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# Turner's Courting Of Gossage Aggravates Steinbrenner

Tim Sullivan
Baseball

This item comes under the heading of people who live in glass houses and concerns George Steinbrenner throwing stones at Ted Turner.

Baseball's most accomplished check-writers are engaged in this winter's biggest free agent battle—the megabuck auction involving Yankee reliever Rich Gossage.

The Sporting News reports that Turner's Atlanta Braves have offered the "Goose" a five-year package worth $6.5 million and has responded as if Turner had offered Billy Martin a hand grenade.

"I heard it and I checked it out," the Yankee owner told the *Atlanta Journal*. "If the offer is accurate—and I know it is—this would make Goose the highest-paid pitcher in the game. This offer can destroy the whole salary structure of the game. It's shocking. It's just astounding to think a relief pitcher can get this kind of money. It's almost shameful."

**YET TO** those close to the game, Turner's alleged offer would come as no surprise. Signing Gossage would give the Braves bridge the Dodgers' Goodson pitching gap and would be magnified Joe Torre to move hard-throwing Steve Bedrosian into his starting rotation. Bedrosian makes a nice close of Gossage, but there's nothing like the original.

In today's game, the 35-year-old Goose couldn't be more valuable if he could lay golden eggs. And there is no reason to think that the bidding for his services won't go even higher with the high-rolling Angels and White Sox also involved.

What must gall Steinbrenner most is knowing he might move—or even extend—the other offers and still not be able to sign Gossage, who has grown weary of the singular difficulties of playing for the Yankees and the myriad miseries of Martin.

Since the Yankees did not draft Kevin Tekulve as Gossage insurance (a tactical error), they will be hard-pressed to find a front-line reliever for 1984.

As usual, Steinbrenner's anger would be better aimed at himself.

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**OUTSIDE ATLANTA** life is peaceful at other National League West outposts. It should be especially serene in Los Angeles.

The Dodgers, the only club ever to draw more than three million fans during one home schedule, did so for the fourth time this season. Club President Peter O'Malley is currently rewarding his entire organization—except players—with an expense-paid week in Hawaii. Between staff and wives, approximately 250 people are taking advantage of O'Malley's pre-Christmas bonus.

The Dodger boss has also shown increased generosity this winter in contract negotiations. Pitcher Jerry Reuss, who left the Dodgers to become a free agent 2-year criminal, signed for every Reuss decided to forego free agency for a deal that will pay him at least $4.4 million over the next five years.

Informed sources indicate Reuss received $400,000 as a signing bonus and season salaries of $600,000, $800,000, $900,000 and $950,000 through 1987. Should the Dodgers exercise his 1988 option, Reuss will receive $1 million. If not, they will still pay him a $400,000 buyout.

**THERE IS** also pleasant news in Houston, where nice-guy reliever Joe Sambito is attempting to return to action two years after an elbow reconstruction surgery.

"I'm looking forward to spring training," Sambito said last week. "And I think if it started tomorrow, I could do everything they asked of me. I could take my turn like everyone else and hopefully pitch in games."

Since the Astros do not field a team in the Florida Instructional League, Sambito worked out with the New York Mets' entry, who train next his home in St. Petersburg. He told the *Houston Chronicle* that his velocity is back to 90%. He has yet to put his elbow to the supreme test, however, by throwing top-speed breaking pitches.

Another Houston comeback story could be written by former Astro Enos Cabell, a free agent who spent the last two seasons with the Detroit Tigers.

Cabell played golf last week with Astro board chairman Dr. John McMullen. "I don't think we talked (money)," McMullen said. "But I like Enos Cabell. He's a positive force."

**SAN DIEGO** General Manager Jack McKeon, always eager to make a deal, is dangling some of his young pitching in an effort to land an RBI man, preferably for third base.

McKeon is among the many who will try to talk to Texas about Buddy Bell. He is also said to be interested in the Reds' young slugger, Nick Esasky, though the Reds are not likely to encourage such inquiries.

With Dave Dravecky, Tim Lollar and Eric Show, McKeon has some of the most attractive pitching talent available. He may not get his man, but "Trader Jack" will not be easily discouraged.

