Team supports Wills in Beniquez suspension

SEATTLE (UPI) — The Mariners are rallying around manager Maury Wills as centerfielder Juan Beniquez considers whether to appeal his five day suspension for refusing to pinch hit in the ninth inning of a game against the Baltimore Orioles.

Wills wanted to suspend the moody player for the remainder of the season, but was convinced to make it five days on the advice of Mariners president Don O'Brien.

Beniquez, who will be a free agent at the end of the season, was in contact with the Major League Players Association (MLPA) Tuesday concerning an appeal of the suspension. No decision was made, but if the MLPA were to file an appeal, the suspension would be delayed and a hearing on the matter would have to be held within 10 days.

"Until we get word of an appeal, he's not to be on the bench or in the clubhouse," said director of team travel Lee Pelekudas.

Maury Wills
has backing of players

Mariners catcher March Hill, who was ready to fight Beniquez after he refused to pinch hit with one out and the tying run on second base, said he agreed with the suspension.

"I had gotten along with him, but I couldn't put up with it," Hill said of the incident. "I am glad to see Maury took some action. As far as I'm concerned; I didn't want to talk to him or be on a ballclub with a guy like that.

"He wasn't showing up one guy (Wills); he was showing up the whole team."

Mariners player representative Bruce Bochte said, "I don't have any problem with what Maury did. The extent of what he can do, under the basic agreement, is another situation and possibly the outcome could be a little different. I feel very much the way Maury did."

Beniquez said his refusal to hit stemmed from Wills' failure to put him in the starting lineup Sunday and Monday.

"I don't feel I should be suspended because of last night," Beniquez said. "I come to the ballpark expecting to play and I don't play. He no tell me why."

Wills just shook his head at that statement.

"He said he didn't know," said Wills. "Isn't that weak?"

New stadium idea pleases O's owner

Orioles owner Edward Bennett Williams on Monday expressed interest in a proposal to build a new stadium on an industrial site in south Baltimore.

"I am very, very interested and I've told the mayor that," Williams said. "I want to work very closely with the city on the plan. The question now is whether it will wash financially. I don't know if it will."

The proposed site was unveiled last week by Mayor William Donald Schaefer, who nevertheless said he didn't think it likely that the ballpark would be built, Schaefer and other city officials have contended that the city-owned Memorial Stadium is adequate for the Orioles.

But Schaefer offered the south Baltimore site last week to convince Williams that the city is serious about keeping the Orioles in Baltimore.

Williams has criticized Memorial Stadium because it is not near a super-highway and for inadequate parking. The Washington attorney has talked about building a stadium between Baltimore and the nation's capital on land he has reportedly purchased in Howard County.

The proposed site is located near two major routes to Washington, Interstate 95 and the Baltimore - Washington Parkway.

Baseball race in the AL East

Following here with are the schedules of the Orioles, Yankees and Red Sox as the three leading contenders enter the final stages of the race for the American League East division title:

BALTIMORE
GAMES REMAINING (30) — Home (15): Oakland, (4), Sept. 5, 6, 7; Detroit (3), Sept. 16, 17, 18; Toronto (3), Sept. 19, 20,21; Boston (3), Sept. 22, 23, 24; Cleveland (3), Oct. 3, 4, 5.
AWAY (15): at Detroit (4), Sept. 8 (2), 9, 10; at Toronto (4), Sept. 11,12, 13, 14; at Cleveland (3), Sept. 26, 27, 28; at Boston (4), Sept. 29 (2), 30, Oct. 1.

NEW YORK
GAMES REMAINING (29) — Home (17): California (4), Sept. 5, 6, 7; Toronto (3), Sept. 26, 17, 18; Boston (3), Sept. 19, 20, 21; Cleveland (4), Sept. 22, 23, 24, 25; Detroit (4), Oct. 2, 3, 4, 5.
AWAY (12): at Toronto (3), Sept. 8, 9, 10; at Boston (4), Sept. 11, 12, 13, 14; at Detroit (3), Sept. 26, 27, 28; at Cleveland (2), Sept. 30, Oct. 1.

BOSTON
GAMES REMAINING (32) — Home (18): Seattle (4), Sept. 5, 6, 7; New York (4), Sept. 11, 12, 13, 14; Cleveland (3), Sept. 16, 17, 18; Baltimore (4), Sept. 29 (2), 30, Oct. 1; Toronto (4), Oct. 2, 3, 4, 5.
AWAY (14): at Cleveland (3), Sept. 8, 9, 10; at New York (3), Sept. 19, 20, 21, at Baltimore (3), Sept. 22, 23, 24; at Toronto (3), Sept. 26, 27, 28; at Chicago (2).

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Bits o' briefs

Cal holds on

Calvin Peete, pro golf's current leading black, picked up $3,185 for his 280 card in last weekend's B.C. Open at Endicott, N.Y.

The check brought the spindly Floridian's winnings for the year to $68,091, and enabled him to remain 31st among the PGA's top 100 cash collectors.

Preston pared

The Dallas Cowboys have placed Preston Pearson, the oldest running back in the NFL, on the injured reserve list and thus lost the services of the 14 - year veteran for the entire season.

