

NATION/WORLD

Lawmakers tailor budgets as Bush stance blurred

By ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers of both parties are churning off their own budget plans, and Democrats and Republicans seem headed for a fight over how America will bear the pain of deficit reduction.

Budget proposals sprung on over Capitol Hill on Thursday as members of Congress, frustrated by President Bush's blurry position on taxing the rich, began honing packages on their own.

House Democrats worked on a plan that would hit the wealthy hard, while Republicans refined a proposal that included a cut in the capital gains tax.

"It's up to Congress," said House Budget Committee Chairman Leon Panetta, D-Calif. "We're kind of moving on that kind of approach."

The frenzy of budget-writing was aimed at finding

\$500 billion worth of tax boosts and spending cuts for the next five years that Congress could send to Bush by Oct. 19. The government's legal ability to spend money ends that day, and the president has vowed to allow a government shutdown like the one that occurred last weekend unless lawmakers send him a budget he likes.

Just a day after the full House Ways and Means Committee produced one plan, the panel's Democrats worked on another that raised income taxes on the rich and eased the burden on the poor and middle class. It contained no reduction in the capital gains tax, but Democrats said they might add one.

"This plan is both bold and fair," said committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill.

House Republicans crafted their own measure. It would lower the capital gains tax rate to 15 percent and boost the income tax rate on the wealthy from 28 percent to 31 percent. The capital gains tax — applied to

profits on sales of property and other investments — now is handled the same as other income and has a top rate of 33 percent.

Bush said he favored the swap, but was giving up on it because of tenacious opposition by Democrats.

"The meter is running, but look, I can't dictate to Congress," he conceded.

That sent Republicans back to the drawing board.

"We've got to give our guys something to be for," said House Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-Ill.

The Ways and Means plan, and the Democratic and Republican alternatives, seemed headed for a clash on the House floor next week. Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., said Democrats and Republicans were itching to show what they stand for.

"There's a great deal of desire on the part of members to express their views about what their preferences would be if they weren't constrained by compromises,"

Foley said.

Things seemed less partisan in the Senate, where Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, refined his own proposal in an effort to draw GOP support. The new plan dropped proposals to cut the capital gains tax and raise income taxes on the wealthy.

The latest version would limit itemized deductions for people with incomes over \$100,000 a year; raise to \$125,000 the maximum amount of annual wages subject to the tax that finances Medicare; and allow monthly premiums paid by Medicare beneficiaries to rise more slowly than budget summit negotiators had proposed last month.

Rostenkowski's plan would impose a 33 percent income tax rate on the wealthiest Americans — the same tax rate already paid by those who are almost as wealthy as he.

House approves arts endowment without curbs

By ROBERT M. ANDREWS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Rep. Pat Williams won his House floor battle to rescue the National Endowment for the Arts from conservative attack, he happily lost a \$1 bet to an old Montana cowboy.

Six months ago, Williams says, he was convinced that the federal arts agency wouldn't survive the political controversy over NEA support for arts projects that his critics consider obscene and blasphemous.

The Montana Democrat, a staunch NEA supporter, said an elderly cowboy in his home district bid that Williams would prevail when the issue reached the House floor.

Williams owes the cowboy a buck.

On Thursday, the House overwhelmingly rejected a move to abolish the NEA, defeated a proposal to impose tough new anti-obscenity restrictions and embraced a bipartisan compromise that would leave the obscenity issue to the courts.

The compromise bill, drafted by Williams and Rep. E. Thomas Coleman, R-Mo., after months of intense negotiations, was approved on a 382-42 roll call vote. The margin surprised Williams.

Like a similar measure awaiting Senate floor action, the House bill would shift from the NEA to the courts the burden of deciding whether federally subsidized arts projects are obscene.

Under the bill, grant recipients who are subsequently convicted of using their federal funds to create works that violate obscenity laws would be required to return their grant money to the NEA. Once they do, they would be eligible to apply for new endowment grants.