• • •

**STAT OF THE WEEK:** Dave Parker hit only .239 this season, but swung a .302 bat after the All-Star break. The Reds' top free agent target hit nine of his 12 homers during his second half salary drive and produced 46 of his 69 runs batted in.

# Fenwick Falls To McComb

BY TOM GROESCHEN
Enquirer Reporter

TROY, Ohio—A little guy named Jerry Mapes almost single-handedly was the cause of McComb's 3-0 victory over Middletown Fenwick Saturday night in the opening round of the Ohio state football playoffs at Troy Memorial Stadium.

Mapes, a 5-foot-9 165-pound senior tailback-defensive back scored the game's only touchdown, kicked the extra point and also made the play of the game. He intercepted Fenwick quarterback John Hurlburt's pass on the McComb 38 with one minute remaining in the game to stop Fenwick's last drive.

Mapes gained 162 yards rushing on 36 carries. The touchdown came on a 22-yard pass over the middle from left-handed quarterback Steve Davis with 5:13 left in the third quarter. The touchdown was Mapes' 32rd of the season.

**McCOMB, 12-0,** advances to the state title game next Saturday morning at Ohio Stadium against the winner of Saturday night's game between Newark Catholic and Mogadore. Fenwick, bidding for the school's third state title, finishes the season 10-2.

The game started 38 minutes late, as the Fenwick team has broke down on the way to the game. The Falcons were stranded near the Dayton Mall for about 40 minutes. Help came from nearby Kettering Alter High School, which furnished a bus to carry the Falcons to Troy.

After Fenwick fell behind, it went to the passing game. The Falcons attempted 34 passes throughout most of the evening by McComb's tough 5-3 defensive lineman. The Falcons were limited to only 29 yards rushing for the game.

Hurlburt, a 6-2 junior, completed 16 of 25 passes for 180 yards, but his only interception was Mapes' theft that ended the Falcons' drive in the closing moments of the game.

**THAT FENWICK** drive had started at the Falcons one-yard line after a goal-line stand stopped a McComb march with 4:53 remaining in the game. Hurlburt drove the Falcons to the McComb 40 on six complete passes and a 15-yard pass interference after Mapes' interception.

In the first half, Fenwick had the better of it in terms of field position, but wasted several good opportunities to score.

Midway through the first quarter, a 42-yard punt return by Fenwick's Marty McQuinn left the Falcons in good shape at the McComb eight-yard line. The Falcons had to settle for a field goal. Fenwick on three plays, Fenwick's Tim Jorden tied missed a 26-yard field goal attempt.

The Falcons threatened again on their next possession. They got the ball back at their own 40 after stopping McComb on downs.

Fenwick moved the ball down to the Panther four-yard line on a time-consuming 17-play drive. Before the game, Fenwick came out without a score.

On a fourth-and-goal situation at the McComb four, Falcon tailback John Downey was stopped for a two-yard gain.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MIDDLETOWN FENWICK | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McCOMB | 0 | 7 | 0 | 3 |

MC—Mapes, 22 pass from Davis (Mapes kick).

MARY JETT
... coach of the year

JENNY HUBER
... player of the year

# Jett Coach Of Year; Huber Player Of Year

BY HUGH MALAY
Enquirer Contributor

## Volleyball

Area volleyball coaches could not say enough about 1983 *Enquirer* Player of the Year, Jenny Huber of Our Lady of Angels. As for Seton's Mary Jett, *Enquirer* Coach of the Year, it might have been what she didn't say, which was instrumental in the Saints' success.

"I thought we had good enough material to go to state when the season started, but I never told the girls that," Jett said.

Jett's premonition proved accurate. Seton finished second in state AAA volleyball finals before losing to Canton McKinley.

"It was a great year for the girls," said Jett of the Saints' 21-7 year. "Just going up there (state tournament) was a great experience for them."

While the state tournament was the year's major highlight, Jett cited the district tournament as the biggest hurdle.

"I would compare our district championship with the Ohio Athletic Conference win at last year's O.A. Open," Jett said. "After losing three straight years in the district, it was important to finally get through it."

"But more than any team that I have coached, I think I'll remember the cousins of this team," Jett said. "I had confidence in all the 12 girls on the bench and more importantly they had confidence in each other."

