

Sports

Card veteran catcher signs with Rangers

Associated Press
ARLINGTON — Four-time All-Star catcher Darrell Porter, who has seen World Series duty with Kansas City and St. Louis, agreed Tuesday to a one-year contract with the Texas Rangers, the American League club said.

Terms of the pact were not disclosed.
 Porter, 34, batted .221 and had 10 home runs and 36 RBIs in 84 games with the Cardinals in 1985. He spent part of the year on the disabled list. He was released by the Cardinals on Nov. 18.

"We are very pleased that Darrell decided to join the Rangers," Rangers General Manager Tom Grieve said. "He give us a solid left-handed hitting catcher to provide us additional depth."

Porter will be a backup catcher to right-hand hitter Don Slaught, team officials said.

Porter has 169 home runs, 776 RBIs and a .247 batting average over a 13-year major league career. Originally signed by Milwaukee in 1970, he was traded to Kansas City following the 1976 season.

He enjoyed his best offensive season in 1979 when he became the second catcher in AL history to collect 100 RBIs, 100 runs and 100 walks in the same season.

Porter signed as a free agent with the Cardinals in December 1980. In 1982, he was named Most Valuable Player of the National League Pennant Series and World Series as the Cardinals captured the world's championship. Porter batted .351 with one homer and six RBIs in 10 playoff games.

He has played in five league championship series and three World Series and has been selected to the American League All-Star team four times.

Hogs level Lady Ags, 74-65

By DOUG HALL
 Sports Writer

After spotting the Arkansas Razorbacks an eight-point lead early in the first half, the Texas A&M Lady Aggies made an impressive 17-point turnaround to lead 37-28 at halftime.

If only the game had ended there.

Instead, Arkansas came out of the locker room and shot a blistering 60 percent from the floor, created nine Aggie turnovers and hit 10 of 11 free throws to win 74-65.

"We blew it," A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said. "We played real well the first half and had the momentum going. If we hadn't had a halftime, we'd have probably been all right."

The victory keeps 13-4 Arkansas in second-place in the South-west Conference race at 7-1, a game behind No. 1-ranked Texas, which defeated Texas Tech 64-57 Tuesday night.

A&M falls to 10-9 overall and 4-4 in the SWC after the first round of play.

The Lady Ags, who have been troubled by inconsistency throughout the season, waited for more than three minutes in each half to hit their first bucket.

The Lady Razorbacks, on the other hand, took advantage of the Aggies' cold spell in the second half to hit eight straight second-half points to close within one, 37-36.

"We lost the game in the first 11 minutes of the second half," Hickey said. "We came back out and stood (around on the court) on both offense and defense. After that, we started playing."

By that time, however, Arkansas led 54-44 and never relinquished its lead, despite a last-minute surge by A&M.

When asked to explain why her team was so flat coming out after halftime, Hickey replied, "If I

knew that, it wouldn't have happened."

Hickey attributes much of the Lady Ags' inconsistency to youth and inexperience. Ten of her 14 players are in their first year at A&M.

"Evidently they are not mentally prepared to start the game," she said. "I just don't think they understand that you have to play 40 minutes real, real hard to beat the best teams in the conference."

"They (the Lady Ags) are a good team. We have good athletes. We're going to be OK, but we have to increase that intensity."

Arkansas Coach John Sutherland, who contributed to A&M's first-half comeback by being assessed two technical fouls when he threw a towel on the court and proceeded to argue with the referee, had nothing but praise for the Lady Aggies.

"A&M has a heckuva team," Sutherland said. "I'm just glad they went cold (in the second half) or we would have been beaten."

At halftime, Sutherland said he told his team to play tighter defense, avoid giving up second shots and make A&M score from the outside.

His plan worked like a charm as the Hogs out-rebounded the Ags 15-11 in the second half and held Lisa Langston, the Aggies' leading scorer, to 11 points, four of 16 from the floor.

Arkansas, which starts four players averaging in double figures, was led by junior guard Tracy Webb's 18 points. Freshman guard Donna Roper scored 14 to lead A&M.

Hickey, however, remains optimistic about the Lady Ags' remaining SWC games.

"The season is not over," she said. "So we'll get ready for Saturday (when A&M travels to Baylor's Heart O' Texas Coliseum) and get after it again."

