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Sox market Boggs, clubs not interested

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. (AP) — Nobody wants baseball's best hitter. Boston Red Sox general manager Lou Gorman said Wednesday he is trying to trade five-time batting champion Wade Boggs, but that no other team wants to make a deal. "Maybe they feel they'll break us down," Gorman said after he spent virtually the entire day on the telephone attempting to trade Boggs. Red Sox co-owner Haywood Sullivan decided to try to trade Boggs after the third baseman taped a television interview with Barbara Walters for ABC's "20-20," team sources said.

Complicating any trade for Boggs, a .356 lifetime hitter, is his contract status. He is signed for 1989 at \$1.75 million and is eligible for free agency following the season. Any club trading for Boggs presumably would want to sign him to a multiyear deal before making a trade. Joe McIlvaine, Mets' vice president for baseball operations, said he rejected Boston's proposal to send Boggs to New York for left-hander Sid Fernandez and infielder Howard Johnson. "It's hard to say no to a player like Boggs, but I told Lou I don't think it would work too well for us," McIlvaine said. "The deal just wouldn't fit."

Gorman, however, said Boggs' name was not mentioned with the Mets.

Boston officials have denied pressuring Boggs not to do the interview, which focuses on his four-year affair with Margo Adams, who detailed the relationship in two issues of Penthouse magazine. Club officials said privately that the Walters' interview made them decide to pursue a trade.

Proposed trades were said to involve the New York Mets, New York Yankees, Kansas City Royals, Houston Astros, Seattle Mariners and San Diego Padres.

"All trades are a possibility," Gorman said. "They're there, but they're not there. You can talk to doomsday and still not be able to do it."

"If things stay as they are, there will be no trade. But we'll keep talking."

A Yankees' source said the club had turned down Boston's offer of Boggs for third baseman Mike Pagliarulo and left-hander Al Leiter. Gorman said Boggs did not come up in his talks with the Yankees.

One official said Houston still was offering pitcher Bob Knepper, third baseman Ken Caminiti and outfielder Kevin Bass for Boggs. The Red Sox rejected that offer during the winter, insisting on pitcher Mike Scott. Gorman said Wednesday that a deal with Houston "is dead."

Late bloomer Brown hopes to make impact on mound for Texas

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. (AP) — That Kevin Brown even has a chance to make the Texas Rangers this spring is remarkable. Coming out of middle Georgia's Wilkinson County High School, he was a pitcher nobody wanted. But the 23-year-old right-hander is currently in a battle with Brad Arnsberg and former Atlanta Brave Craig McMurtry for the Rangers' fifth starting spot. And on Tuesday in a game against the Chicago White Sox, he became the first Rangers pitcher to go five innings this spring.

Against the White Sox, Brown allowed three hits and struck out five in an 8-0 victory. So far this spring, he has allowed 18 hits in 21 innings, struck out 11 and walked six. He has a 2-0 spring record and 3.86 earned run average.

"He's going to be an outstanding major league pitcher for years to come," Rangers General Manager Tom Grieve said in a telephone interview. "He's going to have to be patient and wait for his opportunity. It may come this year, but the deck is stacked against him."

The Rangers stacked the deck during the offseason by signing 42-year-old free agent Nolan Ryan, still one of the hardest-throwing pitchers in baseball, and acquiring left-hander Jamie Moyer from the Chicago Cubs.

"In any other year over the past four or five seasons, a pitcher like Kevin could come into spring training with an excellent chance of leaving with the big club," Grieve said. "This year, the competition is tough."

"I'm not going to worry too much about it," said Brown. "It's just a matter of hanging in there for awhile until things open and the opportunity arises."

Brown has been in the majors on two brief occasions, winning his first major league start in 1986 and going 1-1 in four games last season. He was the Rangers' No. 1 draft choice in 1986 out of Georgia Tech, where he is the all-time leader in victories with 28.

Pitching in college was not on Brown's mind in the summer of

1983 when he left his home in nearby McIntyre to attend Georgia Tech.

"When I got through with high school I didn't think I'd play any more baseball," he recalled. But he played in a Fourth of July tournament in Valdosta and was offered a scholarship to Valdosta State College.

"It sort of blew my mind. I thought I was through with baseball period," said Brown.

But Brown already had paid to go to Tech and didn't want to give up a co-op job he had, so the Valdosta State coaches called Tech and advised the coaches there to give Brown a tryout.

"It was all like a dream. All of a sudden these guys are wanting me to come out and play for them," Brown said.

Brown got a scholarship and had what he termed a "so-so" freshman season. Then he grew to 6-4, added some speed to his fastball and all of a sudden the scouts began to notice.

Georgia Tech head coach Jim Morrison said he's never seen a player progress as unexpectedly as Brown did.

