

Wednesday, August 6, 1989

# A&M freshmen, walk-ons see action as workouts begin

By Jeff Osborne

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Texas A&M football team took another step forward in preparation for the upcoming season as 26 freshmen and walk-ons practiced for the first time Tuesday.

The practice lasted about an hour and a half, and served as an introduction for the players to the Aggie coaches as well as offensive and defensive formations.

"The practice was to introduce these players to the drills, teaching the basic plays on offense and defense," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "The intensity is not anything like what we'll see next Monday (when the veteran players return)."

The practices will continue this week with starting times scheduled for 5 p.m., except for Friday, when practice will start at 4:30.

Twelve of the players who reported for the practice were walk-ons, which was short of the 20 or more walk-ons that Slocum had anticipated earlier. Fourteen of the players were scholarship athletes.

Marcus Buckley, a linebacker from Fort Worth Eastern Hills, and one of the Aggies most touted recruits, is eligible to practice for two weeks. The Aggies have lost Buckley's services for this season because of Proposition 48. Buckley will still enroll at A&M this fall and wait for next year.

Although the Aggies did not recruit anyone this year at quarterback, scholarship athlete and 1988 recruit Paul Johnson of Cameron and four walk-on quarterbacks participated in the drills.

Johnson was the top-rated quarterback in the state among 1988 high school graduates by Dave Campbell, editor of "Texas Football" magazine and sports editor for the *Waco Tribune-Herald*.

Johnson was described by the 1989 Texas A&M Football Media Guide as an "exciting signal caller who could help the Aggies in the future... is cool under pressure... has a powerful arm and a deft passing touch..."

The only member of this year's recruiting class likely to play in the offensive backfield in the future is David Drapela, rated as one of the top fullback prospects in the state, and was a third-team all-state selection last year.

Slocum said he was pleased with what he saw in Tuesday's drills, but it was too soon to tell if any of the players will have an impact on the team. "We don't expect them to make the team today," he said.

"There's so few players out here it's hard to tell anything yet." He added that it won't be until the team practices in pads that there is an indication of possible starters or backups who will receive playing time this season.

"I have a wait and see attitude right now," Slocum said.

Five Aggie freshmen players who should beef-up the line and add much needed depth are Tyler Harrison, Lowell Hutchins, Lance Teichelman, Brad Cooper and Dexter Wesley.

Harrison, Hutchins and Teichelman saw action in last week's Texas All-Star High School Football game.

Assistant Head Coach Tom Hayes said one of the expectations of the players will be to help fill in some holes in the defensive line.

# Hatfield sees defense, kicking game as key to Razorbacks' success in '89



FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — A year ago, Arkansas Coach Ken Hatfield was right on the money.

The Razorbacks, he said, needed to make 90 percent of their field goal attempts, keep the offensive line intact and get solid inside line-backing. Three check marks later, Arkansas was in the Cotton Bowl for the first time in 13 years.

Come December, you can check Hatfield's latest prognostication.

"The key areas for us are safety, inside linebacker and the whole field goal group," he said.

Gone is safety Steve Atwater, who signed a \$2 million contract as the first-round draft choice of the Denver Broncos.

Gone are linebackers Reggie Hall and LaSalle Harper, who played better as seniors than they ever had before. Also gone is Kendall Trainor, who made 24 field goals in a row. His snapper and holder also are gone.

"When we got close, we always got points," Hatfield said. "That was the

personality of the team." Trainor was so effective, Hatfield said, that he influenced the Razorbacks' play calling.

"We'd like to kick fewer field goals and be more productive getting the ball into the end zone," Hatfield said. "But we knew our defense was playing great. And we know how empty it can leave you, working so hard against a great opponent like Texas A&M, and not getting any points."

Ironically, Trainor missed an extra-point attempt and a field goal attempt in the third game of the year against Mississippi. If he had missed again, Todd Wright would have replaced him.

Trainor's streak enabled Hatfield to save a year of Wright's eligibility. He is dedicated and has a strong leg,

Hatfield said of Wright. "He just needs to do it in a game," Hatfield said.

Atwater, Harper and Hall are only three of the eight starters missing from the defense. Five of the eight were picked in the NFL draft.

