

Tuesday, August 1, 1989

Top agents in baseball to hear plans involving proposed new league

NEW YORK (AP) — The top five agents in baseball, a group representing almost half the major league players, have been invited to a meeting in New York on Wednesday to hear about plans for a proposed new league. One of the agents, Richard Moss, has been working for over a year on plans for the league, which some in major league baseball say is a ploy for collecting-bargaining negotiations. The meeting was called by Donald Fehr, executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association and a supporter of the project. Moss, general counsel for the players' association from 1966-77, doesn't want to talk about his role. "I would say that if something is going to be said, it would be before the end of this baseball season," Moss said last weekend. "It would depend on whether there is going to be a new league or not." David Lefevre, a former minority owner of the Houston Astros and the Cleveland Indians and a partner at the New York law firm of Reid & Priest, is the chief architect of the proposed league, several people said. He could not be contacted in the last two weeks. Sources with knowledge of the plans said there would be between eight and 12 franchises in 1990. Among areas under consideration are New York, northern New Jersey, Los Angeles, Washington, Tampa, St. Petersburg or Orlando, Fla., Miami, Denver, Sacramento, Calif., Phoenix, Hartford, Conn., Indianapolis, Portland, Ore., Charlotte, N.C., Nashville, Tenn., Columbus, Ohio, and New Orleans. The cities were evaluated by Strategic Directions, a New York consulting company. Those sources who have seen the report said

the firm concluded "at least 27 markets are capable of supporting a new professional baseball franchise. Of these, 12-15 markets offer substantial and immediate potential for a new league." In early plans, each team would spend about \$7.5 million on player salaries in 1990 — approximately \$4.5 million less than the current major-league average. Backers of the league were said to be considering a \$100,000 minimum salary, \$32,000 more than the major league low. Sources said the organizers project each franchise would average about 800,000 in attendance in 1990 at an average ticket price of \$9. In addition, each team would get \$2 million from a national television contract and \$2 million from the sale of local rates. The plans forecast losses of \$2.5 million per team in 1990 and 1991, followed by a break-even year in 1992 and a \$500,000 profit the following season. The projected profit in 1994 is \$4.5 million. One source said that five or six ownership groups have made \$1 million payments backed by letters of credit for at least \$5 million. One source said that Moss would receive a franchise for free or reduced cost in exchange for organizing the league. Moss declined to discuss the matter. There have been reports that New York real estate king Donald J. Trump was involved in the project. Trump recently was quoted as saying that he was interested in the proposed league but had not decided if he would be involved. Major league officials say they aren't worried about possible competition from a new league. "If someone wants to compete, we'll compete," said deputy commissioner Francis Vincent Jr. "It's the American way."

Rose suffers setback in Giamatti lawsuit
District judge rules baseball betting case belongs in federal court

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Pete Rose suffered a major court setback Monday when a federal judge decided his lawsuit against baseball commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti belongs in federal court. U.S. District Judge John D. Holschuh refused to return Rose's case to Hamilton County Common Pleas Court, where Judge Norbert A. Nadel had shown a willingness to go into what he termed "uncharted waters" in making his decisions. Holschuh's decision takes the case away from Nadel in Cincinnati, who had already agreed with Rose that Giamatti has prejudged him as guilty. Nadel had issued a temporary restraining order preventing Giamatti from holding a hearing on allegations that Rose bet on his team. Baseball agreed that while appealing the case it would not take any action against the Reds manager. Holschuh extended until Aug. 14 Rose's protection against firing or suspension over the gambling allegations. Holschuh's decision may be appealed to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. Unless the appeals court intervenes, Holschuh will hold a hearing Aug. 14 for a preliminary injunction that could

extend Rose's protections indefinitely. The judge concluded that the Reds "are at best nominal parties in this controversy" with the real dispute between Giamatti and Rose. A dispute between residents of different states is heard in federal court. If Holschuh had found that the dispute was between Rose and the Reds, he would have had to send the case back to Ohio courts. Holschuh certified the case for an immediate appeal, which is expected from Rose's lawyers.

