

Aggies-Hogs game a battle for pride's sake



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

By Kurt Allen
Baton Rouge

For the first time in several years, certain things are not automatic when it comes to the annual South-Arkansas game between the Texas Aggies and Arkansas Razorbacks.

One major difference is the game will not be played in Little Rock this year. Instead, the teams will fight it out at Fayetteville for the first time since 1973 during the day and pray it doesn't get dark and rain. That could make for a very long afternoon in the lightless Razorback Stadium.

It's also the first time in quite a while that neither Arkansas or Texas Aggie is even close to resembling a conference powerhouse. But before anybody starts trying to sell their tickets, they should consider the fact that this year's matchup may just be one of the most even contests ever held between the two teams.

The common denominator that has evened the score this season is a rash of injuries compounded by weeks of inexperience. Both teams have seen their records plummet. The Aggies were still 2-2 after beating Texas Tech but have dropped four straight and are now 1-4 in conference play. The Hogs had a far better start, but have also crashed to a 1-4 conference mark and 4-4 overall.

Texas Aggie's situation has become legendary, with 27 of 86 scholarship players injured at one time or another for an average of seven weeks apiece. Consequently, Aggie Head Coach Tom Wilson will travel to the hills with a 60-member squad that includes 44 freshmen and sophomores.

Arkansas Head Coach Lou Holtz is still scratching his head trying to figure out what happened to all the depth he had going before the season started. A look at the Hogs' depth chart once showed 15 people on offense who started at various times last year along with another 15 starters on defense. In addition, three players around as he tries to once again discover the right combination. Holtz must shuffle players around as he tries to once again discover the right combination.

Now, instead, Holtz must shuffle players around as he tries to once again discover the right combination.

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