"We can't be as good on defense," Hatfield said.

The lack of experience on defense is one reason the No. 1 offense faced the No. 1 defense so often during spring practice. "We probably had more scrimmages than ever before," Hatfield said. "We were trying to gain them enough confidence that they would not be shellshocked with the speed of the game."

Linebackers Ted Shimer and Ty Mason have some experience, but may be a half-step slow. Redshirt freshman John Williamson and Mick Thomas, a junior college player from California, have the speed and size to be a factor at linebacker.

"The difference in the linebacking corps is that all of them are young," he said. "There is no value

for experience and you don't get it without a price."

Last year, Wayne Martin was so good up front that he allowed Arkansas to drop eight people into pass coverage. He was drafted by New Orleans late in the first round.

"We need for (Michael) Shepherd to be that kind of player," Hatfield said.

Shepherd and backs Patrick Williams and Anthony Cooney are the only returning starters on defense.

Hatfield said the coaches had even considered moving Aaron Jackson, a starter at wingback last year, to safety to replace Atwater.

"Every coach kind of dreams and figures out what it would take to win the championship," Hatfield said. "The whole key, more than ever, is the newness we have. A new offensive coordinator, a defensive coordinator, a new style of offense. Five new coaches, four new graduate assistants. The newness doesn't make you bad, but you may not be polished early."

# Rose's lawyers appeal judge's decision keeping Giamatti lawsuit in federal court

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pete Rose's lawyers on Tuesday appealed a judge's decision to keep his suit against baseball in federal court, a move that could block a disciplinary hearing next week on baseball-betting charges.

The appeal asks that Rose's suit against baseball commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti be sent back to state court, where the Cincinnati Reds manager has already won a favorable ruling.

Giamatti has scheduled a hearing next Thursday on charges that Rose bet on baseball, including the Reds.

But if the 6th U.S. Circuit Court upholds Rose's appeal on the jurisdictional dispute before then, the hearing would be postponed.

In Columbus last week, U.S. District Judge John Holschuh decided that he would hear Rose's suit. Rose wants a court in his hometown of Cincinnati to hear his case.

Robert Stachler, one of Rose's lawyers, said in the appeal that his client "has been deprived of his chosen forum in Ohio state court through judicial gymnastics that turn established principles of sports, employment and unincorporated as-

sociation law on their heads."

Asked about the appeal, baseball attorney John Elam said, "We obviously feel Judge Holschuh rendered a correct and very thoughtful opinion, and we hope the matter will not be further reviewed."

Rose's appeal was filed one day after his lawyers asked Holschuh to stay any disciplinary proceedings against Rose while the dispute over jurisdiction is being resolved.

Holschuh has not ruled on the motion.

Rose could be permanently banned from baseball if Giamatti

concludes that he bet on Reds' games. Rose could be suspended for a year if the commissioner finds that he bet on baseball, but not the Reds.

In Tuesday's appeal, Rose's lawyers said it would be a "tragedy" if Rose, the all-time hits leader, was suspended or banned from baseball and "it was later determined that the federal court lacked subject matter jurisdiction."

A court order that currently protects Rose from any disciplinary action expires on Aug. 14, three days before Giamatti's scheduled hearing.

## TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



# Dodgers' Gibson faces knee surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The 1989 season has been as disastrous for Kirk Gibson and the Los Angeles Dodgers as the 1988 season was wonderful.

Gibson, who hit one of the most dramatic home runs in World Series history last October to climax a year in which he won National League Most Valuable Player honors, will undergo surgery next Tuesday and be lost for the remainder of the season.

Thus, the 32-year-old outfielder completes 1989 with a .213 batting

average, nine home runs and 28 RBI while playing in only 71 games.

The Dodgers said that Dr. Frank Jobe, the club physician, will perform exploratory surgery on Gibson's left medial hamstring tendon.

Jobe said he believes he has isolated an irregular part of the ligament where it joins the knee joint, something which didn't show up in a magnetic resonance imaging test.

Jobe said because the localized area is outside the knee joint, it will require traditional surgery and not the arthroscopic variety, which is

why Gibson will be out for the rest of the season.

