

Kingman Wants More Than Met Management Is Willing to Give Him

The New York Mets, who signed nobody in the recent gold rush for free agents, say they are "miles apart" in contract talks with Dave Kingman, an outfielder who led the club with 37 home runs last season and batted in 86 runs. Kingman reportedly wants a multiyear pact.

"We've had three meetings and we're still very far apart," said Joe McDonald, the general manager. "We're willing to go along with the multiyear contract. Money is the big problem."

A happy word from the Mets is that Jerry Grote has not signed formal retirement papers and McDonald speculated: "I feel he'll be happy to come back, but not as a first-string catcher."

Grote has a back ailment and may prefer to play third or left or some other less punishing position.

"I'm not replacing Al McGuire. No one does. I'm succeeding him." That's what Hank Raymonds, a longtime Marquette assistant coach, said yesterday after being given a multiyear pact to succeed McGuire as basketball coach and athletic director at the school. McGuire, whose Warrior teams have won 20 or more games and played in postseason tournaments the last 10 years, announced his resignation on Dec. 17, effective at the end of the season. The 50-year-old Raymonds has

been McGuire's assistant for 13 years.

"My personal conviction is that I thought that I could do a better job than someone from the outside to keep this program moving," said Raymonds. "I feel very proud. I didn't have to do this. I could have stayed as athletic director and been in a rocking chair the rest of my life. But for the good of Marquette, I think I could do a better job than anyone coming in from outside."

Because his mother was afraid he might hurt someone, Wilson Whitley, as a 6-foot-3-inch, 225-pound eighth grader almost didn't get a chance to play football. But his sisters induced

his mother to relent and Thursday night the 6-3, 268-pound defensive tackle at the University of Houston, broke up, then choked back the emotion and accepted the 1977 Vince Lombardi Award as the nation's top lineman from former President Gerald R. Ford and Bob Hope.

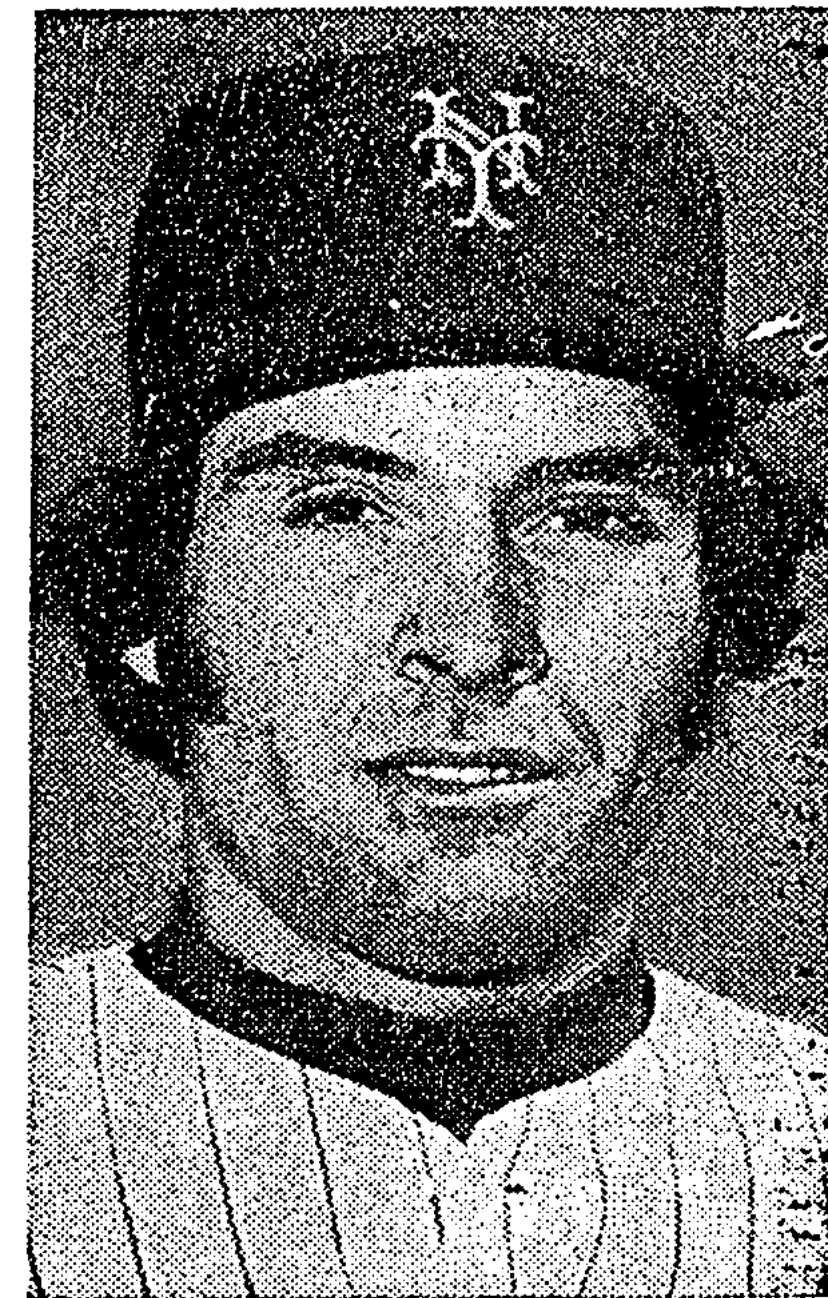
"You set a goal for yourself but you never dream it will come true," Whitley told the capacity crowd of 1,200 at the \$100-a-plate dinner in Houston. "I've never been in this position before. It's beautiful. That's all I know to say."

Unable to come to an agreement

with Vitas Gerulaitis, the New York Apples (formerly the Sets) of World Team Tennis have traded the rights to Gerulaitis to the Pennsylvania Keystone for the rights to Mark Cox.

"We held several discussions with Gerulaitis, but quite frankly felt we were not getting anywhere or making sufficient progress," said Billy Goldstein the Apples general manager. "Vitas is way up there in dollars, Cox, on the other hand, is ranked higher and has been a stalwart in W.T.T. for the last three years. He was one of the mainstays that enabled the Pittsburgh Triangles to win the W.T.T. championship in 1975. He's a tough left-hander and could be the complement we need for Sandy Mayer, who is the top male player in the league."

When Mike Tyson, St. Louis second baseman, signed a three-year contract with the Cardinals yesterday he became only the fourth player in the history of that franchise to sign that long a pact. Stan (The Man) Musial signed a three-year contract in 1944, and Al Hrabosky, a relief pitcher, and Ted Simmons, catcher, are in the second year of three-year pacts. . . . Tim McCarver, the Philadelphia Phillies catcher, ended the speculation that he would become a broadcaster for the



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Dave Kingman

expansion Toronto Blue Jays yesterday by signing a one-year pact with the Phils. After the first month of the season, McCarver caught all the games pitched by Steve Carlton, a 20-game winner.

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