Meanwhile, few players were close to OLA's Huber in overall talent.

"She's a complete player in all areas of the game," OLA coach Virgil Stone said. "She's a good hitter, setter, server and defender and she's so consistent."

The 5-7½ senior led the Angels to a 22-2 season and a Girls Greater Cincinnati League championship. Huber had a 95% serving average along with an 88% spiking average and 51 spike aces.

"I think it's great, it's really exciting," Huber said upon hearing of her selection as player of the year.

Huber, first team all-city in 1982, prided herself on being a level-headed leader.

"I think I communicated a lot better this year and when it came to the big matches, I tried to keep things under control," Huber said.

**FIRST TEAM**

Jenny Huber (OLA), Ann Bradley (St Ursula), Diane Sicking (OLA), Renee Townsend (Ursuline), Kathy Kelley (Seton), Lori Schafer (Oak Hills).

**SECOND TEAM**

Kirsten Werner (Ursuline), Sue Smith (St Ursula), Terry Brewer (Seton), Amy Kaiser (Seton), Kathleen Sikkenga (Seton), Holly Jansen (McAuley).

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Carol Junker (Mount Notre Dame), Missy Johnson (Oak Hills), Julie Miles (Oak Hills), Kathy Kaiser (Seton), Kathy Kaiser (OLA), Judy Kilburn (Seton), Barb Maletic (Seton), Tracey Thompson (Seton), Mary Ward (McAuley), Maria Lang (Ursuline), Anne Hoppe (Mount Notre Dame), Ann Marie Lunsford (Seton), Kathy Sullivan (Norwood), Tracey Noone (Mount Healthy), Diane Wesselkamper (Turpin), Marcy Schwartz (Taft), Angie Williams (Taft), Kristy Geers (Taft).

## Penn Rallies For Indiana AAA Title

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Coach Chris Geesman's halftime message was simple and his Penn Kingsmen understood as they rallied from a 14-point halftime deficit to defeat Indianapolis Washington 25-14 Saturday for the Class AAAA championship in the 11th annual Indiana High School Athletic Association football tournament.

"We were beating ourselves in the first half. The penalties were killing us," Geesman said after his team claimed its first football crown. "I just said, 'Go out and play football like you had and we'll win.' I knew if we played our style of ball we could win."

Mark Quigley scored on a quarterback sneak from the 1-yard line to put Penn ahead as the third quarter ended.

Simmons fumbled the kickoff and the Vikings' John Lampkin recovered on the 21. Four plays later, Brown crashed over from the 1-yard line.

**"A COUPLE** of fumbles, especially one on our side of the second half, just killed us," Moore said. "We never faced Brown's tailback quick as theirs on the backfield. That Brown is just a blur."

## 6-6 Forward Commits To Xavier For '84

Xavier University basketball coach Bob Staak has signed a 6-6 forward, Matthew Pitts, from Meterie, La.

Last year, Pitts averaged 14 points and 15 rebounds per game for Bonnabel High School in Meterie. This year, he is attending Oak Hill Academy at Mouth of the Wilson, Va.

Pitts signed late Wednesday, the final day of the pre-season signing period for high school players or the equivalent. Last week, Staak signed a 6-4 guard, Joe Bowman, from Boston.

# Boone Has No Answer For Higgs

BY KELLY VILLIERS
Enquirer Contributor

**OWENSBORO, Ky.**—If the Owensboro Red Devils were to lose their star running back Mark Higgs, they'd be in some serious trouble. But, with Higgs, they're in trouble. Owensboro lost a 34-17 victory over the Boone County Rebels in the Class AAAA state championship here Saturday.

Higgs, a senior, was nearly Owensboro's entire offense, rushing for 301 of the Red Devils' 334 yards total offense. The Rebels actually outplayed Owensboro much of the game. But they couldn't stop Higgs, and thus, their season ended.

"I'd hate to say although it was disappointing," said Boone County coach Owen Hauck, "I didn't expect this season with all the inexperience we had."

**HIGGS, WHO** scored touchdowns of 85, 9, 15 and 57 yards, felt the key was getting to the outside.

"Everybody playing defense was going inside, so I went out," said Higgs. "I could take inside and go out."

