

Rose takes first steps toward reinstatement

ATTENDANCE

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NEW YORK (AP)—For years, Pete Rose has been complaining that he couldn't plead his case to baseball. Now one of his lawyers will get a chance.

Roger Makley, who has represented Rose since early in baseball's gambling investigation a decade ago, will meet in Dec. or Jan. with baseball's top lawyer, Bob DuPuy. Rose termed it the start of a dialogue to end his lifetime ban from the sport.

"The last 10 years have been hell for me," Rose said Tuesday. "I survived because I'm a survivor."

Following an investigation of his gambling, baseball's career hits leader agreed to the lifetime ban in August 1989.

While Rose was hopeful the meeting with DuPuy is the first step on the road to reinstatement, commissioner Bud Selig played down

the development.

"Mr. Rose's attorney has written me a letter," Selig said at an owners meeting in Irving, Texas. "I read it very thoughtfully, very carefully, and turned it over to Mr. DuPuy. There's nothing more involved right now than that, nor should there be any more read into it."

DuPuy described the meeting more as of a courtesy in which he would listen to what Rose's side had to say and pass it along to Selig.

"About 10 days ago, they asked to meet with commissioner Selig and myself. Bud asked me to meet with them," DuPuy said. "We're always amenable to discussing matters with people."

Rose twice said that baseball approached him about a meeting, a claim denied by DuPuy and Selig spokesman Rich Levin. Rose's business manager, Warren Greene, said

he has been dealing with DuPuy on a "daily basis," but DuPuy said he had spoken with Greene just once.

DuPuy said Selig would not be part of the meeting and that he would update Selig, who has said many times that he has seen no new evidence that would cause him to alter the ban.

"After we meet with them and see what they've got, he'll make a determination and we'll see from there," DuPuy said, adding that Selig did not set any timetable.

The 58-year-old Rose has been in the headlines repeatedly in recent weeks. First, he was among the 25 players elected to baseball's All-Century team. Then he received the largest ovation among the All-Century players introduced before Game 2 of the World Series at Atlanta's Turner Field.

"That's like outdoing God in

heaven," Rose said. He also got a surge of support from the public after NBC reporter Jim Gray questioned him sharply about gambling immediately after the on-field ceremony.

Rose said his side wrote to baseball two years ago and again five months ago to ask for a meeting, but received no response, another claim Levin denied. The latest letter was sent about 10 days ago, a few weeks after the Atlanta ceremony, and Rose said DuPuy answered within 24 hours.

"I don't know if that had anything to do with his responding to our letter," Rose said, referring to the ovation. "I had to think so."

Rose applied for reinstatement in September 1997 and still hasn't received a formal response from Selig. While the agreement he signed made no formal finding,

then-commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti said he concluded Rose bet on the Cincinnati Reds while managing the team.

While baseball's rules allowed Rose to apply to reinstatement after one year, he waited eight. He didn't want to apply while Fay Vincent was commissioner because Vincent headed the Rose investigation as deputy to Giamatti and hired John Dowd, who compiled the report on Rose's gambling.

Rose said his lawyers would attack the evidence gathered by Dowd, who said he obtained betting slips in Rose's handwriting and with his fingerprints, along with corroborating telephone records.

"If you believe his handwriting expert, why not believe mine?" Rose said. "If you believe his gambling expert, why not believe mine? Hold your breath and give my people a chance to speak."

"We were successful last year and we have an opportunity to be more successful this year," said senior women's basketball forward Danielle Melvin. "I think we just have to get the community and the student body more involved."

"We need to increase the awareness of women's basketball," Melvin said. "I think our marketing and sport information people are doing a great job this year."

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Umpires form new union; Phillips ousted

NEW YORK (AP)—Richie Phillips' 21-year reign as head of baseball's umpires is over. Just like 22 members of his union, he's out of a job.

In a landslide vote, major league umpires formed a new union Tuesday that includes dissident AL umpires on its board.

The National Labor Relations Board announced the results of a mail ballot, with 57 umpires voting for the Major League Umpires Independent Organizing Committee and 35 voting to retain the Major League Umpires Association. One vote was voided because an umpire, whom the NLRB did not identify, signed his name to the secret ballot.

"Today is a statement by all umpires that it's time for a change," said AL umpire John Hirschbeck, who helped lead the dissidents who

overthrew Phillips. "We want a union that is run by umpires and advised by attorneys."

Under federal law, a majority determined the result of the election. Dan Silverman, director of the NLRB's New York region, will certify the election as official unless an objection is filed by Dec. 7.

Phillips was in New York, but didn't go to the NLRB for the vote count and was not available for comment, according to his staff in Philadelphia. His side was represented by NL umpire Jerry Crawford, the union president, and lawyer Pat Campbell.

