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Sports Editor

Hit the road, Traitorbacks

The University of Arkansas has a serious attitude problem. A rather large envelope from Arkansas greeted my return from the Fourth of July. The envelope contained the Razorback's basketball preview, the cover emblazoned with a rather ugly (and hated) SEC logo — even though they are still members of the SWC.

Contrary to popular opinion, not everyone in Arkansas is an inbred hillbilly. Some are even smart enough to realize the Battalion is the A&M newspaper, and that we aren't very keen on being jilted for the likes of Vanderbilt and LSU.

To paraphrase Freud, it's obviously a case of "pigskin envy," a childish attempt to get back at us for the miserable season the Hogs' athletic programs suffered this past year. The official Razorback reason for bidding the eight Texas teams bon voyage was the SWC no longer offered any challenge for Arkansas athletics. Their entire state embraced the idea of joining the "more challenging" SEC, and thumbed their noses in our general direction.

Unfortunately for them, they had two years of SWC play left before they could join their brethren in the backwoods of Mississippi and Alabama. Who can forget the Hogs' gridiron performance last year against the "unchallenging" SWC? Their football team was ripped by everyone in the conference except SMU — who had a chance to win even through the final quarter.

This was the school who was conference champion the two previous years, losing both Cotton Bowl appearances, and a Gator Bowl the year before that. Truly a team that is bored with the whimpy SWC.

Arkansas avoided getting clobbered in SWC baseball action like they did in football, but not by much. In years past the Razorback baseball team had been a perennial top seed in the NCAA tournaments, and a genuine threat in the College World Series. Last year they struck fear in the hearts of no one as they failed to make even the SWC Tournament.

Real fear began to mount for the Hogs during recruiting season, as they realized the full implications of their move to the SEC. Texas schoolboys do not want to go out of state to play sports if the team they play for doesn't play in Texas sometimes. Homesickness can be a nasty thing, and since more than 60% of Arkansas' athletes come from Texas, the Razorbacks are desperate for a remedy. The SEC states are already too heavily recruited for the Hogs to gain a foothold, so Arkansas schedules SWC powerhouse SMU to retain a presence in Texas.

Mysteriously, Houston's offers to head to the hills with the run-and-shoot were ignored. Obviously Arkansas only wants competition they have a chance of beating.

So that's why Arkansas sent a basketball preview with the SEC logo on it to an SWC school. Humiliation is tough to bear, even for a Traitorback. The SEC and basketball's all they have, and I don't feel sorry for them one bit.

Klingler avoiding Heisman hype

HOUSTON (AP) — After setting nearly three dozen NCAA records, what can University of Houston quarterback David Klingler do to win a Heisman?

Over the next few months, Klingler almost certainly will get tired of dealing with the same mind-dulling inquiries, but they come with the territory he occupies.

Klingler clearly intends to make his senior season more than just a stopover on the way to NFL millions. He could have taken the money after last season, when the NFL paychecks would have been hefty — but not as hefty as they may be in the near future.

Ty Detmer, the Brigham Young quarterback from San Antonio Southwest who won the 1990 Heisman, and Klingler are running a close race for space on the preseason magazine covers.

"The Heisman is like a preseason ranking," Klingler says of the impending weekly "Heisman Watch" charts. "You have to have the incentive to go out and get better every day."

"It's not how you start; it's how you finish. You have to go out and prove yourself every day. Last year or your last game doesn't matter."

In his first season as a starter, Klingler rang up collegiate records with 54 touchdown passes and 5,140 yards passing in 1990. A few hours after throwing for 716 yards against Arizona State, he wearily sat in a Tokyo television studio as part of the Heisman announcement telecast taking place thousands of miles away in New York.

Klingler was fifth in the voting announced that day. In some preseason '91 rankings, he is listed ahead of Detmer, but no matter.

"Fortunately, it's not an individual sport, it's a team sport," Klingler says. "My job isn't to go out and win the Heisman, it's to go out and help our team win games."

