

BASEBALL

Fisher Wants to Buy NL Giants, Move Them Here

By Stephen C. Fehr

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A Washington attorney said yesterday he would make an offer to buy the San Francisco Giants and move the National League baseball team to Washington in time for next season.

Bart S. Fisher, who lives in Great Falls, said he would make the offer to Giants owner Bob Lurie within 45 days. Fisher, who organized an effort to bring an expansion baseball team to Washington two years ago, said he would attempt to assemble the same group of investors he put together in 1990.

"An opportunity has been created

by Jack Kent Cooke's decision to move the Redskins to Virginia," Fisher said. "We're going to cut to the chase and make the Giants an offer."

Cooke recently announced that he would build a 78,600-seat stadium for the Redskins in Alexandria, leaving RFK Stadium and the District without a professional team. Cooke's plan still faces several economic, legal, environmental and political obstacles.

If the D.C. Stadium Armory Board offered a baseball team a short-term lease, Fisher said, it would play at RFK, which would be converted to a baseball stadium. If that did not work out, he said, the

team could play at another, undetermined site in Northern Virginia.

If Cooke keeps the Redskins in Washington but builds a new stadium next to RFK, Fisher said, the teams could share parking spaces but play in separate stadiums.

Fisher declined to discuss details of the offer. A spokesman for the Giants said yesterday no cities have made Lurie an offer, although several are pursuing the team. The other cities include Tampa-St. Petersburg, Sacramento, Buffalo and Charlotte.

San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan also is making a determined effort to keep the team.

A month ago, Baseball Commis-

sioner Fay Vincent gave permission for Lurie to begin shopping around for a new home. Bay Area residents have voted down several proposals for new stadiums to replace Candlestick Park, where cold winds and limited access make it perhaps the most uncomfortable stadium in baseball.

Giants officials have visited Washington three times in the last month, Fisher said. Team officials have also been to St. Petersburg, a Giants spokesman said.

"We are looking at every possible option—sale, relocation or both," said Duffy Jennings, the Giants' vice president for public relations.