"The other union won. I'm upset," said Crawford, who added that it was likely Phillips' union would file objections.

Joel Smith, a lawyer for the dissidents, said the law allows objections to be filed by a party claiming there was illegal conduct that af-



Richie Phillips was ousted as head of the Major League Umpires Association. (AP photo)

fected the outcome. Silverman would determine whether to reject the objection or call a hearing before one of his aides.

Hirschbeck said that if Phillips had attended, he would have told him it's time to move on, thanked him for what he'd done for the umpires in their careers, and told him that major league umpires need to move in a new direction.

When the umpires splintered into factions in July, Phillips had the support of approximately 41 of the then 68 umpires. At least six of those umpires defected, more of the 25 newly hired umpires supported Phillips' union.

In the weeks leading up to the election, most AL umpires appeared to support the dissidents, who were organized by Hirschbeck, Joe Brinkman and Dave Phillips—who is not related to Richie Phillips. The dissidents accused

Phillips of being autocratic and responsive only to the union board, which is heavily influenced by senior NL umpires.

Most NL umpires backed Richie Phillips and Crawford. Crawford sat with his elbows on the table Tuesday, clasping his hands, fidgeting, as the votes were counted.

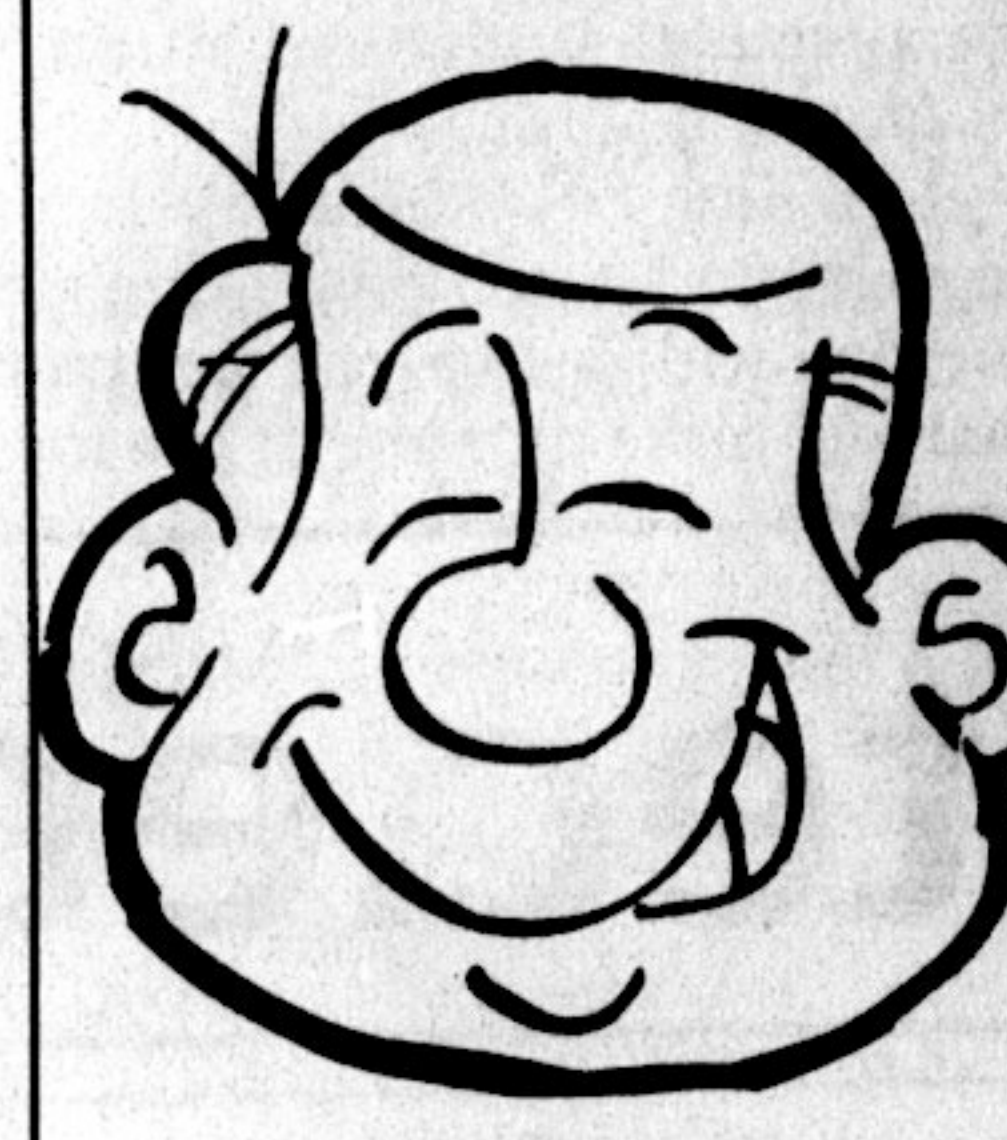
Brinkman said it would take about one year for a new union to gain support of all umpires.