"That's my goal. I'd rather have a national championship ring than the Heisman Trophy."

The Cougars, 10-1 last year, finished No. 10 in the final Associated Press poll despite being barred from a bowl because of NCAA sanctions. Those sanctions are due to expire before the next bowl season.



David Klingler, who finished fifth in Heisman voting last year, returns for his senior season at the University of Houston after passing on a chance to enter the NFL Draft a year early.

"It puts pressure on you," Klingler says of the preseason attention. "It's all those people out there, the fans and the media, watching you and expecting you to perform."

"The hardest thing about all this is dealing with the expectations. It wouldn't be that hard as long as people keep them to themselves."

Realistic as he is, Klingler knows the chances of that are slim. Those expectations gained momentum when Klingler made the decision to return for his senior season instead of entering the NFL draft.

At the time, it appeared Notre Dame's Raghbir Ismail would be the first player picked. As it turned out, Ismail opted for the Canadian Football League. Klingler, had he filed for early entry into the draft, may well have been the No. 1 selection.

"That doesn't even enter my mind," says Klingler. "Once I made my decision, I ran with it. I never looked back. After I made it, I didn't visualize it at all."

Not only did Klingler not visualize it, he didn't even watch the NFL draft. Or, for that matter, the Super Bowl or any other football game.

Ty Detmer takes aim at Heisman — again

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Brigham Young quarterback Ty Detmer has spent his offseason taking bows. Now it is nearing time for an encore.

All eyes will be on the former Southwest High School standout this fall as the first Heisman Trophy winner since Oklahoma's Billy Sims 12 years ago to return for another college season.

Only one person, Ohio State running back Archie Griffin, has won the prestigious award as college player of the year twice.

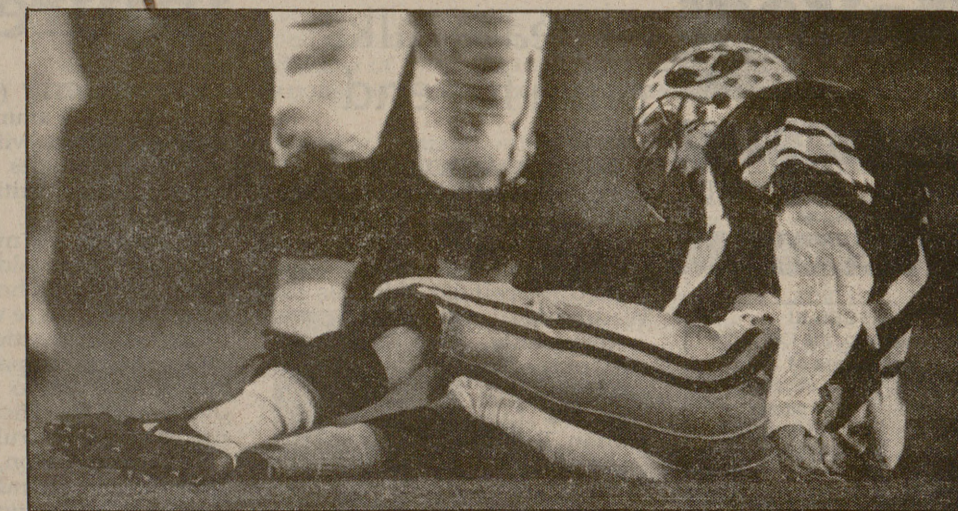
"I'm looking forward to it," said Detmer, who will enter his senior season needing 426 yards to become college football's all-time passing yardage leader. "I'm looking forward to helping my young team be as good as it can be."

"I didn't go out and try to win the Heisman last year and I'm not going to try to win this year either. If it happens, that's fine."

The Ty that binds BYU passed for an NCAA record 5,188 yards last season and set 42 NCAA records, 36 of them set by former Brigham Young quarterbacks.

