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Drug-testing clauses called unenforceable

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal arbitrator ruled Wednesday that drug-testing clauses contained in the contracts of several hundred major league baseball players are unenforceable.

"He (arbitrator Tom Roberts) ruled that the clubs may not get results from any drug tests by bypassing the union," said Donald Fehr, executive director of the Major League Players Association.

Fehr said the ruling meant that the drug testing clauses are illegal. "Obviously, we're pleased," said Fehr, whose union filed a grievance against drug testing earlier this year. "It was the correct decision. It reaffirmed the basic principle that you can't bypass the union. Now we go back and negotiate."

"I'm very disappointed by the decision," Barry Rona, executive director of the Players Relations Committee, said. "It's clear that the real losers are the players."

Fehr said the decision "does not change our conviction that a long-term agreement on a joint drug program is in the best interest of everyone in baseball, clubs and players alike. We are persuaded that the association and the clubs should establish a jointly administered program focusing on education, early diagnosis and treatment by expert medical personnel in confidentiality."

The drug-testing clauses began appearing in renegotiated, long-term and guaranteed contracts following a decision last October by the major-league owners to end the 1 1/2-year-old anti-drug enforcement policy that had been part of management's basic agreement with players.

Steve Yeager, then a catcher with the Los Angeles Dodgers who later was traded to Seattle, signed a contract in November that included a drug-and alcohol-testing clause. Other clubs quickly followed suit in requiring such clauses.

Joel Youngblood of the San Francisco Giants balked at signing a contract that included the testing clause. Although he later agreed to it, the Giants withdrew their contract offer.

In accepting presentations on the grievance, Roberts ordered the Giants to permit Youngblood to sign and said the outcome of the grievance would determine whether the clauses are enforceable.

Sports

USFL begins measures to up damage award

NEW YORK (AP) — The USFL, hit by what amounts to a death sentence by a federal court jury, took the first steps Wednesday in what it vowed will be a continuing judicial battle to stay alive.

Harvey Myerson, who for 11 weeks flamboyantly argued the USFL's \$1.69 billion antitrust suit, said he was considering approaches to increasing the damages awarded by the jury. After finding that the NFL had monopolized pro football, the panel assessed the league \$1, trebled under antitrust regulations to \$3.

Myerson and USFL Commissioner Harry Usher assailed what they saw as the contradiction between the finding and the award of a single dollar, although Judge Peter K. Leisure's 155-page charge specifically told the jurors they could do just that.

"The jury found that the NFL violated the antitrust laws and injured us," Usher said. "That's what the

jury found unanimously. For the NFL to crow after being found guilty of violating the law and then go out and crow about having won — God help this country."

"It defies logic and common sense to have an award for \$1 for damages and injuries," said Myerson. "We're talking about a billion-dollar swing."

Myerson, who met with Leisure and NFL attorneys for 15 minutes Wednesday to set a timetable for the normal post-trial motions, cited statements given after the verdict by one of the jurors, Miriam Sanchez. She said she was in favor of an award to the USFL of between \$200 million and \$300 million, that at least one other juror agreed with her, and that they settled on a dollar because she thought the judge could then decide the award.

However, another juror, Margaret Lilienfeld, said she never heard that larger figure mentioned and said the jurors were quite aware of what they were doing when they

awarded the \$1. She said the figure she heard was one set by a third member of the panel, Stephens, who suggested the be given \$1 million.

However, the first part of USFL's attempt to get a larger award won't be argued until Sept. 8, date set by Leisure Wednesday hearing from both sides.

Myerson said he was considering four possible routes to relief: • A request for a new trial on the damages issue, probably on a new jury. He said that is the one he personally favors because the allegations by Sanchez.

• A request for an entire new trial.

• A request that Leisure set out the jury's finding on damages and make his own determination on a "judgment in lieu of verdict."

• A direct plea to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, the next highest court.

Festival diving springs into action

HOUSTON (AP) — Michele Mitchell overcame her own "stupidity" Wednesday to take an early lead in 3-meter springboard diving at the U.S. Olympic Festival, which already has set a record for ticket sales.

Revenues from ticket sales have reached \$2 million, easily passing the \$1.3 million high set in Indianapolis. Those figures do not include most of the revenue from Monday and Tuesday's events.

At the pool at The Woodlands, Mitchell, of Scottsdale, Ariz., was mad at herself for a poor ninth dive, but still the Olympic silver medalist compiled 512.49 points in near 100-degree heat to 512.40 for Wendy Lucero of Aurora, Colo. Kelly McCormick of Long Beach, Calif., was third with 488.61 points.

The men's preliminaries, featuring Greg Louganis, the world's best diver, were held later Wednesday. All the points in the preliminaries are

carried over into today's finals, with the top two finishers earning spots on the United States team for next month's World Championships.

