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Sports

Aggie inks with minors

By Tom Tagliabue
Sports Writer

Texas A&M first baseman Fred Gegen, whose teammates selected him as the Most Valuable Player in 1985, has signed on as a free agent with the Salt Lake City Trappers of the Pioneer League.

The soft spoken tri-captain, who hit .314 with eight home runs and 37 RBI with the Southwest Conference champions, was passed up in the collegiate baseball draft because of a preseason injury, which Gegen said turned many scouts away.

"I know that a lot of scouts stopped and lost some interest when (I broke my thumb)," Gegen said of the freak accident which caused him to miss the first 18 games of the season. "It was hard to come back after that. It was a big setback."

Gegen, who recovered and had a good conference tournament and NCAA regional, was named to the all-tournament teams at those events.

Gegen had been dreaming of a chance of making the pros, but when draft day came around, his hope turned into disappointment.

"I was really disappointed because it had been my dream going to play," Gegen said. "I knew after that there

was no way I'd ever be drafted out of the normal draft.

"I just set that behind me and decided I had to make the best of it. I had Coach (Jim) Lawler and (Head Coach) (Mark) Johnson help me out by calling around and letting everybody know I was open for free agency."

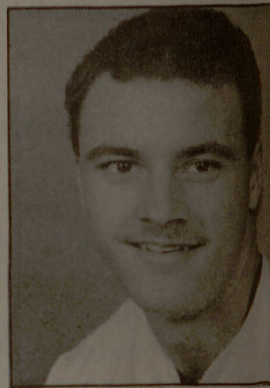
After the coaches called several ballclubs, Gegen received inquiries from two independent teams, the Miami Marlins and the Salt Lake City Trappers.

The Miami call didn't pan out, but late Tuesday night, Gegen agreed to a contract with the Trappers, a 20-25 man squad which plays 70 games a year.

"I had to go with what I could get," Gegen said. "I was excited. I was relieved because it's all pro ball. You look at it as a shot (at going pro). That's all I want right now, is a shot."

Gegen said he believes he will go in as a utility player since he has played first base, third base and left field in his college career.

"I'm hoping to take it one step at a time," Gegen said. "I hope to get into the lineup at Salt Lake and hopefully I'll have a good year there and then hopefully another team will pick me up."



A&M's Fred Gegen

"It's a good team to get into. I think they carry better players and of that, I've seen other teams last year."

Baseball Notes — A&M's Lawler said outfielder Jeff Schmitt, who led the Aggies in hitting last season, could join the Salt Lake City team soon if a roster spot is available. Lawler said Schmitt was at Pepperdine last week, but was open at the time.

NFL documents claim USFL woes lie in merger gambles

NEW YORK (AP) — The USFL was confronted with documents at the \$1.5 billion football antitrust trial Wednesday showing that its financial problems may have stemmed from its own maneuvers to force a merger, rather than anticompetitive practices by the NFL.

Later, on the first full court day since last Thursday, the USFL was frustrated by former ABC Sports chief Roone Arledge, who said the risk of NFL retaliation for televising USFL games never materialized and that ABC had "no earthly reason" to want the fledgling league to go out of business.

Testifying in the USFL's antitrust suit against the NFL, Arledge acknowledged that he considered the NFL a more important client to ABC than the USFL. But he said that he made it clear to USFL Commissioner Harry Usher and Michigan Panthers

owner A. Albert Taubman at a luncheon in 1985 that he considered the USFL an important client.

Usher had testified that at that meeting, Arledge had told him that NFL owners didn't appreciate the risks ABC had taken when it had provided the USFL with its original spring contract. Asked by USFL attorney Harvey Myerson if that was true, Arledge noted that he had just testified that ABC had made a profit of more than \$25 million for the first two years of its USFL contract.

"What I did," he said, "was respond to a statement by Mr. Taubman that the USFL owners thought we were trying to drive them out of business. I said we made a great deal of money from the USFL and if you could, tell me any earthly reason why I'd want to drive the USFL out of business."

"At the beginning, when we didn't

know what the reaction of the NFL would be, we had taken that into account. If it had happened, the risk never materialized."

Earlier, the NFL introduced documents in which a USFL writer wrote "the central focus of all strategies must be to bring about a merger or accommodation with the NFL."

The documents, a memo written by Oakland Invader Ted Taube, were introduced during cross-examination of Usher. Part of the NFL's attempt was USFL business practices including a desire to merge caused the younger league's problems.

Usher repeatedly denied the motive and stuck to his position that all the USFL's troubles were caused by the NFL.

UH implements gift controls

HOUSTON (AP) — Strict financial controls regarding gifts accepted by the University of Houston's athletic department have been instituted at the school, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Wednesday.

An internal auditor's memorandum released to the university Monday discusses problems in documenting gifts made to the athletic department at the University Park campus, the newspaper said.

The *Chronicle* reported earlier this week that the athletic department could not account for the disposition of about \$2.5 million in gifts received before August 1984. The newspaper also said the department had only sketchy records of another

\$500,000 in gifts collected in the 1984-1985 school year.

Bill G. Kennedy, director of internal auditing for the Houston system administration, released the memo to Peter H. Fitzgerald, vice chancellor for administration of the University Park campus.

The memo detailed a series of corrective actions in financial controls for the athletic department, the *Chronicle* reported.

Kennedy said a review of accounting for the gifts by the athletic department "revealed several weaknesses in the current procedures."

"A major problem is the lack of documentation," Kennedy wrote. "Once the pledge is recorded, there is

little or no documentation regarding actual receipt of the donations or services.

"The records maintained should be used to determine balanceable or amounts consumed," he wrote. "The department had difficulty determining the amount even after contacting the donor."

In the memo, Kennedy said four meetings with athletic department administrators about the gift controls since March 23.

Earlier, the newspaper reported an Open Records Request by Athletic Director Tom Ford for details of acceptance and disposition of gifts to his department.