Walker's role in Dallas offense could differ

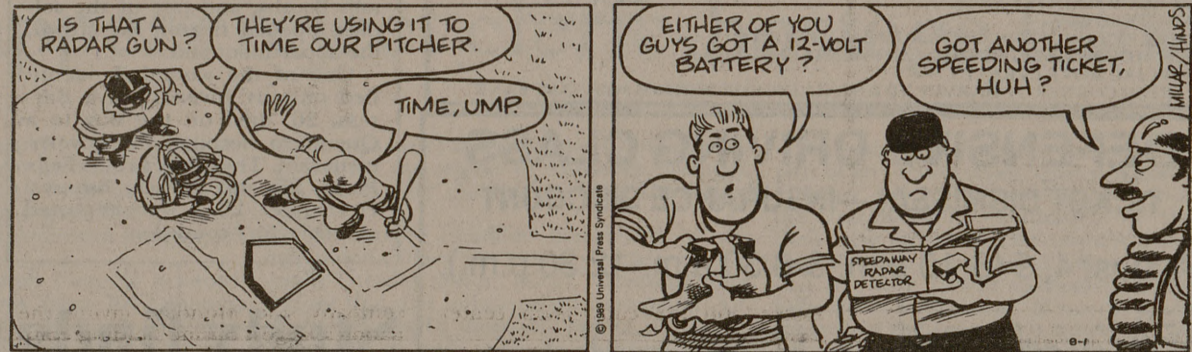
THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Herschel Walker, several pounds lighter but still an imposing 224, slips out of the backfield, catches a pass and makes a lightning cut inside, outrunning the defensive back and linebacker. "Watch out for the new Herschel Walker this year," said scout John Wooten. "He's got some moves you haven't seen before. He's got some wiggle in his run. He won't be just running over people." But under Coach Jimmy Johnson's system, Walker may not be seeing the ball as much as he did in 1988, when he had more than 1,000 yards both rushing and receiving. "We're going to emphasize spreading the ball out a little more," Johnson said. "We don't want the other teams loading up on one player. We don't want to spread Herschel so thin that he is not effective in doing what he does best, put the ball in the end zone." Walker, fresh out of FBI school, takes the news calmly, like special agent 007. "I don't mind spreading the wealth around a little if it will get us into the playoffs," Walker said. "If you keep giving it to the same guy over a 20-game season you can wear him down. You have to be versatile." "I do anticipate the ball moving elsewhere. The offense is not designed for running backs. It's de-

signed for receivers and quarterbacks. Still, I don't think my role will change that much. We'll see." Walker, who has tried activities such as karate and ballet, is still fired up about his week in June at an FBI school Quantico, Va. He was up from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day there and spent some time on a pistol range. "They had an obstacle course and you shoot at targets to protect your partner as you advanced up the course," he said. "I had fun. There were about 200 recruits there. I can see how the agents that come out of the academy are really prepared. I have a lot of respect for them." However, Walker won't be an FBI agent anytime soon. He is sticking with the Cowboys for the post-Tom Landry era. Under the "new" Cowboys, Walker's salary — \$5 million for a five-year contract — runs behind Dallas' young-gun quarterbacks. Steve Walsh is getting \$4.1 million for four years; Troy Aikman has \$11.037 million for six years. "That doesn't bother me," said Walker. "When I signed my contract I thought it was a fair one. I still do." Walker just wants to make sure he gets his fair share of the ball. "I've been taking a lot of martial arts and I believe it has me ready for

a rough training camp," he said. "I've put on my 'game day' pads for this camp. I left my practice pads in the locker. There's a lot of hitting going on. So give me the ball." On the Cowboy veterans' second day of practice, Walker took part in a 40-play scrimmage. On his first run, he burst up the middle for 15 yards and only a saving tackle by safety Ray Horton kept him from scoring. "Herschel showed us what we wanted to see on one play," Johnson said. "He's ready for the season to start right now."

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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



'Iron Mike' draws big bank purses, not serious contenders

The punishing victories of World Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson are heralded by boxing enthusiasts as the only dynasty in the world of sports, but how long can he stay on top? At least until late next year, according to the way his promoters schedule opponents. Tyson has punished nearly all opposition, and there isn't any indication that this will change any time soon. The incredible power of Tyson to cause suffering to challengers is indicated in his 37-0 record, with all but a few of the fights knockouts. What happened to Carl "the Truth" Williams is a painfully obvious reminder — of Williams — of Tyson's prowess, or is it the lack of a top notch opponent? Many of Tyson's victories have been



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Assistant Sports Editor

against lackluster opponents, but this is not to detract from Tyson's own ability. He has blasted his way through both seasoned veterans and unproven rookies. But despite all this, we will have to wait at least another year before Tyson faces some

real competition in unbeaten Evander Holyfield. Holyfield has gained respect and attention as well, and is waiting for what he really wants: a match with Mike Tyson. Doesn't everyone? Despite Williams' humiliating performance against Tyson that lasted only a minute and a half, Williams still managed to earn a cool \$1 million for his troubles and embarrassment. Not bad for a minute's work. George Foreman, who once commanded the attention of the world with his exploits in boxing, is regaining a spot in the limelight with a surprising comeback after a 10 year retirement. All he needs to complete his dream is a win over Tyson. The thought seems nearly impossible, but stranger things have happened. Everyone wants a shot at Tyson. Even

Dallas Cowboys' star running back Hershel Walker. Although Walker is one of the best players in the league, it's a big step from his old hobby of ballet dancing to clashing with Tyson. Green Bay draftee Tony Mandarich, heralded as one of the best offensive linemen to ever play and has been described as a human wall, also wants a fight with Tyson. Mandarich has even gone so far as to say he would beat Tyson badly. Maybe in football, but Tyson has proven himself time and again against outspoken challengers. When Ed "Too Tall" Jones of the Cowboys, a former boxer, heard the news of Mandarich's bid to fight Tyson, he was amused. He said Walker should fight Mandarich, the winner would take on

Jones, and whoever won that would go up against Tyson. Tyson has said no man can beat him. That remains to be seen. With his recent ordeal with Robin Givens, it looks like no woman can beat him either. The fact is Tyson could be in a class by himself. At age 23, he could rule the boxing world for some time to come. The one challenger who has the best shot at beating him is Holyfield, but money interests will delay this fight for as long as possible. The longer the match is delayed, the more money it will make, pure and simple. Isn't that what boxing is all about? No one with a brain would get battered for free. Getting beat up and paid a million dollars is much more appealing.

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