

SPORTS

Ags look for upset over Hogs

By **BRANDON BERRY**
Sports Writer

What does a female Hog look like?

Is she pink and dirty? Not likely. Does she squeal and have a snout? Could be. Does she have a squiggly tail, four hooves and a Grade-A stamp on her hindquarters? Not a chance.

Even though she will be making her first trip to Arkansas as an Aggie, Texas A&M Women's Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey has a good idea of what awaits her team in "Hog Country."

"They're very big and quick," Hickey said. "I compare them real favorably with Texas Tech and Houston. If we beat them, that's an upset."

The Aggies have a much better chance of winning with the return of Mitchell Tatum to the line-up after returning from an early season knee injury. Tatum missed the first meeting of the two teams this season, a 14-point Arkansas win.

"Even though we didn't have Mitchell and we really didn't play that well, we only lost by 14 and they had 14 more free throws than we did."

"Other coaches have said that the crowd and the officiating have been real factors in their games up there, but when they took 14 more free throws than we did in College Station, I can't imagine them being any more of factors than they were here."

"They are a very solid program," Hickey said. "They have good size, the leading scorer in the conference (Betty Fiscus) and a real nice point guard. They've always been one of the top three or four teams in the conference."

"But we've been playing well against some of the best teams in the conference, and I really expect us to be competitive up there."

Even though it will take more than words to make a silk victory out of a sow's ear.



Texas A&M will try to contain Arkansas' burly center Joe Kleine (35) Friday night at Barnhill Arena in Fayetteville. Kleine is the Southwest Conference's leading scorer, averaging 23.4 points a game, and 6th in rebounding, averaging 8.1.

A&M must stop Kleine to win Metcalf's 200th

By **BRANDON BERRY**
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When Texas A&M takes on Arkansas in Barnhill Arena Friday night, Aggie Head Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf will be attempting to record his 200th Southwest Conference victory.

"I didn't know that," Metcalf said, when he was informed of the prospective milestone. "I just wish we could get (the win). Like I've said before, this game is the most important game of the season because it's the next one."

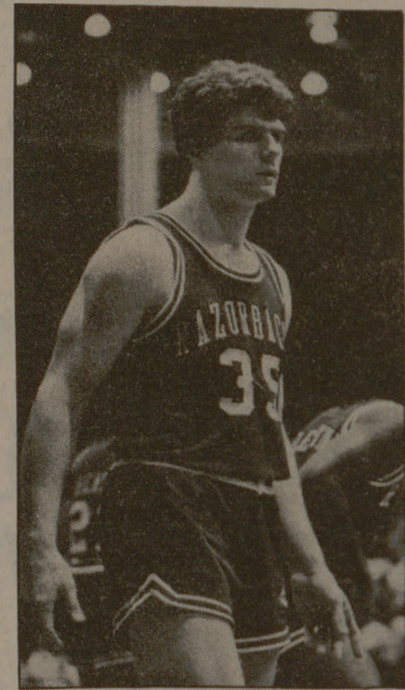
The game gains added importance because the Hogs defeated the Ags in G. Rollie White Coliseum earlier this year. Arkansas has also won 17 straight games in Fayetteville and 45 of their last 46.

"You'd have to say the odds are against you," Metcalf said. "They always play well at home and (Arkansas Coach) Eddie (Sutton) really handles the officials well."

Another Razorback who handles everyone well is Olympian Joe Kleine. The 6-foot-11 center leads the SWC in scoring with an average of well over 20 points per game.

Metcalf said Kleine's other contributions to his team are much more important than his ability to put the ball in the hoop.

"He really plays with a lot of heart," he said. "But like all other



Arkansas' Joe Kleine

great players, they make everybody else look better than they are. The other guys gain confidence from him and he'll just eat you alive on the boards."

Despite strong performances from Kleine throughout the season, Arkansas is tied for third

place in the conference with Houston and Texas Tech at 5-3. The Razorback's season record of 14-7 is quite a bit below what Hog fans have come to expect from Sutton's successful tenure as head coach.

So what's wrong with the Razorbacks?

"If that's a problem, we should all have that problem," Metcalf said. "They're a very talented ball club."

But the Hogs have found talent to be an inadequate substitute for experience. They start three freshmen and, with the exception of Kleine and forward Charles Balentine, are a predominately underclassmen squad.

"We're going to change our defenses quite a bit," Metcalf said, "but with them having three freshmen in there, you have to change and try to confuse them a little."

