

Commissioner Costas? Baseball Needs Good Leadership Fast

What If A Real Baseball Man Led The 1993 Season?

Today marks a significant anniversary in the life of baseball fans everywhere. One year has passed since baseball had a commissioner, and that isn't even counting the last days of the Fay Vincent administration, when the owners paid him no mind anyway.

Since Sept. 7, 1992, the owners have exercised power through the Executive Council, headed by Brewers owner Bud Selig. The power vacuum sticks out not only at a time when baseball's problems have multiplied and its image tarnished.

In fact, baseball is going through an image crisis, and the problems are mounting. What might have happened with a strong commish, like, say, Bob Costas in New York? ...

Baseball has enjoyed a banner season in 1993, with several top-notch pennant races and effective leadership by Commissioner

Costas to deal with off-and-on-field problems.

In the American League, the New York Yankees have moved to the top of the division. Unburdened by the lifetime ban of owner George Steinbrenner, enforced by Costas, the Yankees have a comfortable lead over the Toronto Blue Jays and Baltimore Orioles.

Cleveland is the team on the rise in the East. The Spiders, who were ordered by the league to get rid of the Chief Wahoo symbol on their hats and just decided to go back to their old nickname, boast a top stable of young players.

The race has tightened in the AL West with the resurgence of the Texas Rangers, who dealt for former Met Bret Saberhagen in May in exchange for slugger Jose Canseco. Rookie first baseman Ryan Klesko, acquired from Atlanta in the Rafael Palmiero deal, has joined Juan Gonzales as the top young slugging duo in the NL.



JOHN C. MANUEL
SENIOR WRITER

The Rangers trail the White Sox by three games.

The story in the National League East centers on the roller-coaster ride of the New York Mets and an incredibly tight race. After a dismal start, which included verbal threats made by Bobby Bonilla on a reporter, Commissioner Costas suspended Bonilla and teammate Vince Coleman for what he termed "behavior not in the best interests of baseball."

With the St. Petersburg Giants, the Atlanta Hammers (who moved to the East while the Cubs and Cardinals moved to the NL West in Costas' realignment plan), and Philadelphia Phillies off to torrid starts, the Mets decided to make a move and made the Canseco trade. The slugger went on a torrid streak and the team, adopting an "Us against the World" attitude, has served as the Phillies' main contention all year.

Led by second-year right-hander Anthony Young, who has 17 victories, the Mets are only six games behind Philadelphia. The Hammers, so named in honor of Hank Aaron, attempted to deal for Padres' Fred McGriff but were blocked by Costas. The commissioner said he acted "for the good of the baseball fans of San Diego," but the Hammers have rallied behind the red-hot bat of Palmiero and are three back.

The Giants started strong but faltered

when MVP candidate Barry Bonds went down with a back injury, attributed to playing on the rock-hard AstroTurf in St. Petersburg's Florida Suncoast Dome.

The NL West, meanwhile, is home to the most wide open race in baseball, thanks to the Giants' and Braves' move East. The Cincinnati Reds and manager Tony Perez have moved out in front for now. The new ownership in Cincinnati, which took over

after Costas banned Marge Schott for life for racist comments, stuck by Perez after a slow start and it paid off.

And Costas was able to bring the owners and players together to hammer out a new collective bargaining agreement, calling for a gradual move to a salary cap and a revenue-sharing plan between teams ...

Maybe the picture painted here is a tad

rosy. But the point is that baseball needs a commissioner, a strong commissioner, to deal with its myriad of problems.

Not that Costas would be the guy, but baseball needs someone with a passion for the game who would draw the respect of the owners.

A strong commissioner, to use Costas' words, would be in the best interests of the game.

Sanderson pitches Giants past Pirates

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN FRANCISCO—Scott Sanderson pitched six shutout innings Monday in San Francisco's 4-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates as the Giants returned home trying to hold on in the NL West.

The Giants widened their lead to three games over Atlanta, which was to play later Monday at Los Angeles, and sent the Pirates to their fifth straight loss.

Sanderson (3-1), who has won his last three starts with the Giants after 10 straight losses, mostly with California, retired 12 of the 13 batters after the second inning.

