

Analysis: Anger as much as money at center of broken talks

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — Anger is at the center of Major League Baseball's broken labor negotiations as much as money.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred's cancellation of each team's first two series is a byproduct of failed relationships in a fractured sport that can't get out of its own way.

Negotiators headed home Wednesday after the breakdown at Manfred's deadline for a deal to preserve opening day. It wasn't clear when the sides will meet next.

"Instead of bargaining in good faith — MLB locked us out," three-time MVP Mike Trout wrote Wednesday on Twitter. "Instead of negotiating for a fair deal — Rob canceled games."

Meetings have been unproductive on many days, partly the nature of labor negotiations but exacerbated in baseball by mistrust

and mindsets dwelling on the past at the same time they look forward.

"A core of this negotiation's to increase competition and there's no way we're leaving the table without something that does that," said free-agent reliever Andrew Miller, one of the eight players supervising the union's bargaining. "We're not going to do anything to sacrifice this competition of the season. Anything that points towards mediocrity, that's the antithesis of our game and what we're about as players."

Players are seething over management actions in recent years. The union's grievances over Kris Bryant's demotion to the minor leagues in 2015, against Miami, Oakland, Pittsburgh and Tampa Bay for not properly spending revenue sharing money and against MLB alleging the 2020

season was shorter than it should have been hover over negotiations like an unending storm.

The players' association takes umbrage at management's slow pace of bargaining once the lock-out began Dec. 2, yet both sides have been excruciatingly measured in unveiling advanced bargaining positions after concluding the other was hanging back.

And both sides have made proposals designed to anger the other in response to a previous plan that caused fury.

During the late-February talks in Florida, one side called its own latest luxury tax proposal "intentionally lousy," saying it was a mirror image of the other's plan. It was the negotiating equivalent of a purpose pitch.

The players' goal is to improve the bargaining agreement for those that follow.

"To the younger generation of baseball players, this is for you," free agent first baseman Anthony Rizzo tweeted.

Union head Tony Clark, in criticizing MLB for locking out the players rather than risk a late-season strike, referred back to the shortened 60-game schedule of 2020.

"You only get so many opening days," he said. "If you're an average major leaguer, you might see four of them. Having an opportunity to play as long as humanly possible and find yourself in a world where now for the second time in two years the schedule is shorter than it otherwise should have been or could have been is a problem."

While there are many open issues, the three primary economic items are the luxury tax, the new pre-arbitration bonus pool and the minimum salary.

Of those, the luxury tax threshold is the biggest, because it has a huge impact on how high a payroll the biggest spenders are willing to carry. That money often goes to free agent, whose salaries filter down to frame the level for players in arbitration.

When teams rebuilt and didn't compete for titles in any given season, it angered players who accused them of tanking.

"It's not just money. The money can be important in order to have the market operate in a functional way," Miller said. "We've seen trends take advantage of maybe places in which a player did not receive as much as they're contributing. As well as we have been screaming for years about competition issues."

Seven of baseball's eight work stoppages from 1972 to 1995 were over free agency, salary arbitration

and fighting off a salary cap — all but the first, which was over the pension plan. Those fights were framed by a century of management control of players and owners' inability to deal with the arbitrator's decision that led to free agency.

Owners gained a degree of cost control in the 2011 and 2016 negotiations, which combined with advanced analytics has led to less robust free agent markets and changes in player demographics that caused the union to push for change during bargaining for a new contract.

Club behavior in the past five years and that impact on players have led to the lockout and MLB canceling regular-season games for the first time in a generation. Thus far they can't look ahead without looking back.

SCOREBOARD

NCAAM Basketball

PACIFIC-12 CONFERENCE						
Conference All Games						
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Arizona	16	2	.889	26	3	.897
Southern Cal	14	5	.737	25	5	.833
UCLA	14	5	.737	22	6	.786
Oregon	11	7	.611	18	11	.621
Colorado	11	8	.579	19	10	.655
Washington St.	9	9	.500	16	13	.552
Washington	9	9	.500	14	14	.500
Stanford	8	10	.444	15	13	.536
Arizona St.	8	10	.444	12	16	.429
California	5	13	.278	12	17	.414
Utah	4	15	.211	11	18	.379
Oregon St.	1	17	.056	3	25	.107

Tuesday's Games
Arizona 91, Southern Cal 71

Thursday's Games
California at Arizona St., 5 p.m.
Stanford at Arizona, 6 p.m.
Oregon at Washington, 7 p.m.
Oregon St. at Washington St., 8 p.m.

