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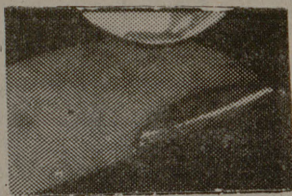
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**Mets' Gooden agrees to offer of \$1.5 million**

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Cy Young Award winner Dwight Gooden of the New York Mets avoided salary arbitration Monday, agreeing to a \$1.5 million contract, a raise of almost \$200,000 after a disappointing season.

"We're happy to reach agreement," agent Jim Neader said from his offices in Tampa, Fla. "The contract represents a solid raise and keeps Dwight one of the game's top paid players."

Neader asked for \$1.8 million after Gooden went 17-6 with a 2.84 earned run average for the world champion Mets last season. The Mets, citing a dropoff from the pitcher's 24-4, 1.53 Cy Young season in 1985, had offered the same \$1.32 million the 22-year-old right-hander made last year.

Gooden admitted that although his won-loss record was impressive, he was not entirely pleased with the way last season went for him.

"Sometimes you try to do too much, try too hard instead of just being yourself," he said. "Every year

you try to better your standard and you over-try sometimes. You try to make up everything in one outing. I've got to go back to basics and work from there."

In addition to the drop in pitching production, Gooden's year was punctuated by a December arrest when he was involved in a fight with Tampa police. He was charged with battery on a police officer, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct after he was stopped on an alleged traffic violation. He pleaded no contest to two felony charges and was placed on three years probation and required to perform 160 hours of community service.

That episode and another in which Gooden's former fiancée, Carlene Pearson, was arrested at New York's LaGuardia Airport carrying a loaded pistol, kept Gooden's name in off-season headlines. Those circumstances made the Mets feel their ace pitcher should avoid further conflicts such as those created in arbitration.



**Go Long**

Texas A&M catcher Eric Albright loosens up his arm by throwing a football before the Aggies' game with Texas Southern Monday.

**Mattingly bidding for \$1.975 pact in arbitration dispute with Yankees**

(AP) — First baseman Don Mattingly went after the largest salary arbitration award in the 13-year history of the procedure Monday, bidding for a \$1.975 million contract from the New York Yankees, who were offering \$1.7 million.

Outfielder Kevin McReynolds of the New York Mets and pitcher Danny Cox of the St. Louis Cardinals also had their arbitration hearings Monday, although with less money at stake.

Decisions on the three cases were expected either late today or Wednesday.

Mattingly and the Yankees avoided arbitration at the last minute a year ago when they agreed on a \$1.375 million contract. In a bid to settle before Monday's hearing, the team offered the slugger a two-year, \$3.5

million deal which Mattingly's agent, Jim Krivacs, rejected.

Mattingly, a Gold Glove winner, batted .352 last season, second best in the American League behind Boston's Wade Boggs. He drove in 113 runs and set Yankee club records with 238 hits and 53 doubles.

McReynolds, acquired by New York from San Diego in December, was looking for an \$825,000 contract after hitting .288 with 26 home runs and 96 runs batted in for the Padres last year. The Mets countered at \$625,000.

Cox, 12-13 with a 2.90 earned run average for the Cardinals last year, asked for \$875,000 while St. Louis came in at \$600,000.

Meanwhile, two pitchers, Cleveland's Ken Schrom and Ted Power of Cincinnati, lost their arbitration arguments, leaving

management with 10 victories in the 16 cases decided so far.

Arbitrator Richard Bloch, who on Friday had awarded a record \$1.85 million contract to Detroit pitcher Jack Morris, chose the figures submitted by the clubs in the cases of Power and Schrom.

Power had sought \$610,000 after a 10-6 season with a 3.70 ERA in 56 games last year. He will play instead for the Reds' figure of \$500,000. Schrom, who wanted \$545,000 after going 14-7 with a 4.54 ERA in 34 games, was awarded the Indians' offer of \$450,000.

Among other players who settled their salary disputes before arbitration hearings were pitchers Dwight Gooden of the Mets, Mike Smithson of Minnesota and Bob James of the Chicago White Sox.

