

Major League Baseball

# Dodgers' sale finalized

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The tumultuous Frank McCourt era is over for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The \$2 billion sale of the team to Guggenheim Baseball Management, a group that includes former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson, was finalized Tuesday.

McCourt met with Dodgers employees Tuesday, expressing his appreciation, and introduced new controlling owner Mark Walter, said Howard Sunkin, a spokesman for McCourt.

Walter is chief executive officer of the financial services firm Guggenheim Partners. The team will be run by former Atlanta Braves President Stan Kasten. They will hold a news conference Wednesday at Dodger Stadium.

"The Dodgers move forward with confidence in a strong financial position as a premier Major League Baseball franchise and as an integral part of and representative of the Los Angeles community," according to a joint statement by McCourt and the new owners.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said he's pleased the sale is finished and the Dodgers can have a fresh start after the "unbecoming events of recent years."

"It is my great hope and firm expectation that today's change in ownership marks the start of a new era for the Los Angeles Dodgers and that this historic franchise will once again make the city of Los Angeles proud," Selig said in a statement.

The timing couldn't have come at a better time

for Dodgers fans, who are excited about having their team leading the National League. The team had a 16-7 record going into Tuesday night's game in Colorado.

"I think the fans of LA are pretty excited about the new ownership and what it's bringing. As long as L.A. is happy, I'm happy," slugger Matt Kemp said. "As long as we're winning, I'm happy."

The Dodgers have won six World Series titles but none since 1988, when they were still owned by the O'Malley family that moved the team from Brooklyn to California after the 1957 season.

The sale was part of a reorganization plan after McCourt took the team into bankruptcy last June. A federal judge approved the deal last month.

The sale was supposed to close Monday, the day McCourt was to make a \$131 million payment to former wife Jamie McCourt as part of their divorce settlement. The team's statement said all claims will be paid. Jamie McCourt did receive her payout on Monday.

McCourt bought the team, Dodger Stadium and 250 acres of land that includes the parking lots from the Fox division of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. in a \$430 million deal in 2004. Fox bought the team in 1998, then sold it to McCourt.

In April 2011, MLB appointed former Texas Rangers President Tom Schieffer to monitor the Dodgers on behalf of Selig, who said he was concerned about the team's finances and how the Dodgers were being run.

Baseball/Softball

# Rainouts

■ CONTINUED FROM 13 second — and brought on the tarps.

Market Street Field has had good luck this spring thanks to Welker and the players tending the field. On a number of occasions, games were scheduled to be played on the road but flipped to Troy as the opposition's fields weren't playable.

Tuesday's rain was too much, though.

"The field can take some rain, but what we can't control is rain at the time of the game," Welker said with a laugh. We can only do so much."

Both the Trojans and Indians are 7-2 in the GWOC North, and whoever wins today's continuation will be the champion.

Next door, the Trojan softball team was looking sweep the season series with the Indians after an 11-2 win on Monday that saw Shelby Schultz drill her second home run of the year and Amber Smith hit her first. That game was suspended, too, with Piqua leading 2-0 heading into the top of the second.

It was a very common storyline all over the county.

Tippecanoe's baseball team, looking to hold onto its one-game lead over Bellefontaine in the Central Buckeye Conference Kenton Trail Division standings, was suspended in the middle of a scoreless game at home against Kenton Ridge.

The action will pick up today with a Red Devil runner on third base with two outs in the bottom of the third and a 3-0 count on the batter.

And Tippecanoe softball — which holds a slim half-game lead over Kenton Ridge in the standings — held a 3-0 lead over the rival Cougars in the bottom of the third and was threatening to tack on more when the rains came. That game will be picked up today, as well.

Another game with major league implications — Newton at Covington



STAFF PHOTO/ANTHONY WEBER  
Troy's Shelby Schultz takes a pitch Tuesday against Piqua. The game was suspended until today due to rain with Piqua leading 2-0 in the top of the second.

softball — was also suspended to today. That game is scoreless in the bottom of the first. The Indians hold a one-game lead over the Miami East Vikings — who they play on Thursday. Should Covington win, Thursday's game would be for the outright title, but if Newton tops Covington, Miami East will need to beat the Indians to earn a share of the title.