NCAA Conference Tournament Glances

Atlantic Sun Conference
At Higher-Seeded Schools
First Round
Tuesday, March 1
Kennesaw St. 82, E. Kentucky 73
Cent. Arkansas 74, Stetson 73
Florida Gulf Coast 81, North Alabama 72
Lipscomb 74, North Florida 65
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 3
Jacksonville St. vs. Kennesaw St., 4 p.m.
Jacksonville vs. Cent. Arkansas, 4 p.m.
Liberty vs. Lipscomb, 4 p.m.
Bellarmine Knights vs. Florida Gulf Coast, 4 p.m.
Semifinals
Saturday, March 5
Jacksonville St.-Kennesaw St.-winner vs. Jacksonville-Cent. Arkansas-winner, 10 a.m.
Liberty-Lipscomb-winner vs. Bellarmine Knights-Florida Gulf Coast-winner, 10 a.m.
Championship
Tuesday, March 8
Semifinal winners, 2 p.m.
Big South Conference
At Bojangles' Coliseum
Charlotte, N.C.
First Round
Wednesday, March 2
NC A&T 78, Radford 71
Charleston Southern 79, UNC-Asheville 78
High Point vs. Hampton, 3 p.m.
Campbell vs. Presbyterian, 5:30 p.m.
Quarterfinals
Friday, March 4
Longwood vs. NC A&T, 9 a.m.
SC-Upstate vs. Charleston Southern, 11:30 a.m.
Winthrop vs. High Point-Hampton-winner, 3 p.m.
Gardner-Webb vs. Campbell-Presbyterian-winner, 5:30 p.m.
Semifinals
Saturday, March 5
Longwood-NC A&T-winner vs. SC-Upstate-Charleston Southern-winner, 9 a.m.
TBD vs. TBD, 11:30 a.m.
Championship
Sunday, March 6
Semifinal winners, 9 a.m.
Colonial Athletic Conference
At St. Elizabeths East Entertainment and Sports Arena
Washington, D.C.
First Round
Saturday, March 5
William & Mary vs. Northeastern, 2 p.m.
Quarterfinals
Sunday, March 6
Towson vs. William & Mary-Northeastern-winner, 9 a.m.
Drexel vs. Delaware, 11:30 a.m.
UNC-Wilmington vs. Elon, 3 p.m.
Hofstra vs. Coll. of Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
Semifinals
Monday, March 7
TBD vs. Drexel-Delaware-winner, 3 p.m.
UNC-Wilmington-Elon-winner vs. Hofstra-Coll. of Charleston-winner, 5:30 p.m.
Championship
Tuesday, March 8
Semifinal winners, 4 p.m.
Horizon League Conference
At Higher-Seeded Schools
First Round
Tuesday, March 1
Detroit 79, Green Bay 62
Robert Morris 77, Youngstown St. 73
UC 80, Milwaukee 69
Oakland 69, IUPUI 58

Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 3
Wright St. vs. Oakland, 4 p.m.
Fort Wayne vs. UIC, 4 p.m.
N. Kentucky vs. Detroit, 4 p.m.
Cleveland St. vs. Robert Morris, 5 p.m.
Semifinals
Monday, March 7
Cleveland St.-Robert Morris-winner vs. Wright St.-Oakland-winner, 4 p.m.
Fort Wayne-UIC-winner vs. N. Kentucky-Detroit-winner, 6:30 p.m.
Championship
Tuesday, March 8
Semifinal winners, 4 p.m.
Missouri Valley Conference
At Enterprise Center
St. Louis, Mo.
First Round
Thursday, March 3
Illinois St. vs. Indiana St., 4 p.m.
Valparaiso vs. Evansville, 6:30 p.m.
Quarterfinals
Friday, March 4
N. Iowa vs. Illinois St.-Indiana St.-winner, 10 a.m.
Loyola Chicago vs. Bradley, 12:30 p.m.
Missouri St. vs. Valparaiso-Evanville-winner, 4 p.m.
Drake vs. S. Illinois, 6:30 p.m.
Semifinals
Saturday, March 5
TBD vs. Loyola Chicago-Bradley-winner, 12:30 p.m.
TBD vs. Drake-S. Illinois-winner, 3 p.m.
Championship
Sunday, March 6
Semifinal winners, 11 a.m.
Northeast Conference
At Higher-Seeded Schools
First Round
Monday, February 28
CCSU 67, Fairleigh Dickinson 66
Quarterfinals
Wednesday, March 2
Wagner vs. St. Francis (Pa.), 4 p.m.
Bryant vs. CCSU, 4 p.m.
LIU Sharks vs. Sacred Heart, 4 p.m.
Mount St. Mary's vs. St. Francis (NY), 4 p.m.
Semifinals
Saturday, March 5
Bryant-CCSU-winner vs. Mount St. Mary's-St. Francis (NY)-winner, 3 p.m.
Wagner-St. Francis (Pa.)-winner vs. LIU Sharks-Sacred Heart-winner, 5 p.m.
Championship
Tuesday, March 8
Semifinal winners, 4 p.m.
Ohio Valley Conference
At Ford Center
Evansville, Ind.
First Round
Wednesday, March 2
Tennessee St. vs. SIU-Edwardsville, 4:30 p.m.
Austin Peay vs. Tennessee Tech, 7 p.m.
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 3
SE Missouri vs. Tennessee St.-SIU-Edwardsville-winner, 4:30 p.m.
Morehead St. vs. Austin Peay-Tennessee Tech-winner, 7 p.m.
Semifinals
Friday, March 4
Murray St. vs. TBD, 5 p.m.
Belmont vs. TBD, 7:30 p.m.
Championship
Saturday, March 5
Semifinal winners, 5:30 p.m.
Patriot League Conference
At Higher-Seeded Schools
First Round
Tuesday, March 1
American 69, Holy Cross 63
Bucknell 82, Lafayette 81
Quarterfinals
Monday, March 3
Navy vs. American, 4 p.m.
Lehigh vs. Army, 4 p.m.
Colgate vs. Bucknell, 4 p.m.
Boston U. vs. Loyola (Md.), 4 p.m.
Semifinals
Sunday, March 6
Colgate-Bucknell-winner vs. Lehigh-Army-winner, 11 a.m.
Navy-American-winner vs. Boston U.-Loyola (Md.)-winner, 1 p.m.
Championship
Wednesday, March 9
Semifinal winners, 4:30 p.m.
Southern Conference

At Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville
Asheville, N.C.
First Round
Friday, March 4
ETSU vs. The Citadel, 2 p.m.
Mercer vs. W. Carolina, 4:30 p.m.
Quarterfinals
Saturday, March 5
Chattanooga vs. ETSU-The Citadel-winner, 9 a.m.
Wofford vs. VMI, 11:30 a.m.
Furman vs. Mercer-W. Carolina-winner, 3 p.m.
Samford vs. UNC-Greensboro, 5:30 p.m.
Semifinals
Sunday, March 6
TBD vs. Wofford-VMI-winner, 1 p.m.
TBD vs. Samford-UNC-Greensboro-winner, 5:30 p.m.
Championship
Monday, March 7
Semifinal winners, 4 p.m.
Summit League Conference
At Denny Sanford Premier Center
Sioux Falls, S.D.
First Round
Saturday, March 5
S. Dakota St. vs. Omaha, 4 p.m.
N. Dakota St. vs. Denver, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 6
UMKC vs. South Dakota, 4 p.m.
Oral Roberts vs. W. Illinois, 6:30 p.m.
Semifinals
Monday, March 7
S. Dakota St.-Omaha-winner vs. UMKC-South Dakota-winner, 4 p.m.
N. Dakota St.-Denver-winner vs. Oral Roberts-W. Illinois-winner, 6:30 p.m.
Championship
Tuesday, March 8
Semifinal winners, 6 p.m.
Sun Belt Conference
At Pensacola Bay Center
Pensacola, Fla.
First Round
Thursday, March 3
Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Texas-Arlington, 9:30 a.m.
South Alabama vs. UALR, noon
Arkansas St. vs. Louisiana-Monroe, 3 p.m.
Coastal Carolina vs. Georgia Southern, 5:30 p.m.
Quarterfinals
Saturday, March 5
Texas St. vs. Louisiana-Lafayette-Texas-Arlington-winner, 9:30 a.m.
Troy vs. South Alabama-UALR-winner, noon
Georgia St. vs. Arkansas St.-Louisiana-Monroe-winner, 3 p.m.
Appalachian St. vs. Coastal Carolina-Georgia Southern-winner, 5:30 p.m.
Semifinals
Sunday, March 6
TBD vs. TBD, 3 p.m.
TBD vs. TBD, 5:30 p.m.
Championship
Monday, March 7
Semifinal winners, 4 p.m.
West Coast Conference
At Orleans Arena
Las Vegas, Nev.
First Round
Thursday, March 3
Loyola Marymount vs. Pacific, 6 p.m.
San Diego vs. Pepperdine, 8 p.m.
Second Round
Friday, March 4
BYU vs. Loyola Marymount-Pacific-winner, 6 p.m.
Portland vs. San Diego-Pepperdine-winner, 8 p.m.
Quarterfinals
Saturday, March 5
San Francisco vs. TBD, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 6
Santa Clara vs. TBD, 9:30 p.m.
Semifinals
Monday, March 7
Gonzaga vs. TBD, 6 p.m.
Saint Mary's (Cal.) vs. TBD, 8:30 p.m.
Championship
Tuesday, March 8
Semifinal winners, 6 p.m.