Ironically, Boone cut its own throat, with quarterback Junior Fortner throwing three interceptions and fumbling twice.

The tone of the game was set in the first quarter on Owensboro's first play from scrimmage. With seven minutes left in the quarter, Higgs ran untouched for an 85-yard touchdown.

Boone would get three of those points back on a Dan Maher 35-yard field goal, but would never lead.

The Rebels committed a costly error in the second quarter when Fortner fumbled and Owensboro's David Johnson recovered at the 17-yard line.

With 8:32 left in the half, Ron Burroughs swept the left side for a 1-yard touchdown, and it was 14-3 Owensboro.

**BOONE TOOK** the ensuing kickoff and began a drive at its 28. The key was a pass play between Fortner and Jeff Nelson. Shayne Beckett then plunged over at 1:44 from the 1-yard line for a 14-10 Owensboro lead.

The second half belonged to Higgs. After running back the kickoff to the Boone 45, Higgs gained 36 yards to the 9. Then Higgs ran in from nine yards out. 21-10 Red Devils.

Boone then took the ball on the kickoff. It ran three plays before Fortner fumbled and Owensboro recovered at the Rebels 16. Higgs then ran in from 16 yards out and it was 28-10.

Boone struck back quickly at 5:33 when Fortner passed to Nelson from 24 yards out, making it 28-17.

Boone then received a turnover when Tim Hermann intercepted a pass at the Boone 38. Boone ran a fake punt on fourth and 1. On the event, Fortner was intercepted by David Johnson at the 25.

"Yes, you can't take an all-America away and expect to win," Moore concluded, when asked what his team would be like without Higgs. "He's exceptional."

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BOONE COUNTY | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| OWENSBORO | 7 | 14 | 7 | 14 |

OWENSBORO—Higgs, 85 (Kick blocked)
BC—Maher, 35 (Kick blocked)
OW—Higgs, 9 (Kick blocked)
BC—Beckett, 1 (Maher kick)
OW—Burroughs, 1 (Kick blocked)
OW—Higgs, 15 (Kick blocked)
BC—Beckett, 1 (Maher kick)
OW—Higgs, 57 (Kick blocked)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| FREMONT ROSS | 7 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| PRINCETON | 3 | 6 | 7 | 0 |

F—Gregory, 1 run (Conley kick)
P—Gossage, 1 run (Conley kick)
F—Brown, 2 run (Conley kick)
P—Conley, 31 FG
F—Mack, 1 run (McCarthy kick)
P—Taylor, 20 run (Conley kick)

# Princeton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C-1

felt real good about the game," Manzuso said. "I expected this."

Princeton took the 7-3 lead by halftime and by then it was apparent the game was only awaiting a final score.

Princeton took the opening kickoff and marched 80 yards in nine plays. Princeton ran essentially one play—a straight dive over the left or right side. Brown, Vinnie Simpson and Taylor burned up the turf. With 6:06 left in the quarter Brown slashed over from the 1 and Jerry Conolo kicked the first of his five extra points for a 7-0 lead.

Princeton's hard-smacking defense eventually set up the Vikings' next two scores in the half.

In early in the second quarter, Little Giant quarterback Kevin Fremont fumbled a pitch intended for Jeff Nossaman. But the senior was leveled by a strong hit from Viking defensive back Marcus Harrison who separated the recover from the ball. Shannon Carpenter recovered at the 36.

**AGAIN NOTHING** fancy was required. Twelve running plays. Fifty yards. Five minutes and 14 seconds of the clock game. This time Simpson took the scoring honors, a 1-yard plunge with 4:11 left in the half.

The defense didn't spend much time on the field for on the Little Giants' next possession. Withem was sacked by linebacker Marion Burnett. The ball was jarred free and Princeton recovered on the Ross 30 with 3:02 left.

It only took three plays this time. It was on this drive that Taylor used his first pitchout of the night—and it netted 22 yards by Brown down to the 3. Brown slugged out those yards on the next play giving the Vikings their 21-0 lead at halftime.

Princeton buried the Little Giants for good on the opening play of the second half when Gene

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