

Opinion by the US District Court - D Oregon

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Case involving former owners of the PCL Portland Beavers filed against the commissioner of baseball, two major leagues, the individual major league clubs, except two, president of minor league and individual member clubs for breach of contract and for money they received.

The Portland Baseball Club, Inc., the former owner of the Pacific Coast League (PCL) franchise in Portland, Oregon, filed these actions against the Commissioner of Baseball, the two major league leagues, the individual major league clubs (except Seattle and San Diego), the president of the PCL and the individual member clubs of the PCL for breach of contract and for money had received.

Plaintiff contends that the defendants breached Rule 1(a) of the Professional Baseball Rules (the Rules) by refusing to play just compensation to the clubs in the PCL, including plaintiff, after major league expansion clubs drafted two PCL territories.

Defendants deny any breach of contract and allege that:

1. the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over them;
2. the plaintiff is not the real party in interest; and
3. plaintiff participated in the arbitration of this issue and is bound by the award.

Until the end of the 1968 baseball season, the PCL teams operated in Seattle, Washington, and San Diego, California. On December 1, 1967, the American League adopted a resolution conditionally granting a franchise to Pacific Northwest Sports, Inc. (the Pilots), to operate a major league club in Seattle....