The House measure also would order reforms in the NEA's grant-making procedures with the aim of making them more responsive to the taxpayer public. In a provision pushed by Republicans, the bill would increase the share of NEA grant money allocated to the states from 20 percent to 35 percent over the next three years.

The bill would extend the NEA's statutory authority for three years, instead of the usual five years, and would declare that funds violating the Supreme Court's obscenity standard "shall not be funded."

Current restrictions, imposed by Congress a year ago at the urging of Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., forbid NEA financing of works that "may be considered obscene," including depictions of homosexual and sadomasochistic activities and sexual exploitation of children.

The House plans to begin debate later today on a separate appropriations bill that would boost the NEA's budget from \$171 million to \$190 million in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

"It was a bigger victory in favor of tolerance and freedom of expression than I had expected," he said. "The House made it much easier for members of the Senate to save the NEA."

Sun Belt area fastest growth

By DAVE SKIDMORE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is predicting that for the rest of the century the economies of Sun Belt metropolitan areas in the South and West will grow faster than manufacturing-dependent Rust Belt cities.

West Palm Beach, Fla., topped a list of 54 metropolitan areas whose growth between 1980 and 2000 was estimated in a Commerce Department report Thursday. The city was first in projected gains in total personal income, population and employment.

Other cities ranking in the top 10 in all three categories were: Phoenix, Ariz.; Orlando, Fla.; Riverside, Calif.; San Diego; Sacramento, Calif.; and Tampa, Fla.

"The fastest growing areas ... all benefit from strong migration flows. ... This has been a part of their economic development for the past 25 years and the Commerce Department expects that to continue," said economist Mark Zandi of Regional Financial Associates in West Chester, Pa.

"Each of these areas has a good quality of life. Pollution, congestion, and crime are not problems, for the most part," he said. "Also, housing affordability, except for Riverside and San Diego, are still pretty good."

Other areas projected to have above-average growth are Anaheim, Calif.; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Atlanta; Seattle; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Oakland, Calif., the department said.

The six areas with the slowest projected growth are New Orleans, New York, Rochester, N.Y.; Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Detroit. Others expected to grow at a below-average rate are Louisville,

Ky.; St. Louis and Bergen, N.J.

Zandi said the slower-growing areas, in general, have either a higher-than-average dependence on manufacturing or on a single industry, such as oil.

"Even though output may be growing in manufacturing, improved productivity will keep growth in the number of jobs down," he said.

New York's economy should remain fairly good, Zandi said, but its growth ranking is low because there is little room left to expand.

West Palm Beach was projected to have 48.4 percent total income growth, adjusted for inflation; 24.8 percent population growth and 30.4 percent job growth.

Critics in the administration and

the business community say the bill would make it so difficult for employers to win discrimination suits that they would turn to hiring quotas as a way of heading off charges.

Rights bill concessions

By MIKE ROBINSON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Civil rights forces hope that last-minute concessions they are offering the Bush administration will prevent a presidential veto of major legislation designed to combat job discrimination.

"We have come up with something we hope is more in line with the president's views," Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins, D-Calif., said Thursday as the concessions package was unveiled.

President Bush has been saying he wants to sign a civil rights bill this year. But there were indications that the latest changes have not altered the administration view that the bill would lead to minority hiring quotas.

"At least in my contacts with the administration, they think this so-called compromise does more harm than good," declared Rep. Harris Fawell, R-Ill., a leading critic.

The Senate was shooting for floor action on the measure today.

The legislation, the top legislative priority of the civil rights movement, would negate six Supreme Court decisions last year.

Main features would change complex courtroom procedures in a way that would make it harder for employers to defend against discrimination suits.

Other provisions range from a ban on racial harassment on the job to removal of obstacles to reopening court-approved minority hiring agreements.

NIOSIA, Cyprus — Belgium announced today it has pulled its diplomats from Kuwait as Iraqi President Saddam Hussein inverts the last envoys from their encircled compounds in the vanquished emirate.