"As for the record, the game is for the players. I try not to distract the team with anything like that. They get all the wins and I take blame for all the losses. Maybe when I hang it up those things will be important because they'll be all I'll have, but, for now, I'm just worried about getting the team ready."

"You aren't in the business to win, but if you don't win, you aren't in the business for very long."

Sidekicks' 'Tatu' getting cultlike attention in Dallas

Associated Press

DALLAS — There's a sports franchise out there literally giving the shirt off its back trying to make the public take notice.

In fact, that's exactly what happened the other night when "Tatu" flung his shirt into the crowd to celebrate a goal.

Tatu's goal scored a point for his Dallas Sidekicks team in the Major Indoor Soccer League. But he cele-

brated it like the effort had propelled Brazil past England in the final of the World Cup.

There was much hugging and back-slapping before he offered his sweat-soaked shirt to the crowd. Some fans eagerly grabbed the garment despite the fact it would have to be laundered.

The demonstration was an interesting one. It also gave pause for thought — How are the Sidekicks

doing in the very expensive game of wooing public interest?

The Sidekicks are surviving surprisingly well considering they lost their first 10 games and are playing in a town where the winter sports dollar is eaten alive by the Dallas Mavericks of the NBA and highly ranked SMU of the Southwest Conference.

"At first the fans came out just curious about the sport," Wallace said.

"They have learned quickly and now they are howling for penalties and even screaming at referees by their names."

"Indoor soccer is such a fast game, an exciting game," said Wallace. "You can bank the ball off the boards and there's normally a lot of scoring. We think it will catch on."

The shirt giveaway certainly has. Suddenly, a Tatu shirt has become a hot item in Dallas.

"Everyone wants a Tatu jersey," Wallace said. "He's just great to the young crowd. After every game we have an autograph session as the crowds just swarm around Tatu."

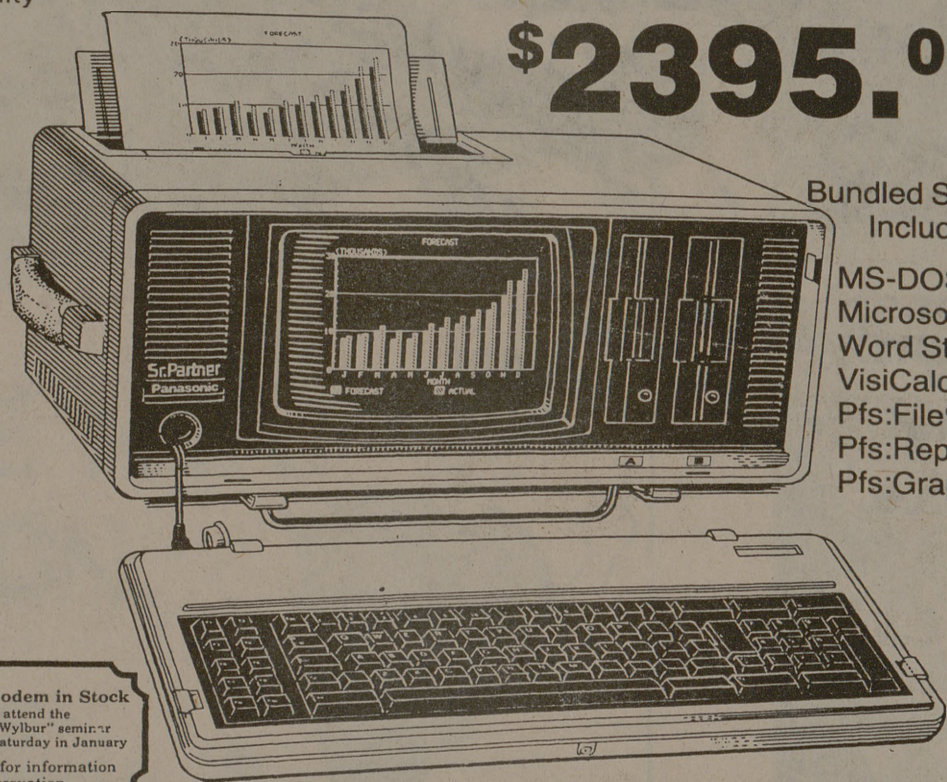
The 22-year-old Tatu is actually Antonio Carlos Peckoraria. His father was a railroad worker and Antonio was always digging around in the dirt. "Tatu" is Portuguese for "Armadillo."

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