

Big names traded as winter meetings open

DALLAS — Baseball's trade market, a colossal bore in recent years, opened with a flourish at the winter meetings Monday with 15 players changing uniforms, including such prominent names as Rollie Fingers, Bob Knepper, Enos Cabell and Terry Kennedy.

The St. Louis Cardinals and San Diego Padres started the action with an 11-player blockbuster and the Houston Astros and San Francisco Giants engineered a four-player swap to begin what many baseball executives believe will be a week of heavy wheeling and dealing.

Cardinal general manager and field manager Whitey Herzog traded away nearly one-fourth of his team in an effort to land the relief pitcher, Fingers, that his club has sorely needed.

In addition to Fingers, the Cards received first baseman-catcher Gene Tenace, pitcher Bob Shirley and a minor league player to be named later, while the Padres obtained two catchers, Kennedy and Steve Swisher, infielder Mike Phillips and four young pitchers — John Urra, John Littlefield, Al Olmstead and Kim Seaman.

The Astros and Giants worked out a swap which sent Cabell, a third baseman, and a player to be named later to the Giants for Knepper, a lefthanded pitcher, and outfielder Chris Bourjos, who spent most of last season at Phoenix of the Pacific Coast League.

The seven-for-four swap made between the Cardinals and Padres was more than three months in the making during which period Herzog confessed he talked with Padres general manager Jack McKeon "more than I did with my wife."

The deal gives the Cardinals two pitchers, Fingers and Shirley, whom the Cards hope will turn them into instant contenders in the National League East. While the Padres went primarily for youth in an effort to build the club into a future contender in the NL West.

The two key players in the trade are Fingers and Kennedy. Fingers, a 34-year-old righthander who appeared in three World Series with the Oakland A's before playing out his option with them and signing with San Diego four years ago, still is rated one of the major league's premier relievers. He led the National League in saves twice in the last four years, 35 in 1977 and 37 in 1978. This past season he saved 23 games for the last-place Padres while posting a 2.80 earned run average and an 11-9 record.

Fingers, however, is on the last year of his contract and the Cardinals may only get one year's use out of him. "I can't worry about that now," said Herzog. "I'm trying to see if we can become a bonafide contender and win the pennant in the National League. I think Fingers is a welcome addition to our ballclub. I think Olmstead and Littlefield can become pretty good starters, but Shirley fits into our starting rotation right now."

In dealing Kennedy, son of Chicago Cubs general manager Bob Kennedy, the Cardinals are giving up one of the most promising young catching prospects in the majors. However, with Ted Simmons and the recently signed free agent Darrell Porter already on the roster, Kennedy did not figure to get a chance to play much with St. Louis.

"We had an understanding," said Herzog. "As long as Simmons was there, Terry wasn't going to get a chance to play and I think the time has come where he has to really take over as a No. 1 catcher for his own good. I think he'll be a great ballplayer. I think San Diego got themselves an outstanding young player."

Herzog said the Cardinals were by no means through in the trade market. He indicated that a deal was still in the works which could bring the Cards ace reliever Bruce Sutter of the Chicago Cubs. Last year, the Cardinals bullpen was a major reason why the team floundered and finished fourth.

In making the deal for Knepper, the Astros strengthened an already potent pitching arsenal. The Astros, however, were overloaded with righthanded starters and feel Knepper, who posted only a 9-16 record last season, can return to the form he showed in 1978 when he won 17 games for the Giants.

Cabell, one of the Astros' steadiest players over the last four seasons, fills the Giants need for a third baseman. The Giants plan on shifting Darrell Evans, who played third last season, to first base to make room for Cabell, who hit .276 in 152 games.

Astros manager Bill Virdon said he would shift Art Howe from first to third base to fill the hole left by Cabell's departure and would try rookie Danny Heep at first base.

Another player who will not return to the Astros next season is veteran second baseman Joe Morgan, who was released Monday by Houston. Morgan, 37, was released by mutual agreement so that he could work out a deal for himself with another club. A two-time most valuable player award winner with Cincinnati in 1975 and 1976, Morgan was a leader in the Astros drive to the N.L. West pennant last season, but batted just .243 over the campaign.

"The major issue was playing time," said Astros general manager Al Rosen in explaining why the team cut Morgan loose. "And we feel the time has come for (Rafael) Landestoy to play regularly. It was mutually agreed upon between Joe and the club."

In addition to the two trades, several teams improved their rosters through the annual draft of minor league talent.

Eleven teams selected a total of 18 players off minor league rosters at a cost of \$25,000 per player.

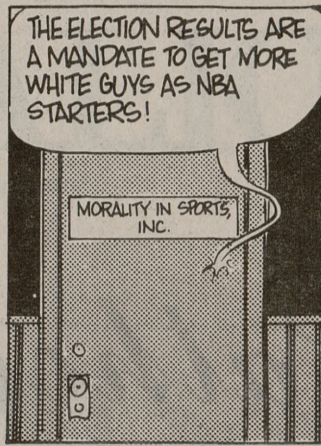
The Oakland A's were the most active in the draft, choosing three players, including World Series hero Brian Doyle. Doyle, an infielder, batted .438 in the 1978 series for the New York Yankees, but spent most of the past two seasons playing for their Columbus farm club.

