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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: A NEW THREAT?

For a while it appeared that nothing short of White House intervention could settle baseball's most celebrated labor-management pay dispute since the days of Babe Ruth. But the Dodgers flashed their famed finishing kick and overhauled their two reluctant dragons in the nick of time.

The capitulation of Don Drysdale and Sandy Koufax came none too soon for the Dodgers, the National League and the millions of fans who'll watch the world champs defend their crown. Now that the salary hassle is over, everybody's happy, including Don and Sandy, who'll bank well over \$200,000 between them for their 1966 labors.

If time was growing short for the Dodgers, the same could be said for the club's two premier pitchers, who had threatened to remain out for the season. Both are among baseball's most popular stars, but their stubborn stand, their use of a lawyer as a negotiator and their "togetherness" tactics failed to strike a responsive chord with many observers in and out of baseball.

The possible repercussions from their collective-bargaining strategy promised fireworks of far-reaching proportions.

It was clear that their decision to negotiate as a unit had profoundly shaken the management of every club in the major leagues. The threat of collective bargaining was the specter that haunted all executive councils.

It would serve no purpose to condemn Koufax and Drysdale for teaming up in their battle to get what they felt they were worth. Many in and out of baseball considered their plan ill advised, hatched under Hollywood influence. Others felt the ball player has all too few weapons in confrontations with management and is to be commended for developing a new one.

Certainly the scheme was a drastic departure from normal baseball practice, and there was little doubt that major league officials had reason to fear the potential effect on management-player salary negotiations.

Limited application of collective bargaining conceivably could benefit major league players. In fact, it has done so. The Major League Players Association is an example. The players have won valuable concessions, such as increased pension revenue and better playing conditions, through this organization's negotiations with club owners. But the prospect of perhaps an entire pitching staff demanding a \$25,000 contract for a fringe member of the trade is a horse of a different color.

Furthermore, the ability to pay astronomical salaries is by no means uniform throughout the majors. A club with an attendance potential of 1,200,000 and limited radio and TV revenue simply does not have the resources available to the franchise which can anticipate a gate of two million, plus hefty air lanes income.

In trade unionism, the individual must attain a certain level of competence to graduate from apprentice to journeyman status. After that, there is usually no distinction drawn. This system would have serious drawbacks in competitive sports, where individual feats often are decisive on the field and at the gate.

Team sports thrive on public adulation of particular players, but collective bargaining could lump pro athletes into a faceless organization. Ball players are members of teams, but they win recognition as individuals. Good plumbers, carpenters and printers take pride in their skills. They do not, however, depend on competitive superiority to fatten their pay envelopes, as ball players do.

The Dodgers' dispute with their two pitching aces was a bitter one, but the principals never resorted to name-calling. Equally impressive, when the imbroglio reached what appeared to be an unbreakable stalemate, both sides displayed a willingness to negotiate.

Dodger Owner Walter O'Malley and G. M. Buzzie Bavasi conducted themselves with distinction. As for Sandy and Don, we can't blame them for trying to get top dollar, but we hope their tactics won't inspire fellow players to try the same path. The results could be ruinous—for the players, for management and for baseball.

PLEASE, LET'S NOT DISTURB THE NEIGHBORS

Nineteen years of frustration have left Cub fans in a rebellious mood. As defeats were piled on defeats, some Bruin backers claim they were sorely tempted to sue the club for impersonating a major league outfit.

Now a Cub stockholder has indeed resorted to legal action, charging President P. K. Wrigley and his board of directors with mismanagement. The dissident shareholder says Wrigley's refusal to install lights in Wrigley Field has contributed to the club's deterioration through loss of income.

It remains to be seen whether the Cubs' continuous second-division residency since 1946 will result in legal satisfaction for the plaintiff. It is plain, however, that Cub fans have a right to be dissatisfied with two decades of inferior performance. They want relief, and they're probably not particular whether it comes through a lawsuit or a magic managerial wand wielded by Leo Durocher.

Cub followers claim they'd be happy if Wrigley displayed the same solicitude for them which he showers upon the club's neighbors on the north side of Chicago. The Cubs' boss insists that lights in Wrigley Field would disturb the people who live near the ball park.

Fans who have been paying their way into Wrigley's park for years declare the Cub proxy could have been more zealous in providing for their comfort and enjoyment. As evidence, they cite the shabby appearance of a once immaculate ball park and the Cubs' perennial resting place near the bottom of the National League.

Chicagoans who crave peace and quiet have no complaints about the Cubs. Wrigley's team has agitated no one except its own followers.

Wrigley apparently feels that citizens on Chicago's north side could not sleep well if the Cubs played night ball. Cub fans say it is the Cub management which is asleep and does not wish to be disturbed.



Planning for Future ST. LOUIS, Mo.

There has been much talk that baseball (i.e., the owners) ought to undertake a long-range survey to determine the game's future, but there has been little or no talk about what the players ought to do for the benefit of the national pastime.

A scholarly expert on baseball, Dr. Ralph Andreano, associate professor of economics at the University of Wisconsin, feels that the players have a definite role to fill, but he accuses them of being "quite as short-sighted" as the owners "in pursuing their present conservative, even reactionary, policies."

Dr. Andreano, who is the author of "No Joy in Mudville," a critique on baseball, wrote us recently to comment on the nomination of labor

Praise From Professor

Dear Mr. Spink:

I want to thank you for the fairness with which you have discussed my book, "No Joy in Mudville." I have always considered THE SPORTING NEWS an authoritative source and a positive force for improving the game in all its aspects. The objective manner in which you reported certain ideas in my book reaffirms my respect for you and your publication.

