

There is no strike! Baseball lives on

By Ronald Blum

The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — After a round of all-night negotiations, baseball players and owners reached a tentative agreement on a labor contract that averted a strike threatened for later Friday, The Associated Press learned.

"There is no strike," said Atlanta pitcher Tom Glavine, the National League player representative.

Commissioner Bud Selig and union head Donald Fehr attended a morning bargaining session that wrapped up the agreement. It was the first time in nine rounds of labor talks since 1972 that baseball avoided a work stoppage.

No agreement had been signed, but the sides planned to announce the new pact at a 1 p.m. EDT news conference.

As part of a settlement, owners agreed not to eliminate teams through the 2006 season, a management official said on condition he not be identified. Owners attempted to fold the Montreal Expos and Minnesota Twins after last season but were stopped by Minnesota courts.

The deal was reached with little time to spare — about 3 1/2 hours before Friday's first game, between St. Louis and Chicago at Wrigley Field.

As the hours dwindled, lawyers had shuttled between the commissioner's office and union headquarters, crunching numbers and exchanging revised proposals.

Two lawyers from each side bargained until 2 a.m. before the sides broke for caucuses. Players gave owners a proposal during a 20-minute meeting that began at 4 a.m., and owners responded with a counteroffer about 6:30 a.m. The union returned with a response at 9:15 a.m.

The final meeting, which completed talks that began in January, lasted almost three hours. As soon as it ended, teams started heading to ballparks.

"The reason we set a strike date was to get something done, and we did," said John McDonald, the Cleveland Indians' player representative.

McDonald got the word from Tony Bernazard, a special assistant to the players' union.

"He said, 'We're playing tonight,'" McDonald said. "That's all I wanted to hear. That's all any baseball player wanted to hear. Everyone should be

thrilled."

With the deal, owners gained their most significant concessions in 26 years from a union that became one of the most powerful in the nation. The players' association has lifted the average salary of its members from \$51,501 in 1976 — the last year before free agency — to \$2.38 million this season.

As part of the agreement, high-revenue teams will have to share a far larger percentage of their locally generated money, and a luxury tax will be levied on high-payroll teams to discourage spending.

Since the last strike in 1994-95, a 232-day stoppage that forced cancellation of the World Series for the first time since 1904, the New York Yankees have won four world championships. For that very reason, commissioner Bud Selig and many team owners said they needed changes to restore competitive balance.

The mid-market teams figure to be the biggest winners in the deal, receiving much more of their competitors' money.

The biggest losers are the Yankees, who generate the most money in baseball.

The Yankees and other high-revenue teams will have to pay tens of millions of dollars to subsidize their competitors, and they may have to raise ticket prices to cover the increased revenue sharing.

"It's going to affect a lot of teams with high payrolls, there's no question about that," Yankees pitcher Steve Karsay said.

A walkout threatened the final 31 days and 438 games of the regular season, and fans were angry at players and owners for their repeated quarrels over a business that generates \$3.5 billion annually.

"It was close. I was about to make my flight arrangements to go home," Cubs outfielder Roosevelt Brown said.

Fans tossed about a half-dozen foul balls back onto the field during Anaheim's 6-1 win over Tampa Bay, the last game played Thursday night. Many of the 18,820 fans chanted "Don't Strike, Don't Strike" during the seventh-inning stretch, and when the game ended, some of them threw debris on the field.

Field goal tops off victory; Broncos slaughter 'Hawks'

DENVER (AP) — The boos for Jarious Jackson quickly turned to a buzz when Ola Kimrin lined up at his own 45-yard line to attempt a field goal.

As the kick sailed through the uprights with plenty of room to spare, the crowd broke out in a roar.

"It was a heck of a kick, wasn't it?" Denver coach Mike Shanahan said after Kimrin kicked a 65-yard field goal in the Broncos' 31-0 victory over Seattle Thursday night. "It looked like it could have been good at 70."