Montreal	54	13	34	7	33	127	206
Metropolitan Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	53	37	11	5	79	185	126
Pittsburgh	55	33	14	8	74	178	148
N.Y. Rangers	53	33	15	5	71	157	134
Washington	55	28	18	9	65	176	156
Columbus	54	28	25	1	57	179	196
N.Y. Islanders	50	20	22	8	48	128	142
New Jersey	54	19	30	5	43	167	197
Philadelphia	53	16	27	10	42	131	184
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	54	40	10	4	84	218	153
St. Louis	52	32	14	6	70	188	141
Minnesota	51	31	17	3	65	191	162
Nashville	53	30	19	4	64	163	151
Dallas	52	29	20	3	61	151	151
Winnipeg	54	24	21	9	57	163	166
Chicago	54	19	27	8	46	134	185
Arizona	53	14	35	4	32	122	195
Pacific Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	52	32	14	6	70	182	125
Los Angeles	54	29	18	7	65	159	153
Vegas	54	30	20	4	64	175	157
Edmonton	54	30	21	3	63	179	171
Anaheim	56	26	21	9	61	165	172
Vancouver	55	26	23	6	58	154	158
San Jose	54	24	24	6	54	143	168
Seattle	55	16	34	5	37	140	196

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Tuesday's Games

Edmonton 3, Philadelphia 0
Columbus 4, New Jersey 3
Tampa Bay 5, Ottawa 2
Detroit 4, Carolina 3, OT
Calgary 5, Minnesota 4
Winnipeg 8, Montreal 4
Colorado 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
Vegas 3, San Jose 1
Anaheim 4, Boston 3

Wednesday's Games

Buffalo at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers, 4:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Nashville at Seattle, 7 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Carolina at Washington, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 4 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.
Vancouver at N.Y. Islanders, 4:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Boston at Vegas, 6 p.m.
Colorado at Arizona, 6 p.m.
Montreal at Calgary, 6 p.m.

Friday's Games

Detroit at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.
Los Angeles at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Buffalo, 4 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Dallas at Winnipeg, 5 p.m.
Vegas at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

Saturday's Games

St. Louis at N.Y. Islanders, 9:30 a.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, noon
Ottawa at Arizona, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Florida, 3 p.m.
Boston at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Edmonton, 4 p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 4 p.m.
Vancouver at Toronto, 4 p.m.
Nashville at San Jose, 5 p.m.
Calgary at Colorado, 7 p.m.

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	1	0	0	3	4	0
D.C. United	1	0	0	3	3	0
Atlanta	1	0	0	3	1	1
New York	1	0	0	3	1	1
Orlando City	1	0	0	2	0	2
New England	0	0	1	1	2	2
Philadelphia	0	0	1	1	1	1
Toronto FC	0	0	1	1	1	1
Chicago	0	0	1	0	0	0
Inter Miami CF	0	0	1	0	0	0
New York City FC	0	1	0	0	1	1
CF Montreal	0	1	0	0	2	2
Charlotte FC	0	1	0	0	3	3
Cincinnati	0	1	0	0	5	5
Western Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Austin FC	1	0	0	3	5	0
Los Angeles FC	1	0	0	3	0	0
LA Galaxy	1	0	0	3	1	0
Nashville	1	0	0	3	0	0
Portland	0	0	1			