DR. RALPH ANDREANO.

leader Marvin Miller to be the executive director of the Major League Players' Association. In his letter, Dr. Andreano said:

"Several of my colleagues know Miller and he is well thought of generally in union circles. I do not know him personally and thus can question, without bias, just what it is that the Players' Association hopes to accomplish through him. Is this office now to be more of a central bargaining agent than it was under the part-time supervision of Judge Robert Cannon? Why shouldn't the minor league players, the future major leaguers, have someone bargaining (looking out) for their interests?"

Problem of Talent Supply

"To me, the players are justified in not wanting to accept a union in the conventional sense of that term. But the players have just grievances, especially minor league players, and the game desperately needs a new, more exciting image than it now has.

"Since 1950, the number of jobs (based on active player limits) in the structure of professional baseball in this country has decreased by some 70 per cent. But, at the same time, the number of jobs (same basis) in the major leagues has increased since 1961 by 25 per cent.

"In answer to the demand for expansion, the major leagues cry that there are not enough players. I believe this is not so.

"There is a pool of potential professional players of about 135 boys (between the ages of 16 to 19) for every job which now exists. If the wage payments were higher for the period of apprenticeship, if the psychic rewards were greater, boys now capable of going into professional baseball, but not doing so, would be attracted to become members of this profession.

"Thus, what I am saying is that the things that the Players' Associa-

Bob Addie's ATOMS...



Rube Rates DiMag Among Special Heroes

POMPANO BEACH, Fla.

Rube Walker, Washington coach, drove Joe DiMaggio from Ft. Lauderdale to Miami Lakes to play in the Shirley Povich Golf Open, named in honor of the sports editor of the Washington Post. Walker, of course, played with the Dodgers and had some heroes of his own. "But I must



JOE DIMAGGIO
... In Demand



GIL HODGES
... No Fish



DON CARDWELL
... Peeled Apple



KEN HARRELSON
... Colorful

admit DiMaggio is one of my all-time heroes," confessed Rube. "Joe is a fascinating guy to listen to when he talks baseball and he does a tremendous job with kids. It's a pleasure to belong to the same game as a man like Joe DiMaggio."

DiMag still is in demand. Joe said he'll be busy all summer with speaking engagements, ranging from coast to coast and even to Hawaii, which he will visit a couple of times. DiMag has reached the autumn of his life gracefully. He's trim and handsome with graying hair. Joe talks more easily than he did when he was a player.

Gil Hodges truly had a Bad Day at Black Rock after his Senators dropped nine straight. Gil went fishing on an off day with coach Joe Pignatano in a hired boat which conked out a couple of miles from shore. Hodges decided to row and hit himself in the chin with the oar. He and Pignatano waved towels for a couple of hours before another boat towed them in. Just as Gil's boat came into the dock, the motor turned over. Gil put the boat in reverse and jammed it into the dock.

Cardwell Dons Stocking Cap After Haircut

Don Cardwell, Pittsburgh pitcher, wanted a "butch" haircut from a Ft. Myers barber and was butchered instead. Don looked like a peeled apple. He wore a stocking cap for a week until the hair grew back and he began to look human again.

It is probably just as well that Harry (The Hat) Walker isn't a fashion model. They say Walker never seems to be able to match his clothes and wears some odd color combinations. That's in street clothes, of course. Harry looks as good as the next man in his baseball uniform.

Commissioner William Eckert is beginning to charm people with his sincerity. The commish has been visiting all the camps and admits he gets a big bang out of it. "This job really is fun," he said. "Of course, I am subjected to questions wherever I go, but I realize that the newspapermen need stories. But I have been impressed with the camaraderie and warmth of the baseball people. They (the baseball people) remind me a good deal of my years in the Air Force and the friendships made there. In the Air Force, we always followed each other's careers, knew about each other's families and had a closely-knit relationship. I find baseball to be the same way and I'm beginning to feel more and more at home." Eckert says the questions most frequently asked him are about the Ed Hurley case (the American League umpire who is fighting the mandatory retirement) and the Braves' situation. The commissioner says he's envious of sports writers who get to go to spring training every year. "I wish I could have your job," the general told me. I told him I would be glad to swap.

N. L. Has No Monopoly on Tight Races, Cronin Says

Joe Cronin, American League president, was amused when somebody suggested the junior circuit would have a "National League type of race" because so many teams have a chance for the pennant. "I think we had a real good American League type of race last year," Cronin said. "Last year, by June 30, only four games separated fifth-place Detroit from first-place Cleveland. Even after the Twins started to pull away, there was a three-way fight for second place in August and September, and then second place wasn't decided until the last day. This year's race should be even closer and there's nothing that's better for baseball."

Given a couple of years, Kansas City's Ken Harrelson could be one of the most colorful players around. Harrelson has a delightful personality and is the type of player the drab American League needs.

tion should pump for are really the 'gut' things: more jobs, better pay and working conditions, and general improvement of their image and, perforce, that of the game.

"I think both the players and the owners are guilty of being quite short-sighted in pursuing their present conservative, even reactionary, policies.

"I would hope that the new director of the Players' Association would undertake objective studies of the labor market conditions for professional baseball players, the entire in-

dustry itself, and then formulate policies that will jointly secure the future of all of professional baseball in the U. S.

"The game needs objectivity if it is to survive.

"Logically, the commissioner's office should do these things, but it has not and probably will not. The players' long-term interest and the owners' are basically the same and this relationship could well stand the test of objective study as a basis for policies to benefit both, and also the public.