

Ladyjacks defeat Aggies

Texas A&M women's basketball head coach Cherri Rapp's philosophy is you don't get better unless you play the best.

Wednesday night the Aggie Ladies played Stephen F. Austin, one of the top women's teams in the nation, and lost to the Lady-

jacks 74-49.

SFA, ranked No. 3 in the nation, jumped on the Aggies early, building a 42-18 lead at the half before coasting to its fifth victory in as many tries. Ladyjack scorers were led by Bonnie Buchanan's 18 points.

Peggy Pope was the high scor-

er for A&M with 16 points. Lola Baker added 10 points for the Aggies.

The loss dropped the Aggies to 2-1 on the year.

The Aggie Ladies' next opponent is Lamar University, in Beaumont Saturday night. Tipoff is scheduled for 8 o'clock.

Wilkinson fired by Cardinals

United Press International
ST. LOUIS — Bud Wilkinson, a football legend at Oklahoma who had a 9-20 record in the pros, was fired Wednesday in what team owner Bill Bidwill said was a dispute over playing backup quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz.

Larry Wilson, former All-Pro safety with St. Louis and now director of personnel for the team, was named interim coach for the final three games.

Bidwill said he told Wilkinson Monday that Pisarkiewicz, the team's No. 1 draft pick in 1977, should start Sunday against San Francisco in place of Jim Hart, who will be a free agent in February. Bidwill said Wilkinson disagreed with the suggestion.

"I called Bud into the office this morning, we chatted very briefly and I told him now was the time to relieve him of his duties," Bidwill said. "I was not going to absolutely order him to obey me."

Bidwill said Wilkinson gave no reason for refusing to start Pisarkiewicz.

"He probably had a reason, but I never heard it," Bidwill said.

Bidwill said he was not certain whether Wilkinson would have been retained as coach after the end of the season if he had agreed to replace Hart.

Wilkinson, 63, still has two years remaining on the four-year contract he was given when hired in March 1978. He will be paid for those two years, and his dismissal has no contingencies such as not accepting

another coaching position.

Wilkinson, who was not present at the news conference at which Bidwill made the announcement, was unavailable for comment.

Bidwill said the refusal to play Pisarkiewicz was not the sole reason for firing Wilkinson but added it was "the catalyst."

"I felt very strongly that we had to give Steve Pisarkiewicz a chance to show what he could do," the owner said. "Steve is the backup and he is apparent and we must find out before next year's draft whether he deserves that position."

Wilkinson lost his first eight games after he agreed to take the St. Louis job, ending a 15-year absence from active coaching. His team rebounded with six wins in the last eight contests to finish 6-10 in his rookie pro season.

The turnaround resulted in optimism this year, but that quickly faded as the Cardinals lost close games to Dallas and Pittsburgh and now have a 3-10 record, third worst in the NFL.

When the Cardinals dropped from playoff contention, there was pressure to play Pisarkiewicz, who has seen little action in his first three years at St. Louis. Hart, 35, becomes a free agent in February, although Bidwill said the club planned to make him a contract offer before then.

"I talked to the squad today and told them there's only one player on the team who has a no-trade clause and that's Jim Hart," Bidwill said. "I met with Jim this morning and told

him he could have the same clause in his next one."

"Let me emphasize in no uncertain terms the intention to start Pisarkiewicz is not in any way a reflection upon the ability and status of Jim Hart. For 12 years Hart has been, and still is, our No. 1 quarterback."

Bidwill said Wilson was not a candidate for the coaching job next year, although he said there were several possibilities on the Cardinal staff. Tom Bettis, the team's defensive coordinator, has been mentioned as a replacement for Wilkinson.

"There has been no consideration given to the selection of a head coach for 1980," Bidwill said. "In all likelihood there will be no decision or announcement forthcoming until after the season."

Cornerback Roger Wehrli, defensive captain and spokesman for the players, said team members were

upset by the abrupt dismissal of coach.

"It's a shock and a disappointment," Wehrli said. "Everybody is very strongly toward Bidwill. He is very adamant that the decisions be left up to the staff."

"I guess that's where the conflict came."

Wilkinson became a legend at Oklahoma in the 1940s and 50s. His teams won 14 conference and three national championships during his 17-year career as coach. His composite college record was 145-29-4.

During his absence from coaching ranks, Wilkinson was a commentator for national football broadcasts and operated various business ventures. He was active in Republican politics, losing a race for the U.S. Senate in Oklahoma in 1964.

Arkansas' Duckworth pleads innocent

United Press International
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Bobby Duckworth, a wide receiver on the Arkansas Razorback football team, pleaded innocent Wednesday to a charge of shoplifting.

His trial date was set for Jan. 28 by municipal court Judge Charles Williams.

Duckworth, 21, was arrested shortly after midnight Monday by off-duty Fayetteville policeman Jim Acker at a grocery store where he was working as a security guard.

He is accused of going through the checkout counter at the store without paying for a hairbrush.

Head football coach Lou Holtz said Wednesday he would not comment because of the pending legal action. Shoplifting is a misdemeanor

with a maximum penalty of fine and court costs.

Duckworth did not make the Fiesta Bowl last Christmas. The rest of the Razorback Holtz said at the time that Duckworth stayed home because of personal problems.

That announcement came before Duckworth was given a disciplinary warning by Holtz. He and a coed apparently were plined because of a rule violation involving women from being in the dormitory between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.

The coed was involved in an incident that led to rape charges filed against two men who were members of the football team. Charges still are pending.



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Little to see very little action

United Press International
AUSTIN — Donnie Little, injured University of Texas quarterback, is not expected to play Saturday against Texas A&M, coach Fred Akers reported Wednesday. Little is suffering from a foot injury.

"We're not planning on him for

this game," said Akers after a 1½-hour workout. "But if it turns out that he can play on Saturday, then he will."

Freshman Rick McIvor, who set a school passing and total offense record against Baylor, has been running the No. 1 offensive unit.

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