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**Daley: Quinn can't win. Gov: Yes, I can**

By Dave McKinney

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SPRINGFIELD - Bill Daley jabbed at Gov. Pat Quinn, Quinn vowed he would win another term, and state Democratic Party chairman Michael Madigan was a no-show, seemingly indifferent to the fact that Wednesday was supposed to be a Democratic rally day at the Illinois State Fair heading into the 2014 elections.

Governor's Day was a mostly low-voltage affair spread between a hotel brunch and an afternoon picnic, except for a few one-liners and Daley's insistence that Democrats couldn't hold onto the Executive Mansion next year if Quinn is their gubernatorial nominee.

"I respect Pat Quinn. He's a decent guy, and as has been stated before, he's a heck of a White Sox fan," Daley told about 1,300 party loyalists at the Democratic County Chairmen's Association brunch. "But just like the White Sox, we will not win if we do not make change."

Later, Quinn let Daley's comments roll off his back, blithely telling reporters, "I think they were nice remarks."

That was in keeping with Quinn's apparent strategy to deprive his 2014 primary challenger or any other potential rivals of a platform beyond the morning brunch to go on the attack against the governor's record after nearly 1½ terms in office.

Last year marked one of the more theatric Governor's Days in recent memory, with angry union protesters flooding the fairgrounds and showering boos and heckles upon Quinn for withholding promised raises, wanting to reel in their pension benefits and closing state facilities.

But this year, Quinn retooled the traditional afternoon fairground rally so no one gave speeches but the governor himself, and admission was closely monitored to keep a lid on any potential protesters. A few hundred Quinn supporters showed up at his picnic, but virtually no Democratic lawmakers and no statewide officeholders attended.

"Anything but last year," one Quinn aide confided. "You can't rain on this parade."

The governor has been on a political rebound, of sorts, since Attorney General Lisa Madigan withdrew from a 2014 run against him last month, emboldening him Wednesday to predict he could defeat Daley or possible challenger state Sen. Kwame Raoul (D-Chicago) in a primary.

"I can win any election," Quinn said.

"I was given a 9 percent chance of winning in the general election, and I won," the governor said, harkening back to his 2010 race against state Sen. Bill Brady (R-Bloomington), "and Brady is still looking for his gym shoes. I think that's the way we're going to do it again."

Missing all day was the state party leader, House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago), who seemed to disappear into a political Bermuda Triangle. No one was really clear on where the chairman of the Democratic Party of Illinois was or why he chose not to show up.

Alan Pirtle, the president of the Democratic County Chairman's Association, offered no explanation, other than to tell brunch attendees that Madigan "sends his regards and his regrets."

A Madigan spokesman ignored an email from the Chicago Sun-Times seeking clarification on the speaker's missing-in-action status.