But whether he's trying for it or not, the spotlight will be glued to the slender slinger from South Texas, who is healthy again after having both shoulders separated against Texas A&M in December.

"It's like there was nothing ever wrong with it," said Detmer, who had surgery on his throwing (right) shoulder in January. "I've put on 10-15 pounds (he's 6-



BYU's Ty Detmer, last year's Heisman Trophy winner, will attempt to rebound from a disastrous Holiday Bowl appearance against Texas A&M, where he suffered two shoulder separations.

foot, 185) since last year. I've spent a lot of time lifting weights and just trying to get stronger."

Detmer, 23, knows winning the Heisman will be harder the second time around. He will be a marked man and needs a good start to refresh the memories of voters.

That will not be easy considering the Cougars open the season with a murderous row: Florida State in the Disney-

land Pigskin Classic, UCLA and Penn State. All will be on the road.

With BYU losing badly in its final two games after the Heisman vote was in, Detmer is not necessarily the favorite to repeat. Most eyes are being cast toward Houston's David Klingler.

"Considering what happened in our final games I can understand why," he said. "But I'd say there were probably eight or ten guys who started out ahead

"I can't even remember who played in the Super Bowl," Klingler says convincingly. "Oh, yeah, the Giants and Buffalo."

Now, Klingler can read predictions of a \$25 million NFL contract in the near future. One anonymous NFL scout says of him, "He has an arm like Dan Marino, and his IQ is off the wall."

At 6-2½ and about 205 pounds, Klingler's 4.65 speed for 40 yards also puts him in a special category. Philadelphia's Randall Cunningham, considered the NFL's fastest starting quarterback, reputedly ran 4.75 in college at Nevada-Las Vegas.

Since spring practice, Klingler has been covered by a Lloyd's of London insurance policy against a career-ending on-field or off-field injury.

"Chances of something like that happening are pretty slim," Klingler says. "You can nearly always come back off a knee or shoulder injury."

In thinking of the past season, Klingler feels he needed most of the year to get comfortable in directing the Cougars' run-and-shoot offense.

"Those 11 games basically gave me a time to groove in," he says. "The last two games, I could concentrate more on the overall picture. The last two games, I felt like I was out there playing catch instead of worrying about reading the defense."

"This season, I'm going to concentrate on throwing more completions and cutting down on the interceptions."

(He threw 374 completions and 20 interceptions last year.)

At the same time, Klingler accepts the reality that he can't change the mindset of those who would withhold their Heisman ballots or Top 10 votes because of what they consider "overkill" by coach John Jenkins. Klingler himself was the target of some of that after passing for 11 TDs against Division I-AA Eastern Washington.

His answer is, "The people who sit back and watch have no idea that we haven't played a perfect game yet."

"Until we score on every possession, we haven't been perfect. A conventional offense results in a first down, ours in a touchdown or big play. We're all thinking about getting better, having a better scoring average or more yards a game."

of me last year. If we go out and win some games early, we can get some of that back."

He found his picture on a football trading card last month that could have cost him his final year of eligibility. The card, worth nine cents at printing, is selling for \$30 in Provo.

Pro Set, a Dallas-based firm, included a card of Detmer in its 1991 NFL set. The company annually prints a card of the previous Heisman winner, although in the past that player has gone into the pros.

BYU publicist Ralph Zobell said the university reported the incident to the NCAA when it was discovered and Detmer has been cleared to continue his college career. Detmer's picture in a profit-making venture could have been a violation of NCAA rules, but neither he nor BYU was aware of the card until it came out.

Although pro football is an option Detmer plans to look at, he has no regrets at not testing the NFL marketplace after his junior year.

"It never crossed my mind," he said. Detmer said he has received letters from agents seeking to represent him, although in violation of NCAA rules.

"Usually the first place those go is the trash can," he said. "I don't want to get involved with that."

"It goes with the territory," he said. "It can be a grind but I know that is part of being in the situation I'm in."

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