Rod Beck pitched the ninth for his 41st save.

The Pirates didn't get a run until the seventh, when Al Martin doubled off Dave Burba and scored on Kevin Young's pinch-hit single.

The Giants scored two runs in the fourth, when Paul Wagner (5-7) issued a leadoff walk to Willie McGee. Barry Bonds' hit-

and-run single moved McGee to third, and Bonds stole second before both runners scored on Royce Clayton's two-out single.

Clayton went 2-for-3 after going 6-for-31 on San Francisco's nine-game road trip.

In the sixth, rookie J.R. Phillips ground-rule double drove home Bonds, who hit a two-out double, and gave the Giants a 3-0 lead.

Brewers Top Sliding Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Seldom-used Matt Mieske singled in the winning run and Pat Listach hit his first homer in a month as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Kansas City Royals 3-2 Monday.

Mieske, hitting .194 on 6-for-31 with four RBIs, knocked in the winning run in the seventh off Greg Cadaret (1-1), who had relieved Mike Magnante.

Magnante allowed only three hits in six innings, but one was Listach's game-tying, two-run homer in the sixth.

Cadaret began the seventh by hitting John Jaha, who went to second on Dave Nilsson's sacrifice. Mieske followed with a liner to center.

Calvin and Hobbes



THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Philippine native
 - 5 Cinema dog
 - 9 Pigtail
 - 14 Genesis place
 - 15 Synagogue
 - 16 A Starr
 - 17 Mother of Apollo
 - 18 Half: pref.
 - 19 Composer Dvorak
 - 20 Become very angry
 - 21 Antenna
 - 23 Protozoan
 - 25 Cash in Calabria
 - 26 River to the English Channel
 - 28 Claim
 - 33 Muse of poetry
 - 36 QED word
 - 38 Penna. port
 - 39 Type of cheese
 - 41 Cancel
 - 43 Nautical term
 - 44 — even keel
 - 46 Bodies of water
 - 47 Landlord
 - 49 Nut
 - 51 Grate
 - 53 A Carnegie
 - 57 Don't be so cruel!
- DOWN**
- 1 Kind of toast
 - 2 Ancient Greek theater
 - 3 Back: pref.
 - 4 Alert
 - 5 Secluded dwelling of a Hindu sage
 - 6 Mets' stadium
 - 7 Acrobat
 - 8 Excuse
 - 9 Chatters
 - 10 Occupation
 - 11 Acting acronym
 - 12 Engineer Sikorsky
 - 13 Great deal
 - 22 Incensed
 - 24 Kick
 - 27 Nasty
 - 29 Used
 - 30 Land of shamrocks
 - 31 Peel
 - 32 Spreads for drying
 - 33 Epochal
 - 34 Irritate
 - 35 Makes a fine grade
 - 37 English composer
 - 40 Pentateuch
 - 42 Nine inches
 - 45 Clothing
 - 48 Demosthenes, e.g.
 - 50 Forty winks
 - 52 Pinnipeds
 - 54 Fiber plant
 - 55 Evergreen shrub
 - 56 Ream
 - 57 — springs eternal...
 - 58 Large uncouth persons
 - 59 Great in range
 - 60 Art deco name
 - 61 Hindu queen

TARA AMIS SPUD
OVEN ALERT PERI
NEAT MOLAR ARGO
ERR HINDQUARTER
WHOSE MSS
SPIELS COMPETED
HANDY DAWES ARI
EDDY GUILD SIAM
DUO BANNS PULSE
SAWHORSE BARGES
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BACKBENCHER NET
AXLE RARER ENVY
LIAR EMITS PEER
TSMIS DEBS ARNE

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SON OF THE PINK PANTHER FATHERHOOD
3:15-7:05 [R] 5:00-9:00 [R] [F]

IN THE LINE OF FIRE
3:20-7:00 • 9:25-11:05 [R]

CALENDAR GIRL
3:00-5:00 • 7:10-9:00 [R] [F]

THE THING CALLED LOVE
3:00-5:10 • 7:20-9:30 [R] [F]

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