Other former major leaguers selected in the draft were infielder Mario Ramirez (from Tidewater) by San Diego, pitcher James Wright (from Oklahoma City) by Kansas City, catcher Dan Witmer (from Salt Lake City) by Toronto, outfielder Carlos Lopez (from Mexico City) by St. Louis and pitcher Roy Thomas (from Springfield, Ill.) by Oakland.

The draft was the largest since 1969 when 19 players were chosen. If a draftee fails to make a major league roster in spring training, his previous minor league club can repurchase his contract for \$12,500.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Individual stats reflect season

By KURT ALLEN

Battalion Staff
If Texas A&M's 1980 football season could be summed up by looking at the final figures for individual players, it might be called statistically boring.

Overall, very little stands out in the statistics for the skill players, except perhaps for tailback Johnny Hector. The swift sophomore gained 928 yards on 173 carries for an average of 5.4 yards per rushing attempt.

Another important offensive player is junior receiver Mike Whitwell who caught 30 passes for 603 yards and a rousing 20.1 yards per catch.

Defensively, linebacker Mike Little and defensive linemen Arlis James and Keith Baldwin led in tackles. Little was high man with 116 tackles, followed by James with 110 and Baldwin at 100.

Much more than that, there's really not much to talk about when looking at the individual stats. When all is said and done, the Aggies were just average in 1980.

It is interesting, however, to take a look at this past season's team superlatives for single games. It's not surprising to find senior quarterback David Beal leading five of 20 categories and tied for another.

Three superlatives came in the 41-21 win over the Red Raiders when Beal took over the starting quarterback job. His 12 passes completed, four rushing touchdowns and 24 points scored were Aggie season highs.

Beal also had the highest number of passing attempts (24 vs. Arkansas), while passing for a season-high 153 yards against Texas. In a lackluster passing year, Beal tied for most pas-

ing touchdowns per game at one (he threw one each against Penn State, Houston, Arkansas and Texas). Gary Kubiak also threw one against Texas while senior Mike Mosley tossed one in the Houston game.

Two other superlatives were claimed by Whitwell, who tied for a fourth. The fleet junior caught the longest pass at 56 yards in the Texas upset. He also had the most catches (5) against Texas Tech.

Another player claiming two superlatives and tying for another was

by Leandrew Brown and Bobby Strogon.

Roughly seven seniors will not return, including Beal, Mosley, James, Zach Guthrie and Brown. Although each has been a vital cog in the Aggie machinery, Beal and Mosley have gotten most of the attention and will most likely be the hardest to replace.

It's been a rough year for Mosley. He started out the season with high hopes, lost his starter's job to Beal and was shifted to the defensive secondary where he saw little action the rest of the season. Yet he now owns the Aggie career passing percentage record at .554 (shattering the .520 mark set in 1950-52 by Ray Graves) and the season percentage mark as well at .578 (set in 1979).

For Beal, it was a quiet, frustrating time as Mosley's backup for three years. But he made the most of this year as starter, running for four

touchdowns and passing for another four. His four passing TDs give him a career total of nine, two better than Mosley.

Obviously, with maturing, experience players and depth returning at most every position except quarterback, Head Coach Tom Wilson will certainly have to make that one of his prime targets during recruiting.

Analysis

Mosley. He easily had the longest run from scrimmage with a 58-yarder against Penn State. Mosley also took the season best for total offense with 244 yards in the opener against Ole Miss.

In the rushing department, Hector was tops in both rushing attempts and yardage with 37 and 191 respectively. Other superlatives found Kyle Stuard kicking the longest punt at 63 yards against Texas, while Alan Smith booted the 47-yard field goal for the season best.

As for returns, Scott returned one punt for 24 yards, while freshman Billy Cannon squirmed back a kickoff for 33 yards. The longest interception returns were two 21-yard efforts

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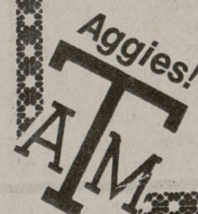
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High School playoff schedule

United Press International	Class AAAA Semifinals: Paris 14, Lubbock Estacado 0; Huntsville 13, Bay City 10
Class AAAAA Semifinals	Class AAA Quarter-finals: Stamford 26, Littlefield 18; Pittsburg 28, Decatur 0; West 7, Waller 6; Van Vleck 0, Port Isabel 0 (VV wins, 2-1 penetrations)
Class AAAA Final	Class AA Quarter-final: Rotan 31, Pahandle 6; Pilot Point 40, Moody 19; Forney 28, Garrison 7; Tidehaven 14, Woodsboro 0
Class AAA Semifinals	Class A Semifinal: Rankin 19, Valley 8; Valley View 7, Falls City 7 (VV wins, 16-12, first downs)
Class AA Semifinals	Six Man Final: Milford 38, Highland 16
Class A Final	Day Deer Hunting \$50. a day Groups of 10 3 days/\$100. Camp House 70 miles west of Houston 1-732-6849
Last Week's Results:	
Class AAAAA Quarter-finals:	
Odessa Permian 27, Amarillo 0; Dallas Highland Park 23, Plano 21; Port Arthur Jefferson 34, Houston Stratford 0; San Antonio Holmes 2, Alice 14	

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