

# The Star-Ledger

**Giants: Tisch's grim situation adds to team's sorrow**

Monday, November 14, 2005

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For the Star-Ledger

Less than three weeks after the death of their franchise's patriarch, the Giants played with heavy hearts again yesterday.

Coach Tom Coughlin and the sons of team co-owner Bob Tisch addressed the team after practice Saturday to say Tisch had become gravely ill with brain cancer. Several players and front-office personnel visited Tisch in his Manhattan home.

"We are all very sad with Mr. Tisch's health situation and we have been hoping that things would get better," Coughlin said after yesterday's game. "I received word coming off the field Friday night that it was not the case -- that he was, in fact, very, very ill."

"Just as I wanted the team to be aware of the situation with Mr. Mara, I told the team on Saturday morning."

Combined with the passing of longtime team owner Wellington Mara on Oct. 25, the news of Tisch, 79, taking a turn for the worse extended a pall over the team. Tisch's two sons, Giants executives Steve and Jonathan, told the team that their father -- a man of many varied accomplishments in life -- was proud of his association with the franchise.

"I wanted to express to the players, the coaches and really the whole staff what being involved with the New York Giants meant to my father," said executive vice president Steve Tisch. "I think the qualities of the whole Giants family are the qualities that he loved about being involved with the team; the team being so much a part of New York, the character, the commitment, the talent and how athletic and special these guys are."

"And for the 14 years he's had the privilege of owning this team, it's been the greatest gift for him, professionally and personally."

Tisch became co-owner of the Giants in 1991 after their victory in Super Bowl XXV. That added to his distinguished career in the business world, including the development of Tisch Hotels Inc. and the acquisition of Loews Theaters Inc. in 1959. He is the chairman and director of Loews Corporation, one of the country's most successful financial companies, with 2003 revenues of \$16.4 billion and assets exceeding \$77 billion.

In addition, Tisch was postmaster general of the United States from August 1986 to March 1988.

"It's obviously a very tough month," said Jonathan Tisch, the team treasurer. "Some of the players like Michael (Strahan) and Tiki (Barber) are veterans. But a lot of them are young kids, and to have to go through the pain of potentially losing both owners within two or three weeks -- it was just important for us to come out and tell them how much we care about them, because we know they care about us."

General manager Ernie Accorsi, Coughlin, Strahan and Barber all visited Tisch at his home Saturday.