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IT'S JUST LIKE REALLY BEING HERE,
BUT WITHOUT ALL THE RAIN.

Baseball: Alomar releases statement

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and it included a no-strike clause.
"We'll see what happens,"
Selig said Monday night. "We're
just trying to work through this.
I'm talking to all of our people.
We're trying to concentrate on the
playoffs."

A baseball management source,
speaking on the condition he not
be identified, said Phillips may
back down Tuesday if Selig issues
a strong statement supporting the
umpires.

Alomar, the All-Star second
baseman of the Baltimore Orioles,
spit in the face of umpire John
Hirschbeck after a called third
strike Friday night in Toronto.

After the game, Alomar said of
the umpire: "I used to respect him
a lot. He had a problem with his
family when his son died — I
know that's something real tough
in life — but after that he just
changed, personality-wise. He
just got real bitter."

Hirschbeck's 8-year-old son

died three years ago from a rare
brain disease. His 9-year-old son
also is afflicted with the illness.

Alomar was suspended for five
games by AL president Gene
Budig on Saturday. Alomar ap-
pealed the penalty, keeping him
eligible to play, and hit a 10th-in-
ning home run that put the Ori-
oles into the playoffs for the first
time since 1983.

During the weekend, the play-
ers' union said Alomar's hearing
is likely to be held next spring,
meaning he will be able to play in
the postseason.

On Monday, Alomar issued an
apology in a written statement
that also said he would donate
\$50,000 to charities fighting the
disease that killed Hirschbeck's
son.

That does not satisfy the um-
pires, however.

"We feel strongly about this,
enough that we took this action,"
Phillips said.

Phillips said he had spoken

with Selig and Budig during the
day, and that he was expecting to
talk to them again as the first of
playoff games neared.

"As of now, the umpires will
not work the games," Phillips
said. "I'm not going to say the sit-
uation can change or anything.
I'm just saying this is our posi-
tion, and we'll see what hap-
pens."

There are three playoff games
scheduled for Wednesday, in-
cluding the opener of the series
between Atlanta and Los Angeles.

Orioles spokesman John Ma-
roon said the club wouldn't ask
Alomar to sit out during the play-
offs.

"Roberto Alomar has followed
what the league asked," Maroon
said Monday night. "He was sus-
pended, he appealed and he will
have a hearing when the time is
due. The league president made a
ruling and that is what the club is
abiding by tonight."

Firing: Players will miss ex-manager

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holes in their lineup.

Thomas tried to patch the team with prospects,
but found very little help in a farm system that hasn't
produced a star-quality player since Daulton became
the starting catcher in 1986.

The move won't be popular in the clubhouse,
where a number of the team's veterans, including

pitcher Curt Schilling and catcher Benito Santiago,
defended Fregosi.

Known as a player's manager, Fregosi preferred to
have strong clubhouse leaders who would set the
standard for teammates and let underachievers know
about it when it wasn't met.

Fregosi will receive at least \$500,000 in a contract
settlement.



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