The Vikings, meanwhile had both their baseball and softball games at Mississinawa Valley

Tuesday rained out before they even got started. Softball faces Bethel today in another makeup game and will take on the Blackhawks Friday. Baseball — which also will face Mississinawa Valley Friday — will finish today a previously-suspended game against Twin Valley South, with the scored tied 8-8 in the sixth inning.

Newton's baseball team will pick up where it left off against Covington today — with a 4-0 lead and still hitting in the bottom of the first

inning.

Bethel's baseball game against Tri-Village never even got started, and it was pushed to today, as well.

No sport was immune to the rain, either. Troy's GWOC North tennis matchup at Sidney was rained out and will be picked up today, pushing aside the Trojans' originally-scheduled non-league matchup at Beaver Creek. And Tippecanoe's home match against Northwestern was also rained out.

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Major League Baseball

# Clemens

■ CONTINUED FROM 13 said he injected both men with performance-enhancing substances. The government showed the jury photos of the three working out

together in Texas during happier times — "Mac, Roger and me," as Pettitte put it.

Pettitte has acknowledged he received HGH from McNamee; Clemens has not. Pettitte told the jury about the time he used HGH in 2002 while recovering from an injury, but he wasn't allowed to say he was injected by McNamee because the judge ruled that information inadmissible.

Pettitte said he used HGH one other time, in 2004. He said he regretted it both times he tried it, that he doesn't think it helped him physically and that it has tarnished his name.

"I wish I never would've" taken HGH, he said. "If I hadn't done it, I wouldn't be here today."

Asked to recall the conversation in which Clemens supposedly admitted to using HGH, Pettitte remembered it taking place during a workout at Clemens' house in Texas during the 1999-2000 offseason. Maybe

inside the gym. Maybe outside.

Then, under cross-examination from one of Clemens' lawyers, Pettitte revealed how tenuous his account might seem to the jury. Attorney Michael Attanassio asked if it came amid a "lot of huffing and puffing" that accompanies a workout.

"Yes," Pettitte answered. Pettitte was then asked if Clemens' remark was made "in passing" — as opposed to in a "focused conversation."

"I would say so," Pettitte said.

Pettitte will return to the stand on Wednesday.

Pettitte also recalled the other time he spoke with Clemens about HGH, during the media swirl surrounding earlier congressional hearings — in 2005 — on drug use in sports. Both were playing for the Houston Astros, and Pettitte asked Clemens at spring training what Clemens would say if asked by reporters about HGH use.

Clemens responded: "What are you talking about?" according to Pettitte, and that Pettitte must have misunderstood the 1999-2000 conversation.

"He said, 'My wife used it,'" Pettitte said.

"Obviously I was a little flustered," Pettitte said, "because I thought that he told me that he did."

Both Clemens and McNamee have said that McNamee injected Debbie

Clemens with HGH at the Clemens home in 2003, although they differ over certain details.

Clemens has said publicly multiple times, including before Congress at a February 2008 hearing, that Pettitte "misremembers" the 1999-2000 conversation.

Before he could begin testifying about Clemens, Pettitte had to answer very rudimentary questions meant to educate a jury that knows little about baseball, leading him to make statements such as: "The Boston Red Sox play in Boston."

Pettitte mentioned Clemens — along with pitchers Nolan Ryan and Jim Abbott — as players he admired while growing up in Texas. Ten years apart in age, Pettitte said he "hit it off immediately" when he and Clemens first became teammates with the Yankees in 1999.

They remained teammates for nine seasons, five with the Yankees, then three with the Astros, then one more back in New York before Clemens retired after the 2007 season.

The trial was moving at a laborious pace before Pettitte appeared. Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, spent the morning trying to challenge the merits of the 2008 hearing, specifically honing in on whether the questions asked of Clemens had anything to do with Congress' stated mission of passing laws.

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