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Ueberroth to keep job through negotiations

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth said Tuesday he was rejecting a second five-year term offered by owners but would extend his contract through the labor negotiations in 1990 if necessary.

Ueberroth, who had said he didn't think he had enough votes for another term, was offered the new term last week but turned it down.

He said he told owners at the meeting in San Francisco that he would remain in office for a transition period and said he decided Tuesday that it would last no more than one year beyond the end of his current contract on Dec. 31, 1989.

"The owners came back to me and talked about a second term," Ueberroth said. "I was surprised. I was pleased. I was thankful. But I told them I would not accept."

He said he will not seek political office as has often been rumored.

"I have no entry point into politics," Ueberroth said. "I've passed up opportunities. I'm a little too brash, a little too blunt. But I run things well. I'll find something to run."

Ueberroth said he would participate in the selection of his successor and said he and the new commissioner both would be involved in ne-

gotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement, a new national television contract and expansion plans.

"In this way, my successor will have plans and agreements for the 1990s with which he could live," Ueberroth said. "I didn't think it would be fair to the owners and my successor to allow the institution to suffer from the situation in which I found it upon taking office in 1984."

The Associated Press reported Monday that Ueberroth had agreed to stay on through the 1990 labor negotiations.

Owners were concerned that Ueberroth would leave only months before a possible players' strike. Baseball's collective bargaining agreement expires the same day as Ueberroth's contract and baseball's network television contracts end after the 1989 season.

"The important thing is that the commissioner has agreed to stay on," Seattle Mariners owner George Argyros said. "You have to recognize that Peter's done a wonderful job as commissioner."

Ueberroth's support for a new

term was unanimous, according to Minnesota Twins owner Carl Lada.

According to Ueberroth, 21 were losing money when he took office. He said Tuesday that 22 made money or broke even in 1987.

Ueberroth, 50, succeeded Kuhn and became baseball's commissioner on Oct. 1, 1984, after coming to baseball after organizing the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"When I arrived in baseball, commissioner was in China, the secretary had quit, the umpires were on strike and NBC was demanding million dollars in refunds because a Chicago Cubs day playoff game Ueberroth said.

Kuhn said Tuesday that he eventually went to Asia then so take the spotlight away from Ueberroth but that in hindsight "it was not available enough."

Ueberroth vowed Thursday he would not allow a chaotic transition and said that Bud Selig, of the Milwaukee Brewers, and Wilpon, co-owner of the New York Mets, were appointed to work the details of the transition.

Martin continues feud with umpires

NEW YORK (AP) — Billy Martin versus the umpires. So what else is new?

In this case, it is the umpires who are challenging Martin, and the New York Yankees' manager, his vow of abstinence having expired, is ready to take them on.

Martin said his promise to stay in the dugout and not argue was good for only one game.

True to his word, Martin did not leave the dugout Monday night during the Yankees' 3-2 loss to the Boston Red Sox.

Martin said things will be different Tuesday night for the second game in the series.

"I'll be out on the field all day," Martin said. "Every time I want to go out, I will go out on the field and I will argue and do everything a manager is supposed to do. I defy Richie Phillips to stop me."

Phillips, head of the umpires' union, said Martin is not like any other manager and will not be treated as

"Billy will be singled out," Phillips said Monday night. "He will be treated differently because he's treated umpires differently than any other manager."

