

# Chicago Tribune CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors

## WRIGLEY FIELD DEAL

# Ricketts shows faith to city

Time for Wrigleyville residents to let Cubs chairman run business

**DAVID HAUGH**  
*In the Wake of the News*

In a dim corridor Monday along the third-base side of Wrigley Field, about 30 feet away from a restroom still equipped with troughs and a wall holding pay phones, Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts outlined the tentative deal struck to renovate the rickety 99-year-old ballpark.

The makeshift, relatively primitive setting provided the perfect symbolism for Wrigley's imperfections that make pouring \$500 million of Ricketts money into a community project so sensible and necessary.

Whether the Cubs need to place a 6,000-square-foot video board in left field or expand the footprint of the stadium by 10 feet to preserve rooftop views now will be debated in public hearings and City Council meetings. What began as Ricketts' grand plan to upgrade a dilapidated facility that makes winning a World Series even more challenging for a woebe-gone baseball team effectively has become a citywide referendum on the Cubs.

"I always believed and still believe it's in everyone's best interest to do what's right for Wrigley Field," Ricketts said. "Not only economically, but it's a special place and has a special role in baseball history."

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## More inside

Paul Sullivan, Phil Rogers weigh in on deal. **Page 3**

## BLUE JAYS 4, WHITE SOX 3

# Buehrle gets key K, picks up a W

Punches out Konerko in 5th, bests Floyd to conquer former team

**BY MARK GONZALES**  
Tribune reporter

TORONTO — Mark Buehrle used the words "weird" and "crazy" to describe facing a White Sox team he was a member of for 12 memorable seasons.

Those words also fit the latest misfortunes of the Sox, who failed to deliver a knockout punch and fell to Buehrle and the Blue Jays 4-3 for their sixth loss in seven games on their 10-game trip.

As he did for most of his 161 wins with the Sox from 2000 to 2011, Buehrle relied on his crafty pitching to work out of jams. His signature moment occurred with two outs in the fifth inning when he struck out longtime friend Paul Konerko on a full count with two on.

Konerko had hit an RBI single and lined to left in his first two at-bats but wasn't too happy about a 2-1 pitch on the outside corner that was called a strike by plate umpire Tony Randazzo.

"I had the at-bat I wanted to have," Konerko said. "I had a 2-1 pitch that was ... whatever. So sometimes you've got two choices. You stand up there and strike out looking, or you swing the bat on a pitch you don't want to swing at or don't have to. That's the moral of the story."

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We are  
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**CELTICS**

We are  
Chicago  
**BRUINS**

We are  
Chicago  
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Chicago  
**REVOLUTION**

We are like you. We know that sports are often the ties that hold us together, that give us a way to talk about the things we care about when other words fail. We know sports can be fun — even in losing. Boy, do we know. We know that anybody who says it doesn't matter whether the Cubs or Sox are in the World Series so long as it's a Chicago team isn't truly a fan of either team. We know. But on Monday, we were reminded again how fragile it all can be. The explosions and injuries and death at a world-class sporting event such as the Boston Marathon make us heartsick. As much as it is anathema for a Chicago fan to root for any other town — especially Beantown and all of its championship rings — here we are.

Hang in there, Boston.

FULL COVERAGE OF THE BOMBINGS IN BOSTON. SEC 1, PAGE 1  
ELITE RUNNERS FINISHED BEFORE BOMBS WENT OFF. BACK PAGE

## STEVE ROSENBLUM

Boston Marathon runners reportedly crossed the finish line and continued to Massachusetts General Hospital to give blood to victims of the bombings. Personal best, indeed.

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## BULLS 102, MAGIC 84

# Back and going forth

Noah, Gibson play without pain with playoffs looming

**BY K.C. JOHNSON**  
Tribune reporter

ORLANDO, Fla. — A season filled with uncertainty will close with this dose of clarity: The Bulls won't know their first-round playoff opponent until Wednesday's season finale.

That's because the Bulls defeated the hapless Magic 102-84 on Monday night as Joakim Noah and Taj Gibson returned to test their recoveries from injury and coach Tom Thibodeau said it's "a possibility" both will be on minutes limits at the start of the postseason.

The victory pulled the Bulls to within a half-game of the Hawks for fifth place in the Eastern Conference. The Hawks close Tuesday at home against the Raptors and Wednesday at the Knicks.

If the Hawks split or lose their final two games and the Bulls defeat the Wizards at home Wednesday, they will claim the fifth seed and open the playoffs in Brooklyn. Similarly, if the Hawks lose both games and the Bulls lose on Wednesday, they will earn the fifth seed via a tiebreaker.

If the Hawks win out, the Bulls will open at Indiana regardless of what they do Wednesday. Similarly, if the Hawks split their final two games and the Bulls lose Wednesday, the Bulls draw the Pacers.

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## BLACKHAWKS 5, STARS 2

# Hawks staying on the attack

Close in on top seed with 6th straight win, keep Stars on outside

**BY CHRIS KUC**  
Tribune reporter

They hit the ice while sitting at different ends of the Western Conference playoff spectrum.

The Blackhawks have their sights set on securing the top spot and the Stars are fighting for their postseason lives. When all was said and done Monday night, it was the Hawks who displayed desperation when the game was on the line and skated to a 5-2 victory over Dallas before a crowd of 21,986 at the United Center.

The win was the Hawks' sixth straight and gave them an NHL-high 70 points with six games remaining. They are closing in on clinching the No. 1 seed in the conference and also the Presidents' Trophy, given to the team that finishes with the most points in the league.

Marian Hossa had an empty-net goal and two assists, Jonathan Toews and Andrew Shaw each had a goal and an assist while Viktor Stalberg and Niklas Hjalmarsson also scored. Goaltender Ray Emery made 16 saves to help the Hawks improve to 33-5-4 after winning on back-to-back nights.

"We stuck to our game," said Shaw, who scored the winning goal shortly after the Stars had tied it at 2-2 early in the third period. "We played solid de-

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