

Mets Ready To Trade Kingman

By JOSEPH DURSO

Special to The New York Times

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., April 2—The war of the words broke out again tonight when the New York Mets disclosed that Dave Kingman was demanding \$2 million for six years, and therefore they were trying to arrange a trade "to accommodate him."

The Mets also affirmed that they had offered \$200,000 a year to Kingman, who promptly replied in two ways: He called yet another press conference to denounce the management and then he hit the home run that defeated the World Series champion Cincinnati Reds, 3-1, giving the Mets their first victory in six games and only their fourth in the last 14 exhibitions.

For the Mets, there were two heroes—both prominent in the springtime feuding, both financial giants on a club struggling to hold the line on salaries. One was Kingman, who delivered his sixth home run in 18 games and who raised his batting average to a modest .200. The other was Tom Seaver, who pitched six sterling innings: no runs, two hits and six strikeouts, giving him 11 straight scoreless innings heading into his opening-day assignment in Chicago next Thursday.

Something in Common

If anybody was busier than Seaver tonight, it was the man who runs the mimeograph machine in the front office, and his counterpart with the Reds. The teams have similar disputes: the Mets with Kingman and the Reds with Pete Rose, and in both cases the issue is cash. And in both cases, the managements went to the public tonight in a change of tactics.

"We offered Kingman \$200,000 a year for two, three, four or five years," said Joe McDonald, general manager of the Mets, in a press conference called to reply to a press conference by the 6-foot-6-inch outfielder. "He wants \$2 million, including a bonus. If he is insisting on a trade, we'll try to accommodate him. But in no way will we let him make his own trade."

"Other clubs are not that interested. Dave hits home runs, but he also strikes out a lot. And we found that he does not rank very high in production. For example, in pressure situations late in games where you're three runs behind with men on base, Mike Schmidt of Philadelphia knocks in a run 42 percent of the time, Steve Garvey of Los Angeles 36 percent of the time and Kingman only 18 percent."

Kingman, who leads the league in press conferences this week, immediately retaliated with new sniping at M. Donald Grant, chairman of the Mets' board of directors. He had criticized both Grant and McDonald two days ago, challenging them in effect to "sign me or trade me," and this time he zeroed in:

"Grant forced me to play out my option. He wants to put the blame on me, the way he did on Tom Seaver. I wanted to leave the door open, but Grant slammed it. I'd like to play in New York, but now it's impossible. I cherish everything about the Mets except M. Donald Grant and his mismanagement."

Rose Is Thorny Issue

Meanwhile, the Reds were taking out advertisements in the Sunday newspapers to publicize details of their dispute with Rose, a home-grown star for the last 14 years. They said that "Pete has used the media to negotiate his contract," so the front office had decided to discuss the argument, too.

"Rose told the Reds he would sign a two-year contract totaling \$450,000," the open letter said. "When the ball club, which had been offering a total of \$425,000, agreed to the higher figure, Rose said he had changed his mind and wanted more. Rose's next demand was for \$400,000 annually."

Both Rose and Kingman were on the field tonight as the Mets ended a five-game losing streak before a sell-out crowd of 7,094 in Al Lang Stadium. The Mets scored once in the sixth inning off Santo Alcala on a walk, a pinch-single by Ed Kranepool and a sacrifice fly by Lee Mazzilli.

In the top of the seventh, though, the Reds matched that off Skip Lockwood when Joe Morgan singled, stole second, took third on a grounder and crossed on a fly. But half an inning later, with Pedro Borbon pitching for the Mean Machine, the Mets pounced: John Milner singled and Kingman cleared the wall in right-center, proving again that actions speak louder than words.

Mets' Box Score

CINCINNATI (N.)		METS (N.)	
	ab.r.h.bi		ab.r.h.bi
Rose, 3b	3 0 0 0	Mazzilli, cf	3 0 1 1
Eastwick, p	0 0 0 0	Millan, 2b	4 0 1 0
Concepcion, ss	4 0 0 0	Milner, 1b	4 1 1 0
Morgan, 2b	2 1 1 0	Kingman, lf	3 1 1 2
Borbon, p	0 0 0 0	Boisclair, rf	3 0 1 0
Knight, 3b	1 0 0 0	Grote, c	3 0 1 0
Bench, c	4 0 0 0	Stalger, 3b	3 0 0 0
Foster, lf	3 0 1 1	Harrelson, ss	2 1 0 0
Lum, 1b	3 0 0 0	Seaver, p	1 0 0 0
Geronimo, cf	2 0 0 0	Kranepool, ph	1 0 0 0
Armbrister, rf	3 0 0 0	Mangual, pr	0 0 0 0
Alcala, p	2 0 1 0	Lockwood, p	1 0 0 0
Flynn, 2b	1 0 0 0		
Total	28 1 3 1	Total	28 3 7 3
Cincinnati	0 0 0	Mets	1 0 0
Mets	0 0 0	Cincinnati	0 0 1

	IP.	H.	R.	ER.	BB.	SO.
Alcala	6	3	1	1	1	5
Borbon (L)	1	3	2	2	0	0
Eastwick	1	1	0	0	0	2
Seaver	6	2	0	0	0	7
Lockwood (W)	3	1	1	1	2	4

PB—Bench T—1:55, A—7,094.

Yanks Beat Collegians, 8-1

Special to The New York Times

CHAPEL HILL, N. C., April 2—Home runs by Graig Nettles, Reggie Jackson and Mike Heath paced the New York Yankees to an 8-1 victory over the University of North Carolina varsity today, before 6,500 fans.

The Yankees, who beat the Baltimore Orioles, 5-4, last night in Miami, immediately returned to Florida, where they are to play an exhibition tomorrow with the Minnesota Twins in Fort Lauderdale.

Gil Patterson was the starting pitcher against the collegians and yielded only four hits and one unearned run. Ron Guidry pitched the last three innings, giving up two hits.

The game was preceded by the presentation of a plaque by Whitey Ford to Walter Rabb, the university's varsity baseball coach who is retiring.