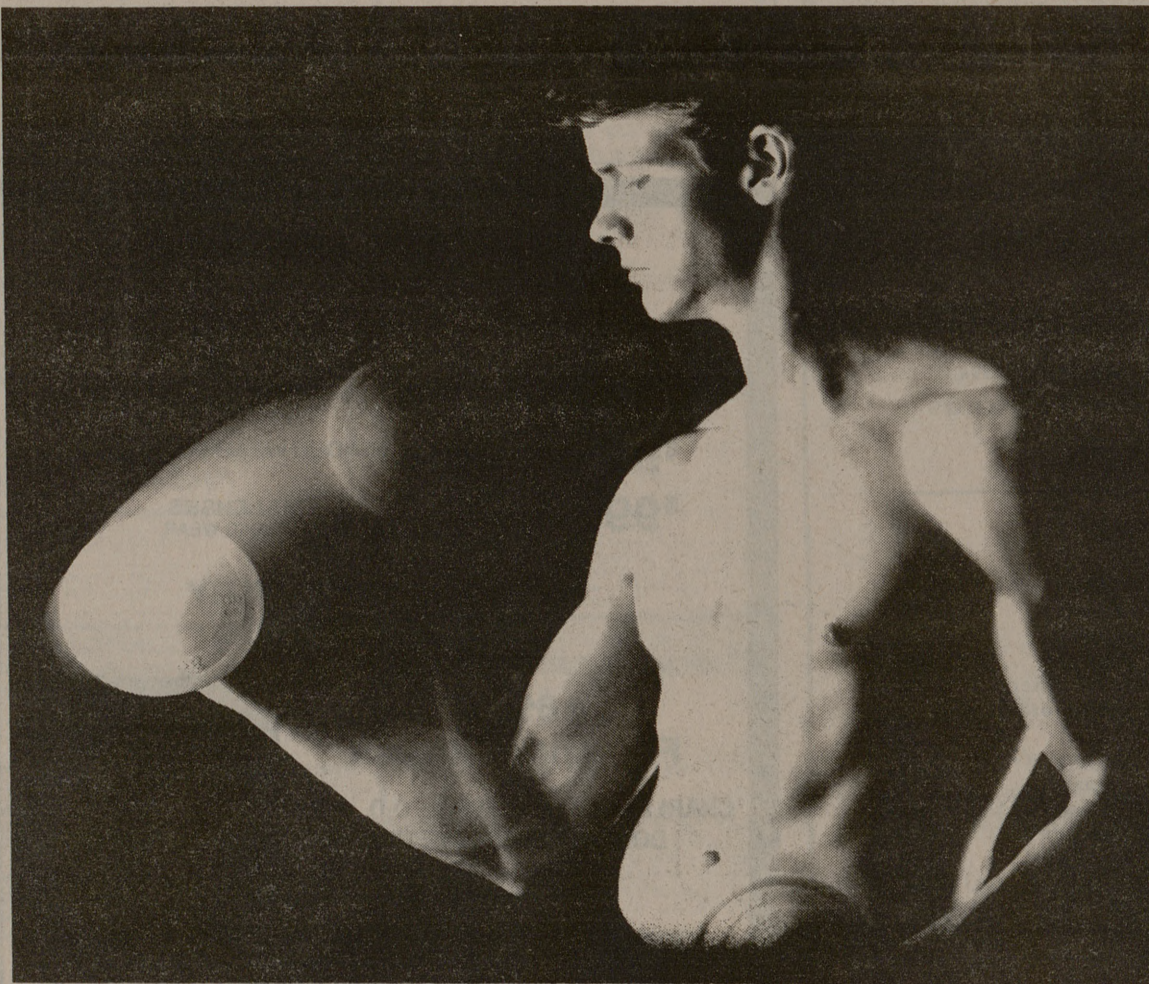
"Rule 9.02 (a) says that any judgment call by an umpire is final and cannot be argued. If he comes on the field to argue, he will be ejected. In the past, umpires have discretion with all managers. They will not exercise discretion on Billy's behalf. . . . If Billy persists in arguing he'll be ejected from the game."

The furor resulted from Martin's latest in a long run of runs with umpires.

Martin was suspended for three games and fined \$1,000 by American League President Bobby Brown for throwing dirt on umpire Dale Scott on May 13 in Oakland.

Phillips and the umpiring crew chiefs said last week the punishment was not strong enough and warned that the umpires would take action on their own.

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'Say Hey Kid' sorry about autograph-for-pay incident

WASHINGTON (AP) — The owner of a downtown bookstore said Tuesday that charging \$10 for a Willie Mays autograph during a book-signing session was a mistake.