The Broncos signed Kimrin just before the start of training camp as an insurance policy in case they couldn't sign free agent Jason Elam. Denver was able to sign Elam, a three-time Pro Bowler, meaning Kimrin will likely be out of a job when rosters are cut to the 53-man limit on Sunday.

He at least gave the fans something to remember him by.

Kimrin, a Swedish kicker who led NFL Europe with 12 field goals this year, calmly trotted out the field with two seconds left. Holder Tom Rouen had to reach up to get the snap, but got the spot down perfectly.

Kimrin knocked the kick through the uprights and was mobbed by teammates as he ran to the sideline.

The NFL record is 63 yards, shared by Elam and Tom Dempsey, but Kimrin's kick won't be recognized because exhibition games do not count in the league record book.

"I ran out and I looked at the 50 and said, 'OK, 65,'" Kimrin said. "I looked down and Tom was sitting at the spot. I looked down and said, 'this is far' and then I backed off. He (Rouen) was laughing about it. It felt real good."

Jackson, who threw a pass out of bounds with seven seconds left in the first half to set up Kimrin's kick, put his roster spot in jeopardy with an uneven training camp, but came through with his best game of the preseason. He completed 14 of 22 passes for 144 yards to all but lock up the third spot behind Brian Griese and Steve Beuerlein.

Jackson hit Ashley Lelie on a 38-yard touchdown pass early in the first quarter, then bulldozed his way in for a 4-yard TD late in the quarter.

He also scrambled for 23 yards on Denver's third scoring drive.



Two Cowboy football players (above) tackled a teammate Thursday at the annual Soap Scrimmage at Cowboy Stadium. Sophomore Daniel Blake (below) led a pack of the boys' cross country team five kilometers around the football field. Earlier the girls' team ran two miles.
Photos by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Soap scrimmage kicks off fall sports

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The cross country team tested its members' endurance and the football players entertained a crowd of about 200 during Goodland High School's soap scrimmage Thursday at Cowboy Stadium.

The scrimmage is an annual affair. It allows players to practice in uniform in front of a crowd, and gives fans the chance to see their teams in action. The cost of admission is a bar of soap, which the teams can use in the locker rooms during the season.

After the teams had their pictures taken, the football team split into black and gold teams for the scrimmage. No field goals, punts, kick-offs or extra points were tried; a team just set up at one end of the field and tried to make to the end zone with running plays and passes. The coaches walked back and forth on the field, giving instruction and acting as the officials.

After two touchdowns by the gold team and one by the black, the players took a break and turned the field over to the girls' cross country team.

The girls ran around the field nine and two-thirds times — two miles — while the announcer kept the crowd updated on the race's progress and told a little about the team.

The team includes two girls from Sharon Springs, which doesn't have a cross country program, one of whom, Kalie Smith, won the race. She was followed by Tiffany Thomas. Both are freshmen. Along with the high school kids, two Grant Junior High athletes ran a mile.

Not every runner was able to finish the race, but that's not unusual at

this point of the season. The girls haven't even run in a competition yet.

The football players took the field again, and each team turned the ball over several times before the black team ended up close to the end zone. The gold team had gotten mixed up while substituting players and ended up with an extra man on the field.

Tony Diehl, the head coach, had more important things to worry about than counting players, and the scrimmage continued. Even running an offense against 12 defenders, the black team managed to score with both a touchdown and a conversion.

The boys cross country team took over the stadium soon after and ran 5 kilometers around the field. Aaron Gittinger and Speedy Aguilar ran side by side all through the race and finished together. Aguilar is the team's only junior, and this is the first year Gittinger, a senior, has run cross country, although he ran at the state track championship this year.


The football players took the scrimmage seriously, encouraging each other and keeping their attention on the field.

"We're coming along aren't we?" Coach Diehl yelled to assistant coach J.D. Hooper after a successful running play. "It looks like we're going to have a good year!"

The football team's first game is at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Hoxie, and the cross country teams will go up against 11 schools Thursday at Sugar Hills Golf Club.

The volleyball team will hold its Black and Gold Scrimmage at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse and girl's tennis at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Steever Park.






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