

And that's the ballgame

Selig makes it official, says season is history

By Mark Maske
Washington Post

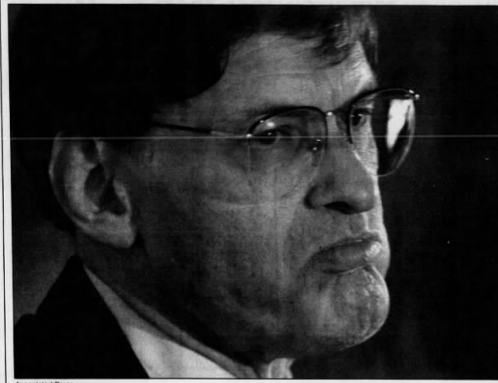
New York, N.Y. — The once-unthinkable for baseball had become the inevitable by the time the game's acting commissioner, Bud Selig, made matters official Wednesday. Selig announced the cancellation of the remainder of the 1994 major league season — including the World Series — which was called off for the first time in 90 years because of the bitter labor dispute

between the team owners and striking players. "There's an incredible amount of sadness," Selig said in Milwaukee. "It's hard to estimate the poignancy of this moment. There's been failure on so many fronts. . . . We can only hope now we can constructively move forward to solve our problems, rebuild the damage and take the game to the heights it can reach."

"We felt pragmatism dictated this," added Selig, the Milwaukee Brewer's owner. "I know the short-term pain is intense. But if this can serve as the impetus for a long-range solution, then maybe there will be some good that comes from this."

The strike, which reached the 34-day mark Wednesday, will wipe out the final 52 days and 469 games of the regular season, plus the postseason. It also is threatening to spill over into the 1995 season. Ownership representatives from 26 of the 28 teams signed a resolution calling off the rest of the season; the statement was faxed to each club Tuesday. The two owners who declined to sign the document were Peter Angelos of the Baltimore Orioles and Marge Schott of the Cincinnati Reds. Angelos drafted his own resolution with reviled language, and Selig said Schott wanted to continue this season with replacement players.

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Associated Press

Acting commissioner Bud Selig announced Wednesday in Milwaukee, Wis., the cancellation of the baseball season.

"Maybe one day . . . it will be remembered that there was people who stood up for what was right."
Brewers owner Bud Selig

"They've played the World Series through two World Wars, through a Depression, through an earthquake. . . . I just can hardly believe it."
Astros pitcher Pete Harnisch

"I hope they don't play next year. I'm sick and tired of it. They're both wrong as far as I'm concerned."
Tavern owner Stuart Becker



A rundown of significant dates and numbers relating to the 1994 major league baseball players strike:

- Aug. 12/ The strike starts
- Sept. 14/ Acting commissioner Bud Selig announces that the owners have voted 26-2 to cancel the rest of the season and postseason
- Oct. 2/ The season's scheduled ending date
- 52/ Number of playing days lost to the strike
- 669/ Number of games lost to the strike
- 112/ Kirby Puckett's AL-leading RBI total
- 1994/ Year the World Series was last canceled
- \$1.2 million/ Average player salary
- \$230 million/ Salary amount lost by players
- \$480 million/ Revenue amount lost by owners (though owners saved \$200 million in player salaries)
- 50/ Length in days, of the 1981 baseball strike
- 40/ Number of seasons Cleveland's team has not appeared in the postseason (the team was in the hunt for a playoff spot when the strike started)
- April 1966/ When we might or might not meet face a regular-season major league baseball game

Some fans are hurt, but many say they don't care

By Dennis Brackin
Staff Writer

The face of Bud Selig — the Milwaukee Brewer's owner and baseball's de facto commissioner — was on about a dozen overhead television monitors at Champ's sports bar in Buchfield Wednesday afternoon. Selig's announcement that the major league

season had come to an official end blindsided throughout the restaurant.