Pearson entered the league in 1967, drafted by the Baltimore Colts after a brillian basketball career at Illinois. Although he had not played football since high school, he became one of the NFL's finest all - purpose backs.

George did it!

Cincinnati outfielder George Foster, who hit .423 in leading the Reds to a four - game sweep of Pittsburgh, Tuesday was named the National League's player of the week.

Foster collected 11 hits, including three homers, four doubles and a triple, knocked in 10 runs and scored five during the week that ended Sunday. The Reds won six of seven games during Foster's hitting streak.

-MSA Football-

FRIDAY
Northern at Cambridge SD
Edmondson at Southwestern
St. Paul at Carver

SATURDAY
Boys Latin at City
Lake Clifton at Wicomico

NFL schedule

SUNDAY
Baltimore at N.Y. Jets (4 p.m. TV)
Atlanta at Minnesota
Chicago at Green Bay
Detroit at Los Angeles
Houston at Pittsburgh
Denver at Philadelphia
N.Y. Giants at St. Louis
San Francisco at N. Orleans
Tampa Bay at Cincinnati
Miami at Buffalo
Cleveland at New England
Oakland at Kansas City
MONDAY NIGHT
Dallas at Washington

Bears cancel former Bear

One - time Morgan State star Greg Latta, who has played for the Chicago Bears for five years since leaving Baltimore, has been placed on the injured reserve list by the NFL club.

Latta, a starting tight end last season, elected to play out his option this year. However, a knee injury will sideline him for at least four weeks.

Also out for the same length of time is stellar fullback Roland Harper.

Odds 6-1 against Skins, 100-1 against Colts

RENO, Nev. (UPI) — Harrah's Reno Race and Sports Book Tuesday placed Pittsburgh and Los Angeles, last season's Super Bowl participants, as the favorites to again wind up in the NFL season finale at New Orleans next January.

Harrah's said the defending champion Steelers are a 6 - 5 choice to win the American Football Conference with Los Angeles a 2 - 1 favorite in the National Football Conference.

Houston is rated at 2 - 1 with San Diego at 7 - 2 in the AFC. In the NFC, Dallas is the second choice at 3 - 1 and Philadelphia is next at 4 - 1.

Complete odds by Harrah's:

AFC: Pittsburgh, 6 - 5; Houston, 2 - 1; San Diego, 7 - 2; New England, 8 - 1; Seattle, 12 - 1; New York Jets, Miami and Denver at 15 - 1; Oakland, 20 - 1; Cleveland, 30 - 1; and Buffalo, Cincinnati, Baltimore and Kansas City at 100 - 1.

NFC: Los Angeles, 2 - 1; Dallas 3 - 1; Philadelphia, 4 - 1; Washington, 6 - 1; San Francisco, 10 - 1; Tampa Bay, 12 - 1; Detroit, New Orleans, and Chicago, 15 - 1; Minnesota and St. Louis, 20 - 1; Atlanta, 30 - 1; Green Bay and New York Giants, 100 - 1.

Open season Saturday

Will Bears second Thomas?

The first test of Clarence Thomas' clairvoyance comes tomorrow (Saturday) at Morgan when he leads his 1980 Bears against Towson State University.

The Morgan head coach makes no secret of the fact he thinks he and his staff "have completed one of the best recruiting years in the school's history.

"We lost some excellent ballplayers on defense in Elvis Franks, Andre Wickham, Gerald Huggins, and Arthur Cook. In all, eight of our products signed professional contracts, last year. But our offense, who scored 256 points in '79, returns intact."

Clarence Thomas
recruiting faces test

Leading the returning veterans will be sophomore quarterback Darrell Coulter. Coulter was one of college football's most exciting players last season, being selected MEAC offensive player of the year and E.C.A.C. rookie of the year.

In the backfield with Coulter will be last year's leading rusher Angelo Procter with 322 yards and four touchdowns, and a transfer student from George Mason University James Fields. Proctor, whose 74 - yard touchdown run against UMES was only one yard short of a school record, excels at pass blocking and was only thrown for a loss once last season. At tailback James Fields came on well in spring practice.

It is at running back that Thomas feels he did his best recruiting.

The Bear mentor is extremely high on freshmen Phoenix Dinkins of Macon, Ga., and Wallace Dent of nearby Waldorf, Md.

These same cities sent wide receiver Marcus Lewis (Macon), a wide receiver, and Robert Martin (Waldorf), a 6 - 1, 210 - pound linebacker.

'Neighbors Nite'

"Northeast Neighbors Night at the Ballpark" will be sponsored by the non - profit Northeast Real Estate Center in conjunction with NECO, York Road Planning Area Committee and Neighborhood Housing Service in Govans.

The game between the Orioles and the Tigers will be on Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

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100's Soft Pack: Less than 6 mg. "tar", 0.5 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Dec. '79.

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Lincoln M. Catchings, Jr.
Captain, U.S. Army Reserve
Director of Personnel Services
at Prairie View A&M University

For more information, write Army ROTC, P.O. Box 7000, Department H-D, Larchmont, New York 10538.

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