"I'll never forget it. He was pitching a game at home, and he was throwing around 88 to 89 miles per hour, his usual velocity," Morrison said.

"The next time he pitched — he was playing at Maryland — he was being clocked at 93 and 94. From then on, he threw that fast. I really don't know what happened."

After an 11-5 junior season, Brown was a first round pick of the Rangers in the summer draft. But in 1987, Brown pitched in Double A, Triple A and then down to A. He wound up with a 1-11 record.

Grieve said the Rangers never gave up on Brown, and they may have been partially to blame for his disastrous second season.

"The key thing was last season. He completely turned it around and was a major reason Tulsa won the Texas League championship. We're very high on Kevin."

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Landry's future may be as general in drug war

AUSTIN (AP) — Former Dallas Cowboys football coach Tom Landry might make a good state drug czar, Gov. Bill Clements says, but the two haven't talked about the idea.

"I know that Tom has been very interested in that sort of thing for many, many years," the governor said Wednesday.

"I have in the past discussed the drug problems in Texas with him. He has a lot of innovative

ideas. He would certainly bring to the table a background that would be most helpful. But ... have I specifically talked to him about heading up a drug program in Texas? I have not."

Landry was fired recently when the Cowboys were sold. Clements said that while he hasn't talked with Landry about heading up a drug prevention program, the two do confer.



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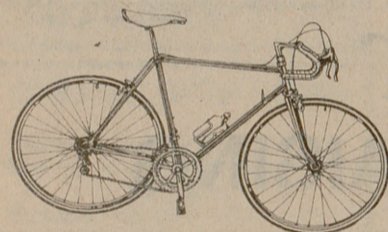
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LSU's Jackson leads All-American frosh

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Jackson, only the second member of his class to earn All-America honors, was named Wednesday to The Associated Press All-Freshmen team.

The Louisiana State guard set the class scoring record with his 30.2 average and last week he became the second freshman ever to be named to the All-America team, following Oklahoma's Wayman Tisdale who earned the honor as a freshman in 1983.

Joining Jackson on the All-Freshmen team are frontcourt players Alonzo Mourning of Georgetown, Billy Owens of Syracuse, LaPhonso Ellis of Notre Dame and Don MacLean of UCLA.

The voting was conducted among a selected national panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.

The 6-foot-1 Jackson, the only freshman among the top 50 scorers in Division I this season, bettered the freshman scoring mark of 29.4 set by Austin Peay's Fly Williams in 1973.

The best scoring mark for each college class is now held by an LSU player as Pete Maravich set the mark for sophomore, junior and senior seasons, averaging 44.2 points over the three seasons.

Jackson's trademark has become

his powerful crossover dribble that usually sets him for one of his smooth jump shots or allows him to find an open man. He complemented his scoring average with 130 assists in 32 games.

Mourning was chosen for third-team All-America honors and he was named Big East defensive player of the year after blocking 160 shots, shattering the school mark of 135 set by Patrick Ewing in 1985, and intimidating many more.

The 6-10 Mourning started his college career after an impressive showing as the only high school invitee at the U.S. Olympic trials. Olympic coach John Thompson, his future coach at Georgetown, kept

Mourning until the next-to-last cut from the 12-man team which won the bronze medal in Seoul.

Mourning was second in scoring at 13.3 for the Big East champion Hoyas, grabbing 7.2 rebounds and blocking an NCAA-best 5.0 shots per game.

Owens was overshadowed in the Big East by Mourning but he managed to average 12.4 points and 6.9 rebounds for the Orangemen, who lost to the Hoyas in the conference championship game. Owens, a 6-8 forward, shot 52 percent from the field while handing out 108 assists.

Ellis became a silent leader on a Notre Dame team without any seniors. He was second in scoring at

13.5 points per game and led the Fighting Irish in rebounding, grabbing 9.4 per game.

The 6-10 Ellis shot an impressive 56 percent from the field and showed his ability to play tough defense under the basket by blocking 53 shots.

MacLean, also 6-10, was considered the key recruit for first-year UCLA coach Jim Harrick and the Simi Valley, Calif., native didn't let the Bruins down as they made the NCAA tournament for just the second time in six years.

MacLean, who shot 56 percent from the field, averaged a team-leading 18.6 points and was second with 7.5 rebounds per game.

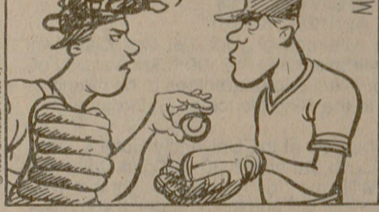
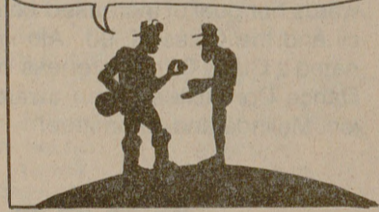
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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

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