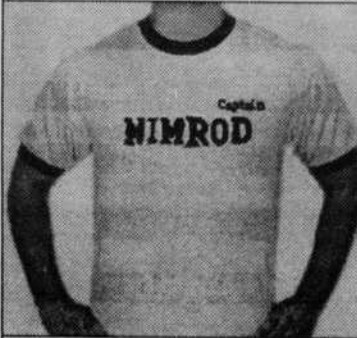


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Strength & Stretch, to Your Max
Saturday, November 1st, 2:30pm - 6:00pm
Our second workshop is for the student who wants to push their limit but in a safe and fun environment.
Instructors: Michele Bulgatz, Joan Davis

Meditation, Befriending Your Mind
Sunday, November 2nd, 6:00pm - 6:00pm
Learn through multiple techniques to reduce stress, quiet the mind, celebrate your wisdom, beauty, and intelligence, and above all be refreshed.
Instructors: Sandy Alder, Viriam Khalsa

Cost per workshop: Students \$20; Faculty/Staff \$25
Workshop Location: Student Recreation Center, Mat Room #1
Register at the Recreational Sports Office located in 102 Esslinger Hall.
Pre-registration only. Space is limited.

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Career Expos

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DePaul set to bolt C-USA for new home in Big East

The Blue Demons want a place in the same conference as Notre Dame and Marquette, two rivals

By Skip Myslenski
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

It appears the stage is set for DePaul to leave Conference USA and join the Big East. The move could become official as early as Nov. 4, the day Big East presidents are expected to meet and to also invite Conference USA members Marquette, Louisville, Cincinnati and South Florida to join.

"Anything could happen at the 11th hour, so I'm not going to say 100 percent that we're going to make this move," Blue Demons athletic director Jean Lenti Ponsetto said Sunday. "But I feel really confident that it's likely to happen."

As plans stand, DePaul and the other Conference USA schools would begin play in the Big East in the 2005-06 academic year. The Blue Demons would be in a basketball division that also would include Marquette, Notre Dame, Louisville and Cincinnati.

"For years, DePaul has wanted to be in a conference with Marquette and Notre Dame," Ponsetto said. "Our two oldest rivalries are Marquette and Notre Dame in almost every sport we have. So the Big East would give us

that kind of opportunity."

But the reasons for the expected move go beyond athletics, she said. It also would put the Blue Demons in a conference with St. John's, Villanova, Seton Hall, Georgetown and Providence, Catholic institutions with academic profiles similar to DePaul's.

"The other component — our ability to be able to recruit students from those markets — is obviously key," Ponsetto said. "To be able to move into big-city markets that have large Catholic populations and large populations of students interested in (a school like DePaul), it's huge for the university. This gives us an opportunity to expand into another region that we haven't had a lot of access to in the last 10 or 15 years. That's so promising for the institution."

"When we set in place the master plan, to be the largest Catholic institution in the country, to be very multicultural and diverse and to serve urban Chicago, it became important to us to have a great span of cities to recruit from. Major cities. The Big East does that for us institutionally as well as, obviously, the traditional athletic stuff."

The Big East has wanted to add schools since losing Miami, Boston College and Virginia Tech to the Atlantic Coast Conference, which resulted in bitterness and a spate of lawsuits. But Big East Commissioner

Mike Tranchese and Conference USA Commissioner Britton Bankowsky have worked together in recent months, and DePaul's move is expected to happen seamlessly.

"The commissioners have worked very collegially to make this very palatable," Ponsetto said. "No one wanted there to be any bloodletting." The two sides exchanged so much information, in fact, that Ponsetto said she had few questions for Tranchese when they met for the first time 10 days ago.

"Everything was very positive," Ponsetto said. "The Big East has a high level of interest in DePaul, and we reciprocated that we would be interested. It makes all the sense in the world for us."

Said Blue Demons basketball coach Dave Leitao of the pending move: "It could advance the essence of what DePaul University and DePaul basketball is all about and has been all about — reconnect to its past with the rivalries. And as for what the future holds in college basketball, it could put us in a very good light. Those kinds of things make me excited."

Conference USA is expected to replace the schools it stands to lose with Marshall, Rice, SMU and Tulsa.

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To break up or not: Time for Marlins to decide who stays

Just days after its World Series win, Florida is faced with financial decisions

By Jerry Brewer
The Orlando Sentinel (KRT)

NEW YORK — For the sake of cynicism, the comparison must be made.

In 1997, the Florida Marlins won the World Series, faced an uncertain offseason, disassembled the team and ruined baseball in South Florida.

Six years later, the Marlins have another World Series title and another uncertain offseason.

Distrust dictates doubt. The Marlins, under different ownership now, ask for faith.

"There's going to be a lot of decisions to make," third baseman Mike Lowell said. "But I hope our management is capable of keeping this team together."

There is hope, and then there is reality. The Marlins have nine free agents and 15 players, including Lowell, eligible for salary arbitration. The team's payroll would be in the \$80-\$90 million range if it focused on complete retention. Management likely will want to stay near \$53 million, which is what it paid in player salaries this season.

Some tough decisions are forthcoming. Catcher Ivan Rodriguez, the Marlins' most accomplished player, is the top free agent. Second baseman Luis Castillo and closer Ugueth Urbina are also on the list. Lowell, right fielder Juan Encarnacion and first baseman

Derrek Lee are among the players eligible for arbitration.

In addition, Manager Jack McKeon, who joined the Marlins after a 16-22 start and refocused them, must decide whether he wants to return. McKeon has hinted that he wants to come back, but he might wait to see what management does before making a decision.

"I understand the ownership is going to do the best they can within their means to keep as many guys as possible together," McKeon said. "You've seen this in every ballclub throughout baseball. It's pretty tough today to keep clubs together because of the salary arbitration and the free agency."

Don't underestimate General Manager Larry Beinfest. He helped rebuild this franchise despite monetary restraints.

If Florida keeps its starting pitching staff intact, it can absorb some losses on offense and take chances with younger players. The Marlins' staff should improve if A.J. Burnett recovers from Tommy John elbow surgery. Burnett had been considered the team's best player.

The Marlins likely will make several trades in the off-season. They may be willing to part with Lowell because 20-year-old Miguel Cabrera flourished in the postseason.

Lowell injured his hand late in the regular season, and Cabrera played so well that McKeon kept Lowell on the bench to start the playoffs. Later he decided to start Lowell at third base and move Cabrera to the outfield. But Cabrera wants to play third. The Marlins

cannot afford a logjam.

Rodriguez would be the most significant loss in free agency. After receiving little attention last summer, he settled for a one-year contract for \$10 million and agreed to have \$7 million deferred.

He wants more love this winter, but the Marlins know his value. If all works out, Rodriguez hopes this franchise can become a true beast. He refers to the Marlins being like the New York Yankees. It's an optimistic goal for a team with only a third of New York's payroll.

"I think if this team stays together the way it is, I think they can be like the Yankees," Rodriguez said. "They can win pretty much every year in the playoffs. This is a team that can do everything."

Not to be pessimistic, but did Rodriguez just refer to the Marlins as "they" instead of "we"?

Memories linger of former owner Wayne Huizenga's purge after the 1997 championship. It contributed to five consecutive losing seasons and disbelief from the fans. Even during this amazing season, Florida barely averaged 16,000 fans per home game. That average increased to more than 65,000 fans during the playoffs.

Winning reunited baseball and South Florida. Surely, the Marlins won't mess up again.

"We created a buzz," Lowell said. "These fans deserve more good times."

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