The campaign is an important part of his effort to turn Kuwait into the 19th province of Iraq.

In their announcement in Brussels, Belgian officials said their remaining two diplomats had left for Baghdad on Thursday. A government statement said the decision had been made "in agreement with the Dutch and German colleagues."

The Dutch, Italian and Polish embassies, among the compounds besieged, have withdrawn the last of their diplomats from Kuwait City in the past week.

The German government had said it would soon withdraw its personnel, but it made no immediate announcement today.

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Tropical storm Marco weakening, moving north

By PAT LEISNER
The Associated Press

Tropical storm Marco topped trees and power lines as it swept Florida's Gulf Coast on Thursday and heavy rain streaming northward from the tropics washed out roads and dams in the Carolinas.

The rain was blamed for at least five deaths in the Carolinas and may have led to a train derailment.

Nearly 10 inches of rain fell in 24 hours in parts of South Carolina, with unofficial reports up to 11 inches, the National Weather Service said. A hurricane watch was posted for the North Carolina coast.

Bermuda felt the effects of Hurricane Lili with rain, thunderstorms and gusty wind.

But while the Southeast bore the brunt of the stormy weather

was downgraded to a tropical depression with 35 mph winds by 6 p.m. EDT.

Schools were closed in Manatee and Sarasota counties, where wind gusts up to 80 mph toppled power lines, knocking out electricity to 50,000 people.

At 10:30 p.m. EDT, Marco's center hit land near Cross City, which is about 40 miles west of Gainesville. The center was near latitude 29.6 north, longitude 83.2 west.

It was moving north at 9 mph, but all tropical storm warnings had been dropped.

At 10:30 p.m. EDT, Lili was centered about 620 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., at 29.7 latitude north, longitude 67.3 west. The storm, with winds of 75 mph, headed west at 23 mph and was expected to slow slightly and turn to the northwest.

A tropical storm warning for Bermuda was discontinued.

Sheets said Lili possibly could hit land at the Outer Banks, off North Carolina, this weekend, but he expected to have a better idea by Friday.

Forecasters expected Marco to

continue its generally northward path.

Local forecasters said a tornado touched down northeast of Florida's Lake City, throwing people into a lake, upending mobile homes and felling trees across railroad tracks, weather forecasters said.

Another ripped through a housing development about 200 yards from a hospital near Crystal River, Fla.

Germans still fear Stasi police legacy

By TERENCE PETTY
The Associated Press

BONN, Germany — The Stasi secret police is officially defunct, but its shadow of fear still darkens the lives of Germans in their newly unified land.

A rash of arrests of former East German spies has embarrassed people who ran West Germany's intelligence network and raised questions about their effectiveness. But the troubles don't stop there.

Criminal justice officials fret over the legal complications of prosecuting former Stasi workers who will undoubtedly say they were only following orders, just as Nazi criminals did after World War II.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl vows Stasi criminals will be prosecuted, but he warns against letting the Stasi legacy "poison our nation's atmosphere."

"A suspect must be taken to court if facts warrant it," Kohl said in an interview with the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper.

He added, however, "We must in no way open up a witch hunt, but protect our capacity for reconciliation."

Lawmakers in former West Germany fear that Parliament, called the Bundestag, will be tainted by newcomers from East Germany who may have aided Stasi officers at home.

Producer resigns over Buckwheat imposter

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A producer responsible for an interview with a Buckwheat imposter on ABC's "20/20" has resigned, the network says.

Lynn Murray resigned in a "mutual decision" with ABC after last week's segment "Whatever Happened to 'Our Gang?'" said "20/20" spokeswoman Marie Perle. The news magazine aired an interview with a man who claimed he played Buckwheat in the "Our Gang" comedies of the 1930s and '40s and was now working as a grocery bagger in Tempe, Ariz.

