

Clinton wants baseball back

WASHINGTON (AP) - Though it already seems doomed, President Clinton proposed legislation to Congress on Wednesday that would create a three-member panel of independent arbitrators to settle the baseball strike.

Clinton, speaking in the Roosevelt Room, where talks were held the night before, said he had no regrets about trying to end the strike.

"I'll send the legislation up. They'll hear from the American people, and they'll make their own decision," he said. "If we had a baseball commissioner, maybe none of us would have been in here."

Bud Selig, the acting commissioner, said the owners didn't want Clinton interfering.

"Binding arbitration is not the solution to this dispute, and we reject the idea," Selig said.

Players and owners spent four hours at the White House with Clinton and his staff on Tuesday. No talks are scheduled, and it appears they won't meet again until next Wednesday

when they testify before a Senate subcommittee. The hearing will take place just one day before spring training starts with replacement players.

"This doesn't change the task we have before us," said union head Don Fehr. "I guess we'll have to try and regroup and consider what has to be done. We're prepared to continue to do that, as we have been all the way through this dispute."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said they had no intention of moving quickly to force an end to the six-month strike.

"I'm not sure that Congress has the wisdom, or should have the ability to intervene in a single industry that's not a matter of national safety," Gingrich said.

The Republican leaders, who have the power to bottle up any bill, met with mediator W.J. Usery for about 40 minutes in Dole's ornate Senate office. Usery met separately with Fehr. Other Republicans criticized

Clinton for attempting to personally mediate the dispute.

"I think it's a dumb idea. We have much more important fish to fry," said Rep. Steve Stockman, R-Texas. "For a president who claims to champion the middle class, he certainly spends a lot of time trying to settle disputes between millionaires."

Even some Democrats disagreed with the president.

"I think we have a lot more important things to do than baseball," said Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del. "I'd like to organize a group that if baseball comes back, we'd boycott baseball. And I'm a baseball fan."

Clinton's bill, sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont., would give the president authority to appoint a three-person national baseball dispute resolution panel.

"If we want a 1995 baseball season, this may be the last resort," Labor Secretary Robert Reich said during a news conference.

Joy

Continued from Page 8

Taylor said she was surprised that she had her highest score on the balance beam this year.

"My most consistent event right now is beam, which is kind of funny because that was always my weakest," Taylor said. "As far as potential, it is the vault."

That showed last weekend when

Taylor scored a personal season-high 9.725 in the vault against Oklahoma.

One event Taylor has struggled in is the floor exercise.

This year her high in the event is only a 9.525.

Taylor said she needed to work harder in that event.

"I'm pretty hard on myself," Taylor said. "I expect a lot from myself. When I don't do as well as I expect to do, I'm probably my biggest critic."

Taylor said with Nebraska playing host to the NCAA Midwest Regionals April 8, the home arena advantage would be important.

"We're used to the equipment, and we don't have the hassles with the travel day," Taylor said.

And will Nebraska be good enough to make the NCAA Championships in Athens, Ga.?

"I think we will," she said. "Definitely."

Volleyball

Continued from Page 8

Avery is a 6-foot-1-inch — which Pettit said was closer to a 6-foot-2-inch — middle blocker and was named second-team Mizuno High School All-American.

Pettit said Avery reminded him of former Nebraska two-time All-American Virginia Stahr.

"She is probably as quick a middle blocker as we have ever recruited," Pettit said. "We were fortunate because she has always wanted to come here."

The three recruits from the Midwest all had participated in Nebraska volleyball camps, and Pettit said that helped the recruiting process.

Nebraska's fourth signee, Nepo, is one Pettit said he was extremely cautious about.

Nepo, a 5-foot-9-inch setter/hitter from Honolulu, chose Nebraska over Georgia Tech, Purdue, Hawaii and Clemson.

The 1994 Hawaii volleyball player of the year was selected as a third-team Mizuno volleyball selection.

Pettit said Nepo reminded him of another Nebraska All-American.

"I think of her a little bit like Cathy Noth," Pettit said. "Fiona's explosive and could play either setter or outside hitter at a high collegiate level."

Noth is a current assistant coach for Nebraska and was an All-American in 1983 and 1984.

Nebraska Volleyball 1995 Schedule

- Aug 25** NACWAA INVITATIONAL*
Nebraska vs Penn State
Stanford vs Cal Northridge
- 26** Consolation
Finals
- Sep 1** PACIFIC INVITATIONAL
Nebraska vs Santa Clara
- 2** Nebraska vs Pacific
- FIRSTIER CHALLENGE***
- 8** Nebraska vs Purdue
Wisconsin vs Kansas State
- 9** Nebraska vs Wisconsin
Kansas State vs Purdue
- WYOMING INVITATIONAL**
- 15** Nebraska vs Gonzaga
- 16** Nebraska vs Georgia
- 16** Nebraska vs Wyoming
- ARBYS CLASSIC**
- 22** Nebraska vs Baylor
- 22** Kansas vs G. Washington
- 23** Nebraska vs G. Washington
- 23** Kansas vs Baylor
- 27** @ Colorado
- 30** Oklahoma
- Oct 4** Kansas
- 7** @ Iowa State
- 11** @ Kansas State
- 14** @ Missouri
- 21** Colorado
- 25** @ Kansas
- 28** Iowa State
- Nov 1** Kansas State
- 4** @ Texas
- 7** Notre Dame
- 10** @ Oklahoma
- 12** Florida
- 15** Missouri
Big 8 Tournament (Omaha)
- 24** Semi Finals
- 25** Finals
- 29** NCAA 1st Round
- Dec 2** NCAA 2nd Round
- 7-9** NCAA Regionals
- 14-16** NCAA Finals

*at NU Coliseum

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