

# Giamatti chosen to follow Ueberroth

MONTREAL (AP) — Angelo Bartlett Giamatti, the National League president, was named Thursday as baseball's next commissioner to succeed Peter Ueberroth, who will end his term nine months early to help the transition.

Giamatti was elected to a five-year term by unanimous vote of the 26 team owners at their quarterly meeting. Giamatti, 50, will become the game's seventh commissioner when he officially takes office April 1.

"My priorities are not too different than Peter Ueberroth's," Giamatti said. "My first priority as commissioner-elect will be finding the best possible resolution to baseball's labor-relations problem."

Ueberroth, who often said he would be a one-term commissioner, led the support for Giamatti and did not want the selection process to drag out. Ueberroth made his recommendation at a morning meeting and owners voted for Giamatti "without a lot of discussion," the commissioner said.

"It's obviously no surprise. While investigating the role, the action today became very obvious," Ueberroth said. "He's the right man for the job."

Giamatti and NL owners met briefly Thursday to talk about a

method of choosing a new NL president. No names were discussed, although New York Mets general manager Frank Cashen has been mentioned previously.

Giamatti, president of Yale University for eight years, earned a reputation as "the dean of discipline" in two years as NL president. He suspended Pete Rose for 30 days this season after the Cincinnati manager bumped umpire Dave Pallone and refused to bend to criticism and pressure to lighten the sentence.

Last year, Giamatti suspended Kevin Gross for scuffing baseballs and Billy Hatcher for corking a bat, insisting that order was necessary and cheating was intolerable. Giamatti was also said to be the driving force behind this season's enforcement of balk rules, although he denies being the main proponent.

He is committed to "social justice" in baseball in areas of affirmative action and equal opportunity and is concerned about maintaining a good atmosphere at ballparks. He regards himself as "tepid" on expansion — whereas Ueberroth wanted it soon — and does not agree with two recent decisions by arbitrators that owners colluded to restrict the free-agent market.

# Walker

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Houston has one of the top pitching staffs in the majors and a good defensive ballclub. The Astros are also a speedy base-stealing team perfectly designed for the Astrodome's cavernous field.

All this hasn't been enough this year.

Before the trading deadline of September 1, the Astros found themselves in a very tough position.

In order to acquire a top power hitter they probably would have had to give up one of their top pitchers. The Houston fans would have been critical of a trade involving one of those guys.

As we know, the Astros chose the path of least resistance and picked up Forsch.

Forsch is a fine pitcher, but his age is a big drawback. Regardless how well he performs down the stretch, the Astros probably will not score enough runs to make a difference.

As the old saying goes, "You get what you pay for." The Astros re-

fused to pay for a quality power-hitting free agent in the offseason and refused to give up one of their better players for a top player from another team.

The Dodgers paid for a contender and got one. In August, Claire made the decisive move of the season when he sent Pedro Guerrero to the Cardinals for left-handed pitcher John Tudor.

With Fernando Valenzuela out with an injury and the team in a hitting slump, Tudor and rookie sensation Ramon Martinez, stabilized a staff that was under tremendous pressure as Houston drew to within half a game of the lead in mid-August.

In the last 20 games, Los Angeles has increased the lead over the Astros despite hitting only .238 as a team and averaging fewer than three runs per game.

Only the inability of the Astros to have a consistent offensive attack has prevented Houston from making a legitimate run for the division title.

Now it's too late.

# Flashback

(Continued from page 10)

During Coach Emory Bellard's 6½ seasons at A&M, the Aggies posted consecutive 1-1 records, then ran off five straight 2-0 starts.

Furthermore, not all of Bellard's 10 wins were at home or over "easy" opponents. Included in those victories were two over LSU (both in Baton Rouge), including a 39-8 humiliation of the Tigers in 1975.

Though Sherrill has won only one opener — and it over "mighty" Texas-El Paso 20-17 at home in 1984 — his teams had won six straight second games.

In fact, though A&M's 1894 loss to Texas was at Austin, the Aggies didn't open a season on the road until 1937 when it overcame a 7-0 deficit to defeat the Manhattan Jaspers 14-7 in the Polo Grounds.

Of the earlier 12 A&M teams that opened 0-2, only three of them posted winning records (1922, 1967 and 1979).

The latter two were involved in SWC races and, believe it or not, Stallings' 1967 team won its final seven games, including wins over Arkansas (33-21), Texas (10-7) and Alabama (20-16 in the Cotton Bowl).

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