The New York Yankees won their 27th World Series Championship last Wednesday night, and in the process are taking a resounding beating by baseball fans and media everywhere about how they bought a championship after shelling out over $420 million this past offseason on the likes of C.C. Sabathia, A.J. Burnett, and Mark Texeira. In Tony's latest, he says don't blame the Yankees, blame the system. And that baseball is going to lose big chunks of fans if they don't do something about it soon.

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The problem with that is while the fans and media are right in that the Yankees have an unfair advantage with an endless stream of revenues, a seemingly infinite bank account, and the ability to outspend any team to get any player they want, it is not the Yankees fault they have all this power. The finger is being pointed the wrong way as the Yankees are simply playing within the rules of the game as approved by all other 29 franchises.

The fault lies with Major League Baseball and the owners. And, if you want to point the finger at anyone or any one thing, the guy truly to blame is Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig.

Under Selig's watch which began in 1992 as acting commissioner and then to official commissioner in 1998, the financial landscape of the game has changed dramatically. He certainly has done a lot of good for the game as under his watch league revenues have skyrocketed by a reported 400% and attendance records in baseball have fallen almost yearly.

He has been in charge of introducing the controversial World Baseball Classic in 2006, inter-league play in 1997, and the wildcard in 1994.

But for the good Selig has done, it is hard to shake the eternal black eye he greatly assisted in giving the sport by conveniently looking the other way in regard to the steroid issue that permeated the scene to such a high level under his watch in the 90s and early 00s.

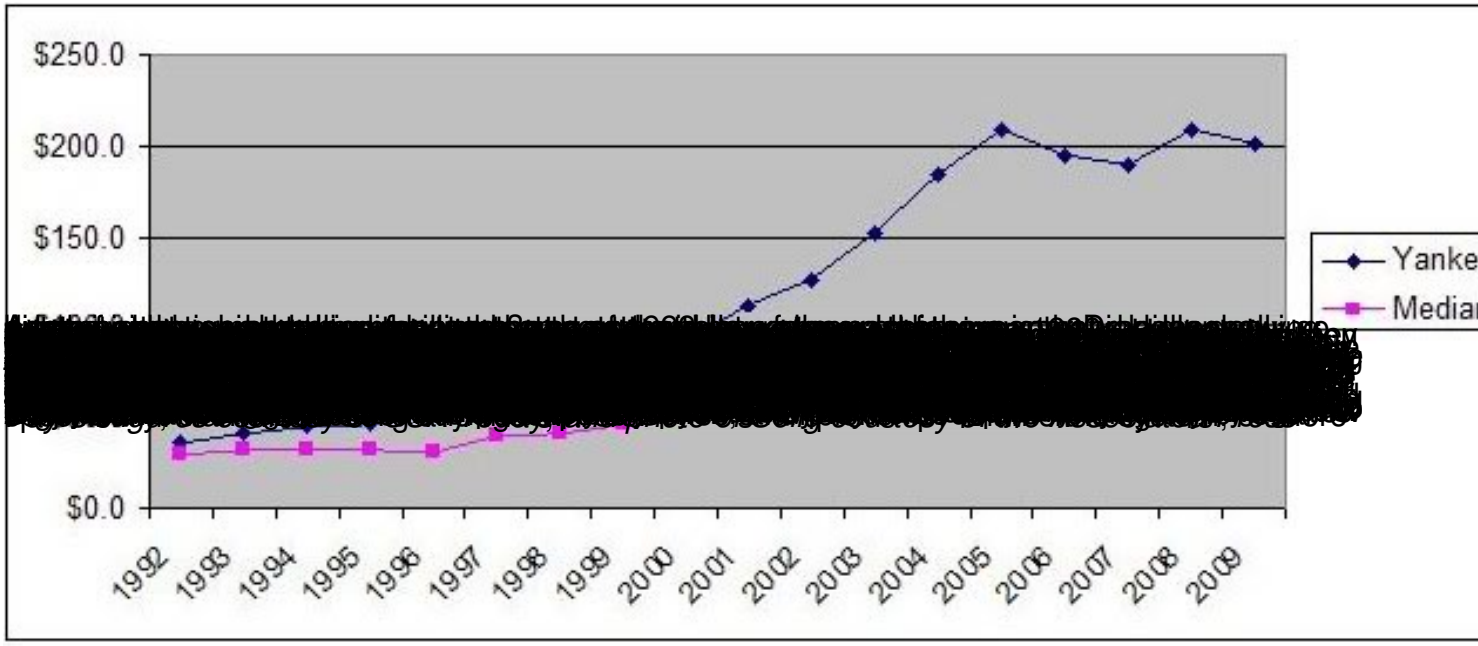
But Selig's biggest atrocity as commissioner may be how he has let the financial disparity between the small and big market teams widen from where it was once just a small difference barely negligible in the early 90s to now where it is now the size of the Grand Canyon. It is inconceivable how he along with the owners for some 20-22 other franchises (who are also at fault too) have let the financial disparity get to where it has.

In Selig's first year as acting commissioner in 1992 the highest payroll in baseball was $44 million by the NY Mets while the Yankees were 6th at $36 million. In fact, the Yankees prior to 1992 were often ranked 5th or lower in the league in payroll.

The big markets still ranked in the top, but the disparity was almost insignificant from the big market teams and the small market teams.

I mean, in 1990 the Kansas City Royals led all of baseball with a $23.9 million payroll.

But look how the gap has been widened over the years under Selig's regime and the disparity that exists in the game today between the Yankees - who have been #1 or #2 in payroll in every year since 1994 - and the median payroll in baseball each year: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