William Thomas, who actually portrayed Buckwheat, died in 1980.

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denim jacket has leather trim for a southwestern look **34.99**

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chambray duster has longer length, drawstring neck, raglan sleeves **39.99**

\$19.99 misses ski pants
ski bib pants have adjustable shoulder straps **9.99**

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Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

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THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk & Sy Barry. WHERE NOW WITH THESE EVIL MEN? JUSTICE.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Dick Brown. I WONDER HOW MUCH RICHER WED BE... IF THE BAR WASN'T BETWEEN HERE AND YOUR FATHER'S BOAT.

ALLEY OOP by Dave Coverly. I WAS MAKING MY WAY TO BANDANA, COLORADO. ABOUT THREE DAYS OUT I MADE A U-TURN TO THE TOWN MARSHAL.

THE BORN LOSER by Art Scaife. ALL HONOR TO THE CORBERS BEHIND THE MONKEY CHEER. THE MONKEY THOUGHT IT WAS ALL IN FUN.

THE NEW BREED. When he was a puppy we named him 'Spot'. Then we started calling him 'Dribbles'. Then 'Puddles'. Now we just refer to him as 'Carpet King'.

AQUARIUM. Yes, we've had trouble filling this position. Here's the dental floss. The shark tank is that way.

JUMBLE. Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

THE GRIZWELLS by Bill Bohrer. HELLO?... DIAL... A-PRAYER?

PHIPPS by Joseph Faris. HELLO, AGME PHYSICS LAB SUPPLIES? WHY HAVEN'T YOU DELIVERED THAT IMMOVABLE OBJECT YET?

POP. I WAS MAKING MY WAY TO BANDANA, COLORADO. ABOUT THREE DAYS OUT I MADE A U-TURN TO THE TOWN MARSHAL.

BLONDIE by Dean Young & Stan Drake. HE'S ABOUT TO BUNGLE THE PLAYWRIGHT. HE ALWAYS WRITES PLAYS WITH A MESSAGE. I STILL REMEMBER HIS LAST ONE. GET OUT OF SHOW BUSINESS.

ARLO AND JIM by Jimmy Johnson. I'D RATHER DIE OF PEREGRINITY THAN WATCH ONE MORE CEREAL COMMERCIAL!

SPIDER-MAN by Stan Lee. JOHN IS A VERY PROUD OF YOUR ASTRONAUT SON. I NEVER KNEW COLONEL JAMESON WORKED FOR THE BUSINESS. HE DOESN'T BUT TO DONAH A PLUS IS A PLUS. WHILE HIGH OVERHEAD... WE'VE SIGHTED THE SATELLITE, COLONEL!

IS THAT ALL YOU EVER DO... SLEEP? HEY, YOU'D WHAT THE SAY, DOUTTA? NEVER CRITICIZE A MAN UNTIL YOU'VE WALKED A MILE IN HIS SHOES. UNLESS, OF COURSE, HE HASN'T EITHER.

WINTHROP by Dick Cavell. MY DAD QUIT SMOKING LAST WEEK... AND MY MOM'S TRYING TO GET HIM TO START AGAIN. WHY'S SHE DOING THAT? HE GAVE UP CIGARS FOR CHEIVING TOBACCO.

ERNE by Bud Grace. HOW DO I EXIST BEFORE YOU? WE YOU SURE ANNOY'S BODIES WE GOD ENOUGH GET INTO BARWARD, MIC SIFFLE? RINNNNNNNNN. I'D LIKE A HIGH BEER FOUR. WOULD YOU LIKE KITTEN IN YOUR GELMUM? AND HOW ABOUT SOME NICE FRIED PETER'S TO GO WITH THEM?

YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF DUCK TUCKY!! SORRY. HAVE YOU SEEN HIS MOVIE? WHOSE MOVIE? HIS. WHO? THIS IS REALLY QUESTIONABLE.

HELLO?... DIAL... A-PRAYER?

