



NEWS RELEASE

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THE HYPHENATED BRAVES

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The future of the Milwaukee Braves seems to be settled. They'll play one more year in Milwaukee, then they'll move to Atlanta for the '66 season.

Some local fans are understandably disappointed that there will be no big league baseball here next year, and in case they're inclined to go scapegoating we suggest they shy away from Mayor Allen.

The Mayor made some bright promises based on his confidence in Atlanta. Allen said he could deliver big league baseball to our town, and he was right. He was simply a year early due to unforeseen legal complications. And if we hadn't built the stadium we wouldn't even have a team for 1966.

The attitude of Milwaukee officials seems curious. Of course, they're unhappy about losing the Braves. But it's sort of like a man telling his wife...."In one year I'm going to divorce you and I've already got your replacement picked out. In the meantime, I expect you to be the same sort of wife you've always been". It just won't work. Milwaukee officials have delayed the inevitable one year, and it profits them very little. Next year they'll have a hyphenated team -- perhaps the sports writers will call them the Milwaukee dash Atlanta Braves.

So now the political barrage against Mayor Allen may begin. We hope not. Atlanta has waited 70 years for a major league team, and one more year isn't unreasonable. Allen did everything in his power to get the Braves for 1965. A written contract to that effect would have made no difference. The Braves were obligated to play in Milwaukee next year. It was hoped that the team could simply pay off the rent on Milwaukee County Stadium and move, but legal action blocked that.

So for one year Atlanta may have a vacant stadium. For at least 25 years thereafter, Atlanta will have big league baseball.....that leaves little room for complaint.