Most diners carried on conversations oblivious to the announcement. Joe Kane, munching a cheeseburger and fries, never even looked up.

"Reading my fantasy football [magazine]," Kane said, "I've already lost interest in baseball."

That appeared to be the prevailing sentiment of Twin Cities baseball fans Wednesday. There were flashes of emotion. Marv Miller, Champ's bartender, mumbled, "What a bunch of idiots," as Selig announced the decision. John Gill said he was "just" sad, an epithet

to describe his feelings toward owners and players and threatened he might "never watch baseball again."

But mostly, there was apathy. Fans who might have cared a month ago did not care now.

"They've been saying they were going to cancel the season since the

first week of the strike, and there comes a point where the threat becomes worse than the actual event happening," said Shannon McDougall, director at Minneapolis' Greenview Park. "You lose it so many times, and it's like, 'So what? Cancel it. Big deal.'"

"I've been saying they were going to cancel the season since the

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Change of parts hasn't helped Vikings, Bears

By Selena Roberts
Staff Writer

Warren Moon hit Minnesota like ice cream. He was cool and smooth and almost everybody liked him. But now the sticky part. The Vikings offense is ranked 27th in the league. And only the Los Angeles Rams' Chris Miller and Arizona's Steve Beuerlein have worse NFC quarterback ratings.

But wait, there's an explanation. It's the same one you'll hear used in Chicago. "With nine new starters on offense, things come up every week and every day that only cause confusion," Bears coach Dave Wannomoff said Wednesday, his offense ranked 25th with help of some late-game yardage Monday night. "We're still growing and learning week by week."

But how long are we talking?

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Staff Photo by Jerry Holt
Jay Anderson was a longtime assistant coach at Baraboo under Dick Hansen, whose teams won a record-tying five state titles. Now Anderson runs the show.

These new coaches have big shoes to fill

Replacing legends no easy task

By Renee Angermeier
Staff Writer

Wally Malstrom knew the George Smith era at Malmstrom was coming to an end last year when Smith, the Zephyrs football coach for 41 seasons, gave his offensive coordinator the keys to the storage room.

"He's pretty protective of those keys," said Malstrom, one of three rookie ascending legends coaches this fall.

All Burnsville, longtime assistant Jay Anderson has replaced Dick Hansen, whose teams won a record-tying five state titles during his 23 seasons.

And at Cambridge, Mark Solberg has taken over for George Larson, the state all-time leader in victories with 243 over 34 seasons.

All three first-year coaches had been longtime assistants at their present schools and sort of knew what was ahead for them.

None, however, has been a head coach before.

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Rangers fire Grieve as GM
Texas Rangers general manager Tom Grieve, who has run a major league team without winning a division title longer than anyone else, was fired Sunday. Gandy Johnson, director of player personnel, was chosen interim general manager and will be a candidate for the permanent spot.
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Sanders picks 49ers
With the baseball season gone, Deion Sanders, right, wanted to find something to do on a new job with the San Francisco 49ers. A free-agent cornerback and Cincinnati Reds outfielder, Sanders lost an Atlanta television station he had decided against replacing the Atlanta Falcons and intended to sign with the 49ers.
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Associated Press

Diminutive Heath makes big impact
Sophomore defensive back Rodney Heath is barely 5-foot-10 and has made a 170-pounder, but he has made a big impact for the Gophers' football team this season. Heath, a cornerback, was the team's most valuable player in the secondary in Saturday's 52-7 victory over Pacific. Heath hit for 20th in the nation with an average of 12.4 yards per punt return. "It's not how big you are, it's how big your heart is," fellow cornerback Juan Hernandez says. "And Rodney's got a real big heart."
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Anoka-Blaine dream matchup
Friday night's high school football game pitting Anoka against Blaine is a dream matchup between two Class AA heavyweights. Anoka (5-0, 1-0) is first among Twin Cities Suburban West teams in scoring and total offense. Blaine (2-0, 1-0) is first in defense.
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