PHYSICS LAB. HELLO, AGME PHYSICS LAB SUPPLIES? WHY HAVEN'T YOU DELIVERED THAT IMMOVABLE OBJECT YET?

PHIPPS by Joseph Faris. HELLO, AGME PHYSICS LAB SUPPLIES? WHY HAVEN'T YOU DELIVERED THAT IMMOVABLE OBJECT YET?

ACCENT

New research links death to cutting cholesterol

By DANIEL O'HANEY The Associated Press. BOSTON — Doctors have long felt justified urging Americans to lower their cholesterol. Even though many of them probably won't benefit, cutting fat out of the diet certainly cannot hurt anyone.



OLD MANCHESTER — This circa 1900 photograph shows a mobile grocer visiting the S.A. Doane grocery store, which used to be located at the corner of Tolland Turnpike and Main Street.

Looking back on reporting of the first World Series

By JOHN A. JOHNSON Special to The Herald. MANCHESTER — Today's baseball fans probably can't imagine the fun and excitement local residents used to have when they heard a play-by-play account, even though second or third-hand, of the first World Series radio broadcast.

Evolution of pregnancy tests

Can you imagine drinking a mixture of pounded watermelon and breast milk to find out if you are pregnant? Or believing you're pregnant because your feet sink deeply into the ground?

Who says one should do what he doesn't want to?

How many times during a day do you say or think to yourself that you "should" say or do something? So frequently people live their lives according to what "should" or "ought to" be done.

When people live on those terms, they can feel angry and depleted because they have not lived the way they really want to. They are acting the way someone else wants them to. People cannot do that without losing their individual identities.



CHESS CHAMPION — World Chess Champion Gary Kasparov ponders his next move during the second game of the 1990 World Chess Championships in New York. Kasparov, who won both of Wednesday's matches, is defending his title against challenger Anatoly Karpov.

Computer highlights mistakes

NEW YORK (AP) — It's had enough. Anatoly Karpov had to settle for a draw in his first game against world chess champion Gary Kasparov. Now comes the news — from a computer, no less — that he could have won, easily.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page: FILMED BY THE PROFESSIONALS AT GREAT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA. 1990

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1986 Honda Prelude	\$8,495	1987 Toyota MR2	\$5,999
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SPORTS

A sort of homecoming for Atwell, Berte

STORRS — Thursday afternoon catered to soccer enthusiasts, sunny skies and only the softest of breezes. Although the crowd gathered at the Connecticut Soccer Stadium for the women's match between the University of Connecticut, ranked 20th in the Division I national poll, and Harvard University, was less than anticipated, a substantial amount of these soccer enthusiasts came to cheer on two former scholastic All-Americans from

Jim Tierney



IN ACTION — Jen Atwell, left, goes up for head ball during Thursday's game with Harvard at the Connecticut Soccer Stadium.

defense. The fastest way I know to allocate playing time is to do it by ability. The team knows that. If possible, I like to play people in their home state. We'll be here again."

Meanwhile, Berte remained her effervescent self. "I'm a little disappointed," Berte said. "I think more because I knew how many people were here. But, I understand it was because the way the game went. It wasn't going to be a game for a lot of changes."

Atwell seems fully adjusted to the college game and abundantly more sure of herself.

"I've just been working hard," Atwell said. "When I'm out there I try and give 100 percent. I'm real confident going into any game at any time."

Playing time is certainly hard to come by at the Division I level.

"I'm playing about the same (as last year)," Atwell explained. "But, I'm getting more quality time this year. I feel a lot more comfortable with my game this year. I feel a lot better this year, too."

During the 1987 scholastic season, when Atwell was a senior and Berte a sophomore, Manchester set a school record with 12 consecutive shutout wins and 14 consecutive wins.

Wheaton is excited about Berte's abilities on the soccer field.

"I've been thrilled to death with her," Wheaton said. "She's played wonderfully well for us. It's a big adjustment from high school to Division I. She marks very well and her skills coming out of the back are improving every day. She's going to be a major impact player for us."