**AP Top 20**

The Top Twenty teams in the Associated Press college basketball poll, with first-year votes in parentheses, total points based on 20-19-18-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 record and last week's ranking

Rank	Team	Record	Points
1	Nev.-Las Vegas (50)	26-1	429
2	Indiana (8)	20-2	426
3	North Carolina (7)	23-2	423
4	DePaul	22-1	403
5	Temple	25-2	397
6	Purdue	20-3	395
7	Iowa	22-3	395
8	Pittsburgh	21-4	378
9	Syracuse	20-4	375
10	Clemson	23-2	373
11	Georgetown	19-4	363
12	Alabama	19-4	361
13	Oklahoma	19-5	347
14	Illinois	19-6	340
15	Kansas	19-6	335
16	TCU	20-4	330
17	Duke	20-5	321
18	Florida	20-6	302
19	Providence	17-5	267
20	St. John's	17-5	250

**Mustang baseball makes comeback as club squad**

DALLAS (AP) — The football program is in trouble, the track program is being investigated by the NCAA, and the basketball team is in eighth place, but baseball is back at Southern Methodist University.

No, there is no immediate challenge to such Southwest Conference powers as Texas, the annual challenger for the NCAA title, or Texas A&M.

In fact, the Mustangs lost 26-1 to tiny Northwood College the other day.

This is "club baseball" at SMU. On a warm February day recently while the basketball team was losing 57-55 to Texas, the baseball team was working out and weeding

through a list of 52 tryout players. They went to a batting cage where participants put in quarters and try to hit fastballs.

Harold Kaufman, one of those who tried out for the team, said, "It's just great to have the sport back on campus again. We realize it's a long haul to become competitive. Maybe some day down the road SMU will be playing again in the conference. This is just the start."

Former Athletic Director Bob Hitch said baseball was dropped at SMU in the late 1970s when it became too expensive.

Scholarships at SMU cost about \$8,000 a year and school officials de-

cidated they didn't want to spend that kind of money trying to keep up with Texas, A&M, Baylor and other SWC teams.

"We couldn't justify keeping the sport when we took a hard look at our athletic budget," Hitch said.

It should be a long, hard club season for the baseball Mustangs, who got only a bunt single against Northwood.

SMU, the only SWC school without an NCAA-sanctioned baseball program, took early floggings from North Texas, Texas-Arlington and Richland although they did nip Eastfield Junior College.

There are a few good players on the team such as Russell Davis, an

outfielder, who was putting the team together.

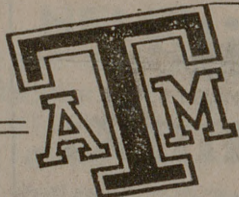
Davis is the coach; Nick Train, an assistant professor of communication arts at the school, is pitching coach. Geoff North, a student, is another coach.

The team has to practice on parks, softball fields, or anywhere it can find.

There is no affiliation with athletic department.

There was some good news. Dallas corporation agreed to pay for enough money for uniforms.

Jay Jones, a pitcher, said can't play good unless you good."



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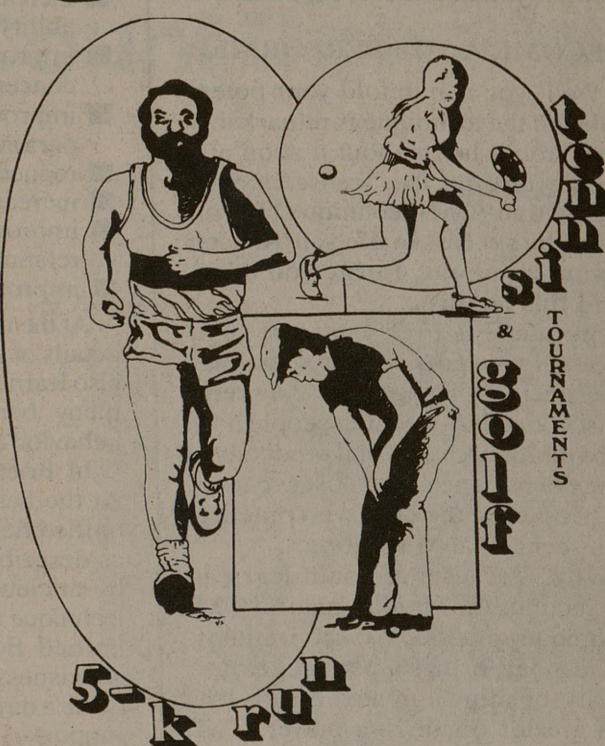
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