



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dolan to Munch: Ownership Did Not Demand Indians' Trades

CLEVELAND – Indians President Paul Dolan joined “The Hot Seat” with Mark “Munch” Bishop on ESPN 850 WKNR on Tuesday to discuss the club's recent series of trades and the future of the franchise.

Dolan said that he did not force General Manager Mark Shapiro to deal Cliff Lee and Victor Martinez last week, but he admitted that the economy played a key role in the decision making. “We did paint the picture,” Dolan said. “We could keep this team together for this year and next, but we could not add anything to it. The financial impact of keeping this team together...would have had a significant effect on our ability to do things in the outlying years.”

In addition, Dolan explained the reason behind the Indians' recent economic struggles. “It's the local economy,” he said. “Our corporate sales are down. Suites are down. Attendance is down. We have the second lowest attendance in the American League...It's just the reality of being in a mid-to-smaller size marketplace.”

While Dolan told Munch that he understands the fan's frustration, he cautioned them not to forget that this regime nearly won a championship a few years ago. “We're not given credit for what we have accomplished in the past,” Dolan said. “We have the fifth best record in the American League over the last four years. We had the best record in Major League Baseball two years ago. We have achieved a lot for our market size. I'm not sure we are given credit for that.”

Full audio of the interview can be found at <http://www.espn-cleveland.com>.

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