Life at Harvard has been everything Berte expected. "It's been a great year," she said. "I love school. Cambridge is awesome. Harvard's a great place. Soccer's going very well. We have a good team this year. I'm really learning a lot. We have eight seniors on the team, so there wasn't a lot of room to come in and play."

The biggest difference between high school and college soccer?

"The physical strength," Berte said. "They're big."



EX-TEAMMATES — Harvard's Meg Berte, left, and UConn's Jennifer Atwell are both products of Manchester High School's girls' soccer program.

They're fast and they're strong. But, I like that kind of game."

Rest assured, Berte will get her chance.

For Jennifer Atwell and Meg Berte, two of the best individual products from a high school program which annually churns out excellent soccer performers, it was a sort of homecoming.

The kind that Manchester soccer enthusiasts will surely see more of in the future.

Jim Tierney is a sports writer for the Manchester Herald.

Pirates may not go with Smith

By JIM DONAGHY
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — There aren't many secrets left between Zane Smith and the Cincinnati Reds. Smith is scheduled to start tonight for Pittsburgh in Game 6 of the National League playoffs against fellow left-hander Danny Jackson with the Reds leading the best-of-7 series 3-2.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in today's editions reported that manager Jim Leyland might start right-hander Ted Power against Cincinnati.

"It's not 100 percent sure, but it's 99 percent," the Post-Gazette quoted Leyland as saying. "The Reds have eight extra position players. We have eight extra pitchers. Why not take advantage of that?"

But Pittsburgh vice president of public relations Rick Cerone said early this morning that Smith was still the Pirates' scheduled starter.

In seven previous starts against the Reds this season, Smith has given up 20 runs and 54 hits in 47 1-3 innings. Some pitchers haven't lasted seven starts in a career.

Smith was the losing pitcher in Game 3 when the Reds beat him 6-3 on a three-run homer by Mariano Duncan and a two-run shot by Billy Hatcher.

"This will be my eighth start of the season against Cincinnati, and that can be bad," Smith said Thursday night. "They're familiar with what I throw, and it's a negative."

Smith made four starts against Cincinnati for Montreal, losing twice. After being acquired by the Pirates on Aug. 8, Smith was 2-0 in

two starts against the Reds. He was 6-2 in 10 starts for the Pirates, yielding only nine earned runs in 75 innings. But in Game 3, he gave up five runs in five innings.

"I'm glad to have another chance," Smith said. "People would remember that one time and forget how well I pitched this season."

Smith, who is eligible for free agency, spent five seasons with the Atlanta Braves and was 1-12 in 1989 before being dealt to Montreal.

"When you're on a losing team, you become a defensive pitcher," Smith said. "I would have liked to have seen what I could have done with a full season with the Pirates."

The prospect of the Nasty Boys — a trio of Cincinnati relief pitchers coming in the game has the Pirates a bit defensive at the plate.

"I don't think we need a miracle or anything, just some big hits," Bobby Bonilla said.

The Pirates didn't get many big hits from their big three of Andy Van Slyke, Bonilla and Harry Bonds in the first five games. The trio combined to go 12-for-55 (218) with no homers and five RBIs.

"My loss in Game 3 showed that sometimes when the big guys get his from their big three of Andy Van Slyke, Bonilla and Harry Bonds in the first five games. The trio combined to go 12-for-55 (218) with no homers and five RBIs."

"The Indians coming out of the gate has rebounded from a 3-1 deficit — and Pittsburgh has done it twice, in the 1925 and 1979 World Series."

"We just have to pull a Kansas City," Van Slyke said. "They were



ON THE RUN — South Windsor quarter back Brad Symonds, left, slips away from the grasp of Manchester's Rodney Crockett during game last week at Memorial Field. The Indians are in Enfield Saturday to take on Fermi High. Cross town East Catholic is home at Carlin Field against Hillhouse.

