

Series will resume Tuesday

Vincent puts games in perspective after quake

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The World Series will resume next Tuesday night in Candlestick Park, as the Bay area recovers from its worst earthquake since 1906.

Baseball commissioner Fay Vincent said neither Candlestick nor the Oakland Coliseum are ready yet, but he expects them to be prepared by next week.

Games 3, 4 and, if necessary, 5 will be played in San Francisco, as was scheduled before Tuesday night's earthquake.

This will be the longest gap during a World Series since 1911 when there was a week delay because of rain-outs in the meeting between the New York Giants and the Philadelphia Athletics.

"It is becoming very clear to all of us in major league baseball that our issue is really a modest one in light of the great tragedy," Vincent said. "It is also clear that we are not going to be able to play baseball at either park in this area until next Tuesday."

The Bay Bridge Series was postponed Wednesday for the second straight day. The earthquake, which struck Tuesday just 30 minutes before game time,

killed more than 270 people and injured hundreds of others.

"We had 17 structural engineers and two architects totally examining the stadium for the impact. We feel there is no structural damage," said John Lind, Candlestick's manager. "There are some minor repairs and some cleanup. There are areas where we would like to explore in the next few days, to make sure beyond a shadow of a doubt."

The news conference announcing the plan was held in a room lit by candles and remote television camera lights. The St. Francis Hotel is still without full power.

"The alternative of waiting a few days seems to be better than canceling the World Series, but this is said in light of understanding the difficulty this area is having," Vincent said. "We will not be playing while this community is in the early stages of its recovery."

The Giants have been told to report to Candlestick Park Thursday afternoon for a workout.

"Once the community returns to a sense of normalcy, they will expect the World Series. I think it can be part of the healing," A's vice president Sandy Alderson said.



Battalion file photo

James Francis hopes to contain Darren Lewis better than in A&M's 28-14 win last year.

Francis

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pace this season. In six games, he's logged 60 tackles, 33 of them unassisted, and blocked a kick. Francis also has eight tackles behind the line of scrimmage for 34 yards in losses.

Talent scouts consider Francis a great player. He was named to the pre-season All-American team, and has been nominated as a candidate for the Butkus Award, given annually to the nation's best collegiate linebacker. However, Francis isn't wasting time on thinking about awards.

"I try not to think about it too much, but it's there," he said. "If I just keep playing the way I've been playing, I'll be in the running. I'm not worried about it right now."

"I'm just trying to get ready for A&M."

Francis is tired of people hyping

Saturday's game as a showdown between him and fellow Butkus candidate Aaron Wallace, he said.

"I'm not worried about Wallace," Francis said. "He's a great player, but I won't be trying to tackle him," he said.

Wallace isn't the first great player Francis has been compared to. His brother Ron was a star defensive back for Baylor from 1982-1986, and now plays for the Dallas Cowboys.

"When I first came here, being the player that Ron was, everybody wanted me to be the same way," he said. "I don't mind being compared to Ron. He was a great player. I take that as a compliment."

"Our offense had a bad day, and our defense had to bear down," he said. "Then, we made a lot of mistakes, and were embarrassed."

"We know the kind of team we've got, and we're gonna bounce back. If we played them again, it would be a lot closer, but that's not possible."

Now, we've just got to move on."

Francis said that stopping the Aggie ground game will be difficult.

"We're not going to key on Darren Lewis, because if we do, they'll give the ball to Robert Wilson. Their whole offense is good, so we can't just try to stop one player," he said.

The key to stopping the Aggies' passing attack is pressuring quarterback Lance Pavlas, he said.

"Pavlas looks pretty good, but I think if we get pressure on him, we can force him to make some mistakes," Francis said. "He's a good thrower, but I don't know if he throws that well under pressure."

Both Baylor and A&M are 2-1 in conference, but Saturday's game is not necessarily a battle for survival, he said.

"It's going to be hard to win the conference with two losses," he said. "The loser won't necessarily be eliminated, but their backs will be against the wall."

Volleyball

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fight back in the third game, spotting the Mavericks 14 points. A&M engineered another comeback, this time scoring six straight points to take the lead 2-1 in the match.

The emotional toll of two dramatic comebacks was too much for the Lady Ags. The Mavericks

drubbed A&M in the final two games 15-8 and 15-4.

"We came out flat after (winning game three)," Givens said. "We can't afford to do that. We don't have any superstars, so for us to be successful, we have to play consistently all the time."

Yvonne Van Brandt, a national leader in digs for Texas A&M, again led the Lady Ags, posting 29 digs. Kelli Kellen and Amy Cumings led the team in kills. Kellen had 22 and Cumings had 21.

The Lady Ags missed out on a huge chance to gain some momentum before they head back into SWC play this weekend, Givens said.

"So many positive things can happen from beating a team ranked in the national polls," Givens said.

Texas A&M is now 8-9 on the season and will travel to Waco Friday to take on the Bears. They travel to Houston on Tuesday to play Rice.



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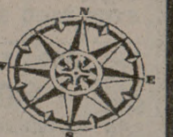
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