

SPORTS

Wednesday, February 23, 1994

THE BATTALION

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Shaq's 'ego' bigger than his size 20s'

It's halfway through his second NBA season, and Shaquille O'Neal has already been in two movies, recorded a rap album and written an autobiography. He has his own line of shoes, a killer advertising style, is so rich it hurts and is still only 21. He also has no reliable outside shot, can't hit free throws if his life depended on it, has an ego bigger than his size 20 Reeboks and gets used every time he faces an all-around center. If he doesn't start improving his game soon, the NBA will quickly pass the Shaqman by.



Nick Georgandis Sportswriter

First of all, let's talk about shot selection. While watching Shaq in person last year versus the Rockets, and on television several times since then, I've noticed O'Neal has two patented shots; the dunk and the oop (the completion of an alley-oop). The problem with taking these shots is that you have to be really close to the basket to make them effective, a position that is difficult to attain when there are three guys guarding you. If Shaq could develop a turn-around jumper or a baby hook, his game would actually be worthy of his over-inflated ego. Because of his height and bulk, Shaq probably never needed an outside shot on the high school or college levels, but in the NBA, size means very little. After all, if it did, we'd all be wearing Air Manutes.

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'Scrappy' Ferguson to start against Lady Horned Frogs

By Kristine Ramirez

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team will face Texas Christian University today at 7 p.m. with their newest starter, "scrappy" sophomore Bambi Ferguson.



Bambi Ferguson

Ferguson, a 5-foot-8 guard, started against Oklahoma State on Jan. 3 and Oral Roberts last Saturday. Ferguson is starting in sophomore Donyale Canada's spot.

Head coach Lynn Hickey said the team is still trying to fit someone into the fifth starting position and Bambi has done a good job coming off the bench.

"She's done good things for us off the bench," Hickey said. "We're trying to find the right player for that spot."

Ferguson said the change from a reserve to starter has not been a

major change.

"It's not really any different to me," she said. "I'm getting the same amount of playing time. The only thing different is that I don't get to see what the other team is doing before I get out there."

She said, however, she enjoys the change because it allows her to help get the team going.

"I enjoy it," Ferguson said. "Our teammates have to depend on us (the starters) to get things started in the game."

Sophomore center Martha McClelland said Ferguson clicks with the starters.

"She's really very determined," McClelland said. "At times, she's fired up and at times, she is silent and gets the things done."

Sophomore guard Lisa Branch said Ferguson is an offensive threat.

"Bambi is a scrappy player," Branch said. "Bambi brings enthusiasm and motivation to the team."

The team is ready to concentrate on TCU, Ferguson said.

"We have to be a powerhouse

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Cotton Bowl to stay 'strong' no matter what SWC's future

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The Cotton Bowl will remain strong no matter what happens to its longtime Southwest Conference partner, officials for the New Year's Day game said Tuesday.

"We're as strong as we have ever been," said John Scovell, a Cotton Bowl past president and vice chairman of the game's team selection committee.

"So certainly whatever happens in this way, we are certain that we're going to play football on Jan. 1 in Dallas, Texas, for a long time to come."

The SWC winner has earned a berth in the Cotton Bowl for more than half a century. But there may no longer be an SWC as Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor are considering informal offers to join the Big Eight.