Robert Haft, president of Crown Books, said he wasn't quite sure how the Hall of Fame outfielder came to be collecting money while autographing copies of his new book, "Say Hey: The Autobiography of Willie Mays."

"I think what happened is he had signed about 700 books in our store," said Haft of the incident which took place May 20. "Some people apparently came in with baseballs and gloves and they wanted him to sign."

"It's unclear who said it," said Haft, "but somebody said he'll sign for \$10, and people started putting down money on the table there."

Mays, when contacted by the Associated Press, said he was tired of talking about the incident and complained that reports about it didn't seem to get the story straight.

But in Tuesday's editions of the New York Post, Mays was quoted as saying, "I didn't take a dime. Everything went to the bookstore."

Mays, 57, said he was working for

"I'm still trying to vindicate myself."

— Baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays

the publisher, Simon & Schuster, and was there to sign only books.

"They tell you when the books run out, you get up and walk out," Mays told the Post. "But when the books ran out, there were about 50 to 100 people still in line."

"Rather than leave the people hanging there, I said, 'Give the bookstore \$10 and I'll sign whatever you have.'"

"I thought I was doing something right. I thought I was helping everybody there."

Mays said the store's president was standing next to him.

"All he had to do was tap me on the shoulder and say 'Willie, we wouldn't like you to do that.'"

Haft said Crown's policy is not to pay authors for promotional appearances and not to charge for autographs.

"It's just totally against our pol-

icy," he said. "We've never had signing where an author didn't have money. Had we known, we would not have allowed it."

But Haft said he found out that players do get paid to sign athletic paraphernalia in sports stores and said he thought that that had caused the mix-up.

Mays didn't take any money from him when he left the store, Haft said.

"I guess he realized it wasn't right thing to do," said Haft, whose company owns a chain of 200 count bookstores nationwide.

Crown employees gave Haft back to as many customers as possible and donated the rest to the League. Haft said he didn't know how much money was collected.

The incident came to light to the upset mother of a disillusioned youngster who attended the signing two weeks ago wrote a letter to The Washington Post. In the letter, published last Friday, Vaughan said his 11-year-old began crying when Mays asked for money.

Parents believe sports essential for daughters

NEW YORK (AP) — Most parents believe sports are as important for their daughters as their sons, according to a national study released Tuesday.

Eighty-seven percent of the parents surveyed said they agreed that "sports are equally important for boys and girls."

"It shows the word 'tomboy' no longer exists in the athletic dictionary," said Dorothy Harris, education director of the Women's Sports Foundation, which commissioned the study.

"Girls who participate in sports are no longer laughed at and ridiculed," she said. "In fact, it's popular for girls to play sports. It's the sexy thing to do."

However, the study indicates that girls tend to drop out of sports as they get older.

While 87 percent of those in the 7-to-10 age group said they participate

in sports, the figure dropped to 75 percent in the 15-to-18 group.

According to the study, the drop-off is primarily due to interest in other activities, lack of time, or interest in boys. Many black girls cited additional reasons for quitting sports, including transportation problems and inadequate funds to pay for equipment and lessons.

Many girls stop participating in sports during their mid-teens, the study shows.

"The puberty barrier appears to exist," said Harris, a professor of exercise and sport science at Penn State University. "When girls become more interested in boys, they tend to become less interested in sports."

The survey was based on telephone interviews last November and December with 1,004 parents and 513 of their 7-to-18-year-old daughters. It was co-sponsored by the Wilson Sporting Goods Co.

Among the findings: — Girls whose parents are involved in sports are more likely to participate themselves.

— While most parents believe that health is the best reason for daughters to play sports, girls' biggest motivator is "fun."

— Girls participating in sports receive more encouragement from their mothers than fathers.

Deborah Anderson, executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation, said attitudes about participation in sports began to change in 1972 when Congress passed a law guaranteeing equal educational opportunities.

The Title IX legislation spurred dramatic increase in girls' school teams and college scholarships for female athletes.

The foundation, established in 1974, is a non-profit, educational organization that encourages girls to participate in sports.

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