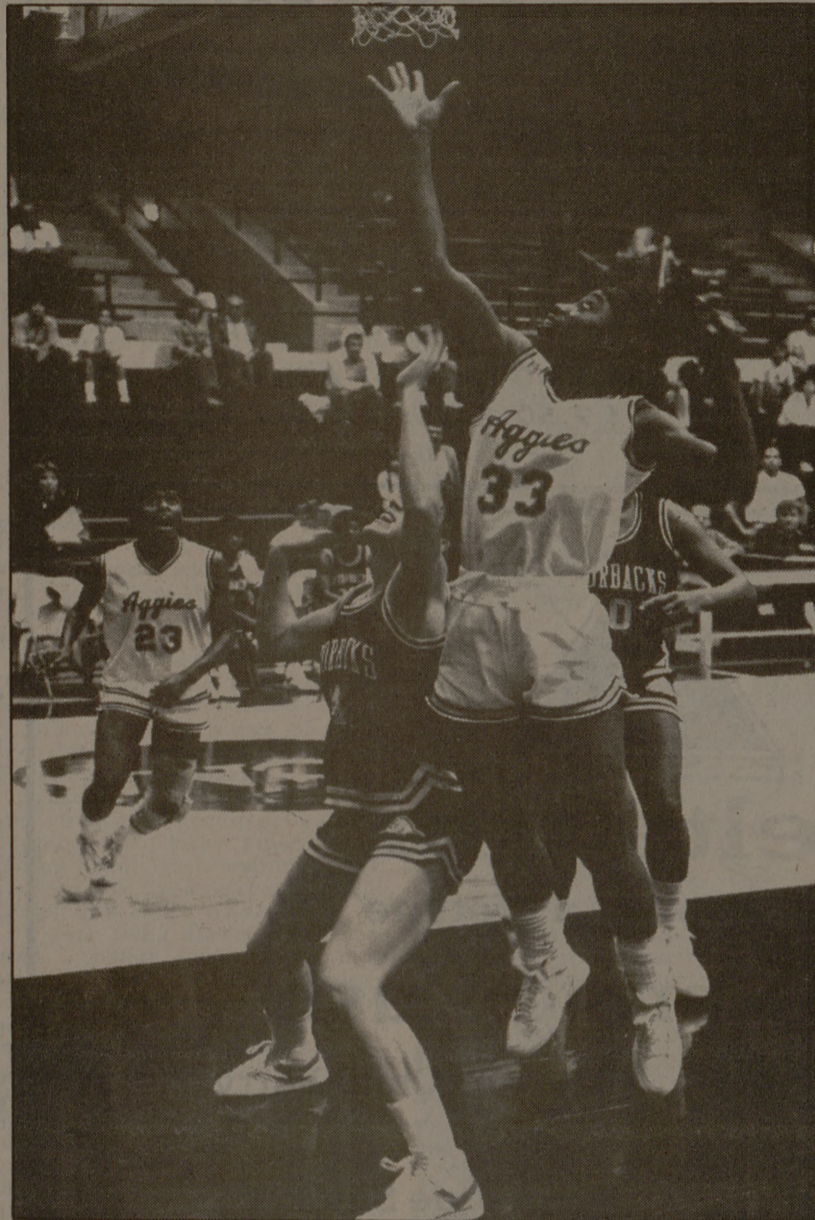


Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

A&M's Paula Crutcher (33) goes up for a rebound, despite the block out of Arkansas' Sheila Burkes. The Lady Ags lost Tuesday, 74-65.

Pats' drug difficulties not recent

Berry says problems arose last January

Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots have been dealing with a drug problem on the team since last January, including the testing and successful treatment of two players, Coach Raymond Berry said Tuesday.

"We were not treading water," Berry said of the Patriots' response to the problem.

He said that drug use was a serious concern that had to be addressed but was not a major problem that ever affected the team's performance.

His comments came at a news conference one day after the team announced it would submit to voluntary drug-testing. That decision came after published reports that four starters were among players on the American Football Conference Championship team who frequently used cocaine and marijuana.

Berry said reports that 12 players are involved are not accurate, but he would not say how many players might be using drugs.

The NFL Players Association said it would file an unfair labor practice charge over the decision to test the players for drugs.

Assistant Player Representative Ron Wooten said team members agreed in a recent meeting to be the first National Football League team to undergo voluntary drug testing because of their special respect for Berry.

Wooten said the testing plan was not well received by the players association.

"The union's position is (that) there's a way to handle the problem in collective bargaining. We don't feel that overall that is the way to attack this problem," Wooten said.

Hornung tops list of five to enter NFL hall of fame

Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio — Paul Hornung, whose Golden Boy image was tarnished in the 1960s when it was disclosed he had bet on NFL games, finally made it to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on his 15th try. Fourteen times previously, the former Green Bay Packers halfback failed to get enough support for the Hall.

But on Tuesday, when the results of this year's voting were announced, the votes were there, and Hornung was elected with four other former National Football League greats — quarterback Fran

Tarkenton, halfback Doak Walker and defensive standouts Willie Lanier and Ken Houston.

They will be enshrined at ceremonies next summer.

Hornung's one-year suspension in 1963 for betting on his own team had been blamed for keeping him from the Hall until now. Last year, he was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame for his exploits at Notre Dame.

"I've been very optimistic in the past, and I've learned not to be too optimistic," Hornung said. "This year, it seemed, everybody was tell-

ing me that I had an excellent opportunity, I was getting closer. It seems like there was more calls from the media this year, so where there's a little smoke there's fire.

"In December, I was inducted into the college football hall of fame. Now in January, it tops it off with the professional hall of fame. I couldn't be happier."

Others also made no secret of their joy.

"I'm elated," said Houston, who played as a defensive back for the Houston Oilers and the Washington Redskins.

"It's fantastic," said Willie Lanier, a linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs, saying notification of his induction gave him a "very rewarding and refreshing feeling."

The selection committee is made up of one media representative from each NFL city plus a 29th member from the Pro Football Writers Association. To be elected, a player must receive support from about 82 percent of those voting. Rules call for the election of four to seven new members to the hall each year.

Houston became the eighth defensive back from the modern era

and the fifth safety to win induction. In 14 seasons, he garnered 49 interceptions and established an NFL record by running nine back for touchdowns.

Lanier was the second Kansas City Chief player — after Bobby Bell — to make it to the hall and the eighth linebacker from the modern era. In 11 seasons, he intercepted 27 passes for 440 yards and two touchdowns.

Hornung became the 10th member of the 1961 Green Bay Packers to be inducted into the hall. A Heisman Trophy winner at Notre Dame,

he was a two-time NFL MVP. From 1959 through 1961, while playing for Green Bay Coach Vince Lombardi, he led the NFL in scoring for three consecutive seasons.

Tarkenton became the first player with any significant playing time with the Minnesota Vikings to gain entry into the hall. He also played for the New York Giants.

Over his 18-season career, he amassed NFL career-record passing totals of 6,467 attempts and 3,686 completions for 47,003 yards and 342 touchdowns.

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