"I think they'll come back," Brinkman said. "It's just a matter of time. It's a healing process."

Phillips and Crawford hoped to force owners into an early start to negotiations for a new labor contract when they launched their mass resignation strategy July 14. But when many AL umpires either refused to resign or quickly withdrew the resignations, the union cracked.

Owners hired 25 new umpers from the minor leagues.

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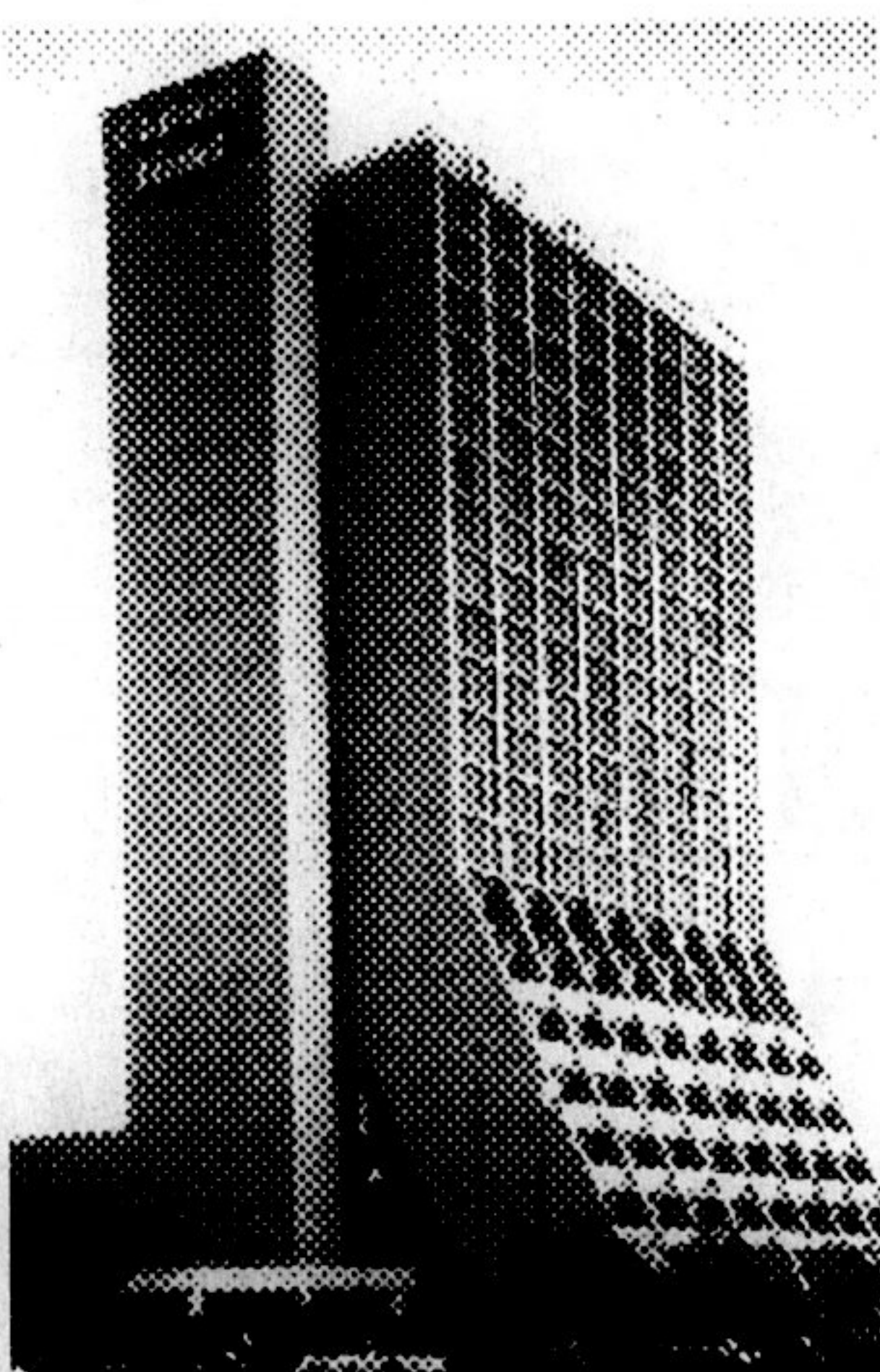
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