"I'm going to try to hit 10 of 10 dives tomorrow," Mitchell said of the finals. "But I just don't handle stupidity well and that's what I feel happened on my ninth dive. It infuriates me."

Mitchell said she "bolted" out of a reverse 2 1/2-somersault tuck.

"I tried to make the dive happen instead of waiting for it to happen," Mitchell said.

In another water sport, Maureen O'Toole continued her sensational scoring pace with eight goals as the North beat the South 19-12 in water polo.

O'Toole, who led the women's water polo tournament in scoring last year, set a Festival mark with her eight goals. The native of Long Beach, Calif., had six goals in an ear-

lier game here and her 20 goals equals her seven-game total of 1985.

"Everyone expects me to score a lot of goals, but that's not what I'm here for," O'Toole said. "I just want to see the team win."

Her team is 5-0 and has clinched spot in the gold-medal game.

In another game, Vaunne Lebeck had five goals and Jill Beck added four as the East downed winless West 14-8. Kaddubek, of Vegas, Nev., has 18 goals in 10 games.

The North and East hockey teams tied 5-5 as that event began. North scored three times in the period to gain the tie, with Kelfer of Boston University with 13 seconds to play.

Team handball also started the West downing the North 5-1 behind five goals by Steve Davis, Calif.

Grounds crews help ballfields 'cheat'

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on the tricks used to gain an advantage in major league baseball.

ARLINGTON (AP) — While the managers and pitchers get most of the credit — or blame — for trying to gain an edge in baseball, the grounds crew also can lend a hand.

Teams with third basemen or shortstops that lack range keep the infield grass high to slow ground balls. At Tiger Stadium, visiting teams swear you could hide small animals in the grass.

Base lines can be manicured so balls will roll fair or foul. Teams with hard-throwing pitchers may build the mound a little higher than the regulation 10 inches.

"No question about it," says one scout and former manager. "Shea Stadium (New York Mets) has one of the highest mounds in baseball."

A high mound makes hard throwers like Dwight Gooden seem even more fearsome.

When Maury Wills managed the Seattle Mariners, he ordered the Kingdome batter's box to be outlined a foot forward of where it was legal.

Rick Langford was pitching for Oakland that night, and Wills wanted his hitters to be able to move up and try to hit his curve before it broke down. It didn't work. Martin, then managing the A's, noticed it right away.

Now that he's retired, Amos Otis admits he used a corked bat for years while playing with the Kansas City Royals. Cork is supposed to make the ball jump off the bat.

St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Ozzie Smith occasionally will trick a runner who isn't paying attention. Say there's a runner at first who is going with the pitch. The batter pops the ball up, but the runner doesn't know exactly where it is. Smith will pretend he's going to take a toss from second baseman Tommy Herr to start a double play. The runner slides and is easily doubled off first.

Dodgers catcher Mike Scioscia is known in the National League for the way he gets runners at the plate. He'll stand behind home, then at the last moment step into the baseline. If all goes the way Scioscia has it planned, the runner will trip and miss the plate and be tagged out.

However, when most fans think about trickery, it inevitably comes back to stealing signs.

"Every day, it's tried," Valentine said. "I'd say we know what the pitcher is going to throw in about every fourth game. Usually you get that from something the pitcher is tipping off."

"Stealing signs from the third base coach is done, but not as often as stealing the sign the manager gives when he wants a pitchout," Valentine said. "A lot of managers want to call the pitchouts these days."

Some teams will go to great lengths to figure out the catcher's signs. Years ago, according to lore, the Cleveland Indians hitters at home had only to look at the Indians logo on the scoreboard. If both eyes were open, it was a fastball. If the mascot was winking, a breaking ball was on the way.

Bernie Brewer, Milwaukee's mas-

cot who used to sit in a perch above center field, was suspected of picking up the signs and letting the batters know by clapping. It may have just been a coincidence, but he wore white gloves that made his hands easier to see.

Valentine, then a Mets third base coach, swears the Cubs stole signs at Wrigley Field in 1984. He says the center field camera man would alert the hitters by the way he raised and lowered his arms.

There has been a long-standing suspicion that Bobby Thomson's home run off Ralph Branca, Valentine's father-in-law, that gave New York Giants the pennant in 1951, came after Thomson tipped off what pitch Branca was about to throw.

"Imagine that," Valentine said. "One of the most famous games in baseball may have been decided by a stolen sign."

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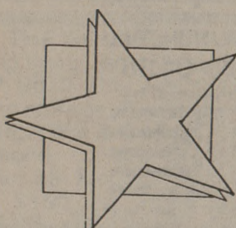
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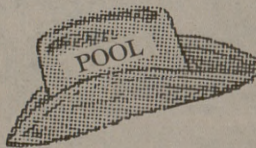
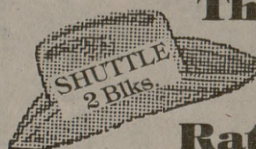
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