

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

Greed On-Deck



How's this for a scouting report on the 1993 Major League Baseball Season? Rob Dibble will intimidate no one. Jose Canseco won't tag 30 home runs, or first base for that matter. The gold won't glitter on Ryan Sandberg's glove. Tommy Lasorda won't argue a single call.

Conventional baseball wisdom, if there is such a thing at this point, has it that come spring in 1993, the owners will lock out the players. The issues, of course, are money and ego, subjects both the players and owners know well.

The players look to the free market. They are, they argue, entertainment commodities, and as such should go to the highest bidder. The owners contend that such a market will kill them financially and that player salaries are already more than fair.

Who's right?

Who cares? Here are two groups of very wealthy individuals, each accusing the other of greed. Their current squabble would be laughable, if it wasn't going to hurt so many not-so-wealthy people at a time when they can least afford it.

How many full-time employees will baseball field managers and superintendents be forced to lay off in 1993? How many part-timers won't be hired at all?

How many ushers, vendors, and other stadium employees will have to look for other work in a tough economy? And what about the fans — people deprived of a sport they've supported *economically* — through either attending games or buying products advertised during televised games — for years?

We are *all* entitled to earn as much as we can, dictated, in theory at least, by our individual efforts, talents and opportunities. We want the best for our families, our friends, and ourselves. The players and owners are no different. Although they earn piles of money high enough to make everyone on your block "rich," they still have the same "right to earn" as the rest of us. No argument here.

Yet rather than responsibly work out their differences in the off season, they'll wait until it's time to play ball, then cry foul. Rather than reach an agreement that could save thousands of associated jobs for people without a financial "cushion," they'll take their respective hard lines and dig in. Each group will try to muster public support through the media. Each will try to make the other look greedy.

So here's another scouting report for Major League Baseball owners and players: You *already* look greedy. Unless by some miracle of good sense you solve this impending, sorry mess in the off season, public support will be as elusive as an unassisted triple play.

Matthew Trulio

EVENTS

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

10-11 Eighth Annual Desert Turfgrass & Landscape Conference & Show, Riviera Resort and Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Show Director (800) 877-3107.

13-15 STMA Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Indianapolis Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Bret Kelsey or Susan Seibert (312) 644-6610.

15-16 Turfgrass and Ornamental Pest Control Workshop, Turfgrass Technology Center, Marion County Extension Office, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Jeff Lefton (317) 846-7020.

15-17 1992 Missouri Lawn & Turf Conference & Trade Show, Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, MO. Contact: Missouri Valley Turfgrass Association (314) 882-4087.

JANUARY

4-6 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium & Trade Show, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Contact: Kelly Wilson Office of Continuing Education (519) 824-4120, ext. 3814.

4-MARCH 12 Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact: Office of Continuing Professional Education, Cook College, Rutgers University (908) 932-9271.

5-7 63rd Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Holiday Inn—South Convention Center, Lansing, MI. Contact: Kay, MTF office (517) 321-1660.

11-14 Advanced Turfgrass IPM Short Course, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Contact: David Laughlin, Dept. of Entomology, University of Maryland (301) 405-7665. Register by December 15.

15-16 WinterGreen '93 Annual Conference and Trade Show, Georgia International Convention & Trade Center, College Park, GA. Contact: The Georgia Green Industry Association (706) 492-4664.

23-30 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America 64th Annual Golf Course Conference and Show, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA. Contact: GCSAA (913) 832-4430.

Send announcements on your events *two months in advance to:*
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