaining table at a time when it looked as if a strike was inevitable. By Tuesday night, most signs pointed toward a brief strike.

"I have every hope and indication it may be over. I'm very encouraged," said Houston Astros General Manager Al Rosen. "It has been indicated to me by the people in New York that they are very close to settling it."

Fehr was more cautious. "I can't say I expect anything positive can come out of it to end the strike quickly," Fehr said. "We're going to explore new ways to solve the major issues. The major issue, as you might expect, is the salary arbitration-slash-salary cap issue."

"Discussions are continuing. We're now in a strike situation. The object now is to find a way to end it as fast as we can."

John McMullen, owners of the Houston Astros and a member of the Player Relations Committee's executive board, said "We're making movement" on the issue of the owners' contribution to the pension fund, but he said "No, no way," when asked if the owners would compromise on their stances for a salary cap or a tougher salary arbitration clause.



And San Diego Padres president Ballard Smith said management was prepared "to lose the rest of the season" if it had to to protect its position.

"We're looking at this in the long range, not the short range," Smith said.

Even before they resumed at night, Tuesday's negotiations were the longest since the strike deadline was set three weeks ago, and sources said they had hoped a settlement might be possible in time to salvage the season uninterrupted.

If so, they simply ran out of time. Ueberroth had pleaded with the players and owners to use "the last ounce of everyone's energy" to try to resolve the impasse.

The session was described as "very informal" at the beginning, but the two sides apparently found something to talk about. They stayed in the meeting for more than six hours and, at one point, a player representative who had been in touch with union headquarters said it had turned into a "serious negotiating session."

The issue that time was free agency — the ability of a player to

sell his service to the highest bidder. It was a right the players won in court, in ruling striking down baseball's reserve clause that bound a player to one team unless he was cut, traded or sold.

This time, the key again is a single issue — salary arbitration. It started in 1974, and the owners say its helped salaries snowball to this season's average of \$363,000 a player.

One source, who spoke on the condition he not be identified, said the two sides were "honing in on a pension mechanism" Tuesday but salary arbitration remained to be resolved.

Among possibilities being discussed, the source said, was a graduated minimum salary for second- and third-year players, with exceptions as suggested by Ueberroth last week for "superstars," including players winning Most Valuable Player, Rookie of the Year or Cy Young Award honors.

MacPhail has said projections show baseball will lose \$86 million by 1988 and that changes are necessary to get the industry back to a break-even point.

Rangers' Valentine worried over walkout

Associated Press
ARLINGTON — Texas Rangers Manager Bobby Valentine said Tuesday that the best scenario for the baseball strike would be playing two games Wednesday night against the Milwaukee Brewers.

The Rangers, along with the rest

of the major leagues, were idled Tuesday when contract talks broke down between the owners and the players association. Texas had been scheduled to open a three-game series against the Brewers at Arlington Stadium.

But Valentine, while hoping for a

quick settlement, indicated he was worried about a lengthy walkout.

The worst possible development, he said, would be "no more baseball this year and perhaps next year."

Barring a quick strike settlement, Valentine said he would travel to Tulsa, Okla., and Oklahoma City

and see the Rangers' top minor league farm clubs in action to "try to prepare for the future."

Valentine said he thought the players "wanted to play."

"The players aren't angry, at least yet," he said. "I think when they're at a movie theater or watching tele-

vision, they'll begin to get angry and that anger hopefully will manifest itself into some line drives when they get back onto the field."

"The players down to the reserve catcher on every team feel that they should be playing and that this thing should be resolved soon."

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1.05 carats 1 Bond	2,800	1,435	.03 pts	28.00	14.95	.25 pts	390	195
1.04 carats 1 Bond	3,300	1,650	.02 pts	18.00	9.95	.23 pts	195	98
1.02 carats 2 Bonds	4,900	2,595	.01 pt	11.00	5.50			
1.01 carats 2 Bonds	4,300	2,195						
1.01 carats 2 Bonds	5,300	2,695						
1.01 carats 1 Bond	3,300	1,760						
1.00 carats 1 Bond	3,300	1,745						
1.00 carats 1 Bond	3,300	1,745						
.93 pts 1 Bond	3,250	1,685						
.93 pts 1 Bond	2,950	1,520						
.80 pts 1 Bond	2,850	1,525						
.75 pts 1 Bond	2,800	1,435						
.71 pts 1 Bond	2,700	1,350						
.70 pts	2,600	1,335						
.70 pts	1,750	880						
.62 pts	1,700	975						
.62 pts	1,700	975						
.59 pts	1,700	930						
.55 pts	1,650	865						
.55 pts	1,350	650						
.55 pts	1,650	795						
.52 pts	1,750	820						
.50 pts	1,595	785						
.49 pts	1,495	770						
.47 pts	1,395	735						
.45 pts	1,150	535						
.45 pts	1,175	695						
.44 pts	1,050	520						
.42 pts	1,250	660						
.40 pts	1,240	630						
.38 pts	590	295						
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38 pts	750	460			
35 pts	750	425			
35 pts	750	425			
35 pts	750	425			
37 pts	900	450			
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30 pts	750	365			
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