Positive attitude is pivotal for Manchester football team

By JIM TIERNEY
Manchester Herald

MANCHESTER — Manchester High football coach Mike Masse is a firm believer in positive thinking.

Positive thinking is the main thing which could turn the Indians' season around, Manchester, which has dropped two games in a row, is 0-2 in the CCC East and 1-3 overall, pointing 20-0 loss to South Windsor, will travel to Enfield to take on Fermi in a CCC East contest Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Fermi, 0-1 in the league and 1-3 overall, dropped a 26-23 decision to Windham last week.

Winless East Catholic (0-4), which scored its first points of the season last Saturday in a 31-8 loss to South Windsor, will host Hillhouse-New Haven (2-2) Saturday afternoon at 1:30 at Mount Nebo's Carlin Memorial Field. Hillhouse is coming off a 22-6 loss to Berlin.

"We have to take the ball by the horns," Masse said. "We have another opportunity on Saturday to turn our season around and head in a positive direction. The more you lose, the tougher it is for the attitude. You can't afford a mental meltdown."

Fermi, as has been the case in the past, will certainly air things out when one will happen. The kids are resilient. It's not physical, it's mental. It's up to the kids on Saturday."

The big news for East is it scored its first points of the year last week against Xavier. After that, it's getting tougher and tougher for Coach Leo Fiacchini to find any positives.

Hillhouse, which beat East 22-12 last year, gained one of its wins from Warren Harding of Bridgeport was ruled ineligible.

Fiacchini looks at last week's 12-play, 80-yard scoring drive.

"The kids executed really well on that drive," he said. "We keep telling if we can do it on one drive, we can do it on two, three and so forth. We just have to try and correct our fundamental mistakes. We may not be as talented physically as last year, but this is a different bunch of kids. We had a nice week of practice. They're really a good bunch of kids."

Phillips said he planned to ask American League president Bobby Brown to look into the matter, and Harrington said he plans to talk to Brown about opening a player from such an important game.

"It will not be in the form of a complaint, but I'm sure he's anxious to hear what we have to say," Harrington said of Brown. "Both sides should be more tolerant of each other in these situations."

Brown was at the game in Oakland and will review tapes and read Cooney's report of the incident before deciding whether Clemens should be fined or suspended.

Harrington said that despite the controversy, the Red Sox are "going to work hard all winter" to sign Clemens, whose contract expires after next season.

"It's something we can't wait on. We have to get going on it right away," Harrington said. "We have some other pressing things, but getting Roger signed is our biggest priority."

Dr. Harvey Duberg, a Brookline sports psychologist, told the Boston Herald it was likely that Clemens' outburst could have been predicted.

Clemens threatened Cooney?

BOSTON (AP) — Boston pitcher, accused of threatening to "get" Terry Cooney, was not directing his anger toward the plate umpire, according to Red Sox president John Harrington.

"We've heard both sides of the story. Who knows what was said? We're behind Roger 100 percent in this," Harrington is quoted in today's Boston Globe as saying on the flight from Oakland to Boston after Wednesday's game.

"His position is that he was not directing his anger toward the umpire, and we believe him and we're behind him."

Richie Phillips, executive director of the Major League Umpires Association, on Thursday said Clemens threatened to get Cooney after being ejected.

Clemens threatened Cooney "three times as they were taking him off the field. He said he would find out where Cooney lives and would get him," Phillips said from his home in Philadelphia.

"The umpire in the crew told me. It's bizarre," Phillips said. "Clemens was arguing every call he didn't agree with. He knew what he was saying was cause for ejection."

The star pitcher was ejected from the fourth, and as it turned out, final game of the American League playoffs in Oakland for shouting obscenities at Cooney. At the time, the Red Sox were losing 1-0 in the second inning.

The Oakland Athletics won the game 3-1, sweeping the playoff series in four games to advance to the World Series for the third straight year.

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