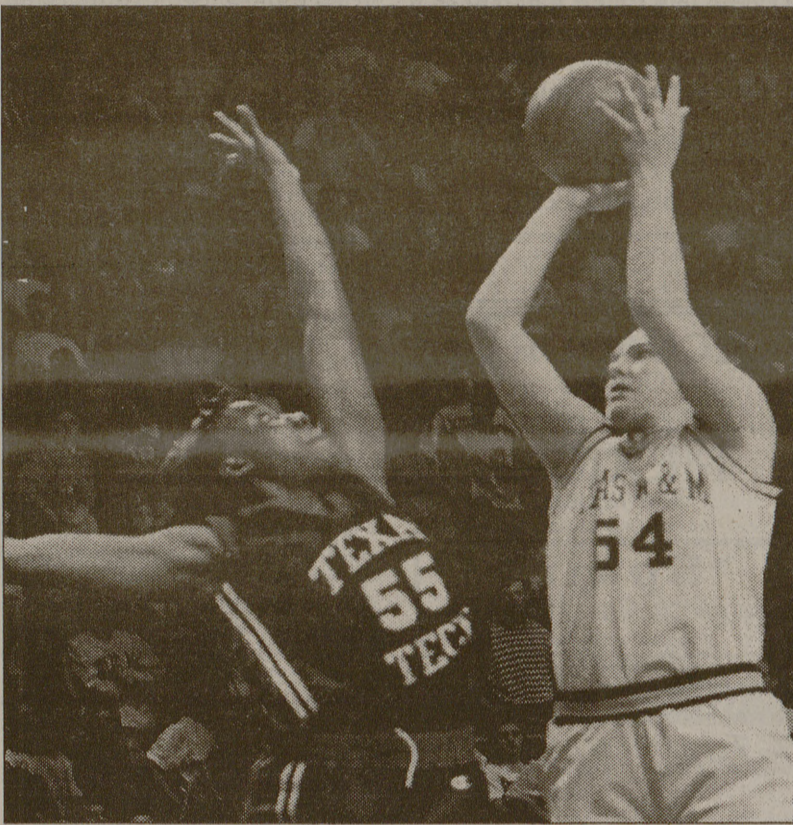
"If this agreement goes through on this new conference ... the reality is we won't have the Southwest Conference champion playing every year," said John Crawford, president of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association. "That's the major difference."

No matter what, there will be football in Dallas on Jan. 1 through 2000 because of a sponsorship agreement with Mobil Corp. and other businesses have shown solid interest, game officials said.

But having the Cotton Bowl without an SWC team would be a strange feeling, Crawford said. All but one of the 58 games have featured league teams, including the last 54.

"When you start looking back over 54 years, it's just enormous the history and tradition you

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William Harrison/The Battalion

A&M 6-foot-4 center Martha McClelland (54) shoots over Texas Tech's Mitchi Atkins (55) during the Lady Aggies' 67-64 victory over the then No. 4 Lady Red Raiders.

A&M Sports Notes

Baseball

The Texas A&M baseball team's doubleheader versus the Southwest Texas State Bobcats has been rescheduled for today because of the wet weather.

The two teams will meet at Olsen Field at 1 p.m. today.

Basketball

The tipoff for the Texas A&M men's basketball game against Texas Tech University on March 5 has been moved to noon, from its original 7 p.m. starting time.

The move was made to accommodate Raycom television, who will telecast the game.

Tennis

The Texas A&M's men's tennis team match versus the Michigan Wolverines was post-poned Tuesday because of the rain.

The match will resume today at 1:30 at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

A&M has a 1-0 lead after the A&M doubles team of Mark Weaver and Bernardo Martinez won over Michigan's Dan Brakus and John Constanzo 9-8 (15-13 in the tiebreaker.)

Jordan selective in first day at bat

The Associated Press

SARASOTA, Fla. — Michael Jordan was selective Tuesday as he sampled major league pitching for the first time. He didn't miss any of the 30 pitches thrown to him by veteran Jose DeLeon, but he didn't swing at many either.

"He did OK," said DeLeon, who estimated his top speed at about 80 mph. "Today's the first day and you want to throw strikes and let them hit it."

WHO: Aggies vs. TCU Horned Frogs
WHEN: Wed. Feb. 23, 7:05 p.m.
WHERE: Daniel Meyer Coliseum, Fort Worth

Probable Starters

Aggies (16-6, 9-1 SWC)		Horned Frogs (6-16, 3-8 SWC)	
Player	PPG	Player	PPG
David Edwards	12.8	Kurt Thomas	21.3
Chuck Henderson	8.9	Jentry Moore	11.6
T.ony McGinnis	10.0	Jeff Jacobs	9.5
Damon Johnson	10.5	Chris Foreman	3.2
Brett Murry	9.4	Byron Waits	9.6

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