"There's no guarantee he will find anything, or that he can fix what he finds, or that it'll heal and won't scar again," Gibson said. "But the only thing left is to go in and look.

"To be honest, it worries me about my career. I wonder if this will bother me. It's an athletic injury and if I wasn't an athlete and didn't rely on speed, I probably wouldn't go through this. But that's not the case."

# Pro basketball off-season starting to resemble a soap opera

Heard any of the latest NBA gossip? There's so much gossip, we might have to change the name of the league to "As the Basketball Turns." Yes, it resembles a soap opera.

Danny Ferry said, "Thanks, but no thanks" to the Clippers and chose to play pasta-ball in Italy.

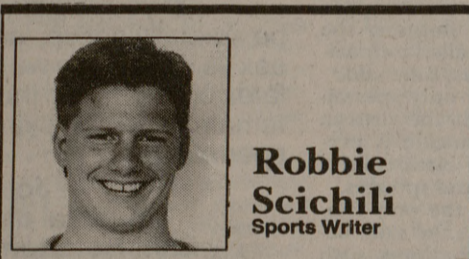
"It will be an educational experience," Ferry said.

Educational could be the right word because it appears Ferry has done his homework.

Ferry is no dummy. He knows that he can return to the NBA next year and join any team he wants as a free agent.

In a way, I think it's unfair, but then again, if I were Ferry, I wouldn't want to play for the Clippers either. Throw in another million and I'll think about it.

Now rumor has it that the same team that nabbed Ferry is wooing the Minnesota Timberwolves' first round pick Pooh Richardson. Richardson says he's



Robbie Scichili Sports Writer

considered it, but is leaning toward the NBA.

Italy must have a lot of money invested in their league. They're offering close to a million for Richardson's services; twice as much as Minnesota is offering. Maybe pasta sales are up.

I guess it's only fair that Italy is signing our players. The NBA already has three Eastern Bloc players signed from overseas.

The only problem is they don't speak English very well. Maybe teams will throw

in a speak-n-spell with each foreign contract.

Larry Bird is hurt again. After months of rehabilitation from heel surgery, Bird now has to deal with a back problem.

Considering the fact that Bird has carried the Celtics on his back for most of this decade, it's not a surprising injury.

Speaking of injuries, James Donaldson of the Mavericks is healing nicely. After sustaining a possible career-threatening injury in his knee, Donaldson is expected to play this season. Qualified help and rehabilitation seems to have done the trick.

NBA teams are used to having a tough time when coming to Texas to play the state's three teams.

Houston seems to have lost a step, however, as Dallas and San Antonio have made changes to their lineups that could spell doom for the Rockets.

Houston had no first round picks in this year's draft. They did sign Larry Smith from the free agent market but this may not

help the Rockets. Signing Smith is about as effective as putting a tree in center court and asking it to play defense.

The fact is, Houston only has Akeem Olajuwon to look forward to night after night. Without Akeem, the Rockets would sink faster than a block of cement.

They don't seem to have a chemistry about them. If management would learn to stop making trades, maybe the team would gel.

Don Chaney has the right attitude, just the wrong players.

Dallas, on the other hand, has the right players and the right coach.

Last year was full of turmoil. Mark Aguirre was shoved off to Detroit and Adrian Dantley came in.

But Dallas had a great draft. Randy White is perfect for the club. If Roy Tarpley can stay off the drugs and Donaldson can return from his injury, the Mavs could be back on the winning trail.

San Antonio management should be

commended on all they've done to bring the new players that will don the Spurs' uniform this season.

David Robinson is no doubt a great player. He was well worth the wait. Terry Cummings came in from Milwaukee and should provide leadership and scoring. And with first round draft pick Sean Elliott in the backcourt, the Spurs will make an impact right away.

As for last year's champions, the Detroit Pistons, well, they've got a big challenge ahead of them to repeat.

With all of the new talent in the league and a more balanced collection of teams, it will be harder than ever to repeat as champions.

Sure, the NBA is looking more like a soap opera than a professional sports league. I'm surprised there aren't any affairs or bizarre love triangles involved.

Actually, there probably are. Maybe we should ask Wade Boggs. He'd probably know.

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