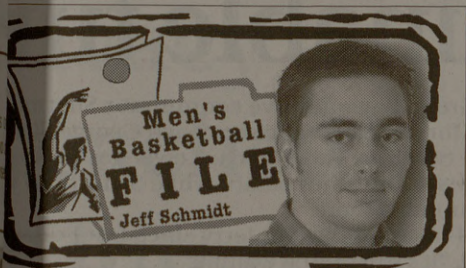


Injuries have made troubled season for Aggies even more unbearable



woeful record collected by the Aggies has not pleased the fans to the program. For the first time in the game against Texas was not sold out. Near-people missed one of the greatest games in the history of the Texas-Texas A&M rivalry.

And Arrows

ailing Aggies have lost another player to injury. Guard T.J. Brown will miss the rest of the season tearing his anterior cruciate ligament in his game against Oklahoma last Saturday. The Aggies have lost Dario Quesada for the year with a bulging disk in his back. Calvin Davis has also been out of action for six games with a herniated disk. Brian Barone has a broken thumb, but he continues to show his class by playing through the pain.

Man Band

one Jones has shouldered the load after the loss of the team's leading scorer. With a career-high 32 points against Texas last Saturday, Jones is averaging 27 points in his last three games. Jones' previous career high came two days before the Texas game when he scored 28 points and had 10 rebounds.

Jones is creeping closer to a 40-point game which last happened in 1985 when Don Marbury (Jones' older brother) scored 41 against Baylor.

Stats Of The Week

In the season, Texas A&M leads all Big 12 teams in offensive rebounding (16.9 per game), steals (11.1) and assists forced (20.1). In conference play, the Aggies lead in offensive rebounding (15.4), and second in

both steals (9.3) and turnovers forced (19.0).

Big Monday

Monday's nationally televised game, as part of ESPN's "Big Monday" lineup, was the first nationally televised game since 1994 when A&M played Texas in the Southwest Conference Tournament finals. That game was also covered by ESPN.

Texas Records

With their victory Monday night, the Longhorns tie the school record for consecutive wins at College Station with four and consecutive wins against A&M with nine. Texas Coach Tom Penders is 19-3 against A&M.

G. Rollie White Records

Texas will never have a winning record against the Aggies in G. Rollie White. A&M has a 47-44 advantage in games played there. Next season the Aggies will move into the Reed Arena.

A Sure-Fire Way to Win

The Aggies are undefeated when shooting better than 50 percent from the field.

Oh, Brother!

Texas forward Nnadubem "Gabe" Muoneke is the brother of former Twelfth Man Nik Muoneke.

Sophomore Slump

After being named Big 12 Freshman of the Year last year, Jerald Brown has been in a season-long slump this year. In league play, he is averaging 5.9 points and 3.4 rebounds while shooting only 26 percent from three-point land. Coach Tony Barone said the pressure of Brown being the highest-touted recruit since Rudy Woods is wearing on him.

"We tend to focus on Jerald because he was highly recruited. There is a tremendous amount of pressure on Jerald. He puts too much pressure on himself," Barone said.

This Week's Game

Saturday, Feb. 7, at Texas Tech (10-8, 4-4)

Arizona signs Andy Benes to three-year deal

DENVER (AP) — Acting more like a contender than a expansion team, the Arizona Diamondbacks signed one of the top pitchers from the free-agent market, signing Andy Benes to an \$18 million, three-year contract Tuesday.

Arizona, which joins the NL West this season, has pitched \$113 million to just four players: Benes, first baseman Matt Williams (\$49.5 million for six years), shortstop Jay Bell (\$34 million for five years) and pitcher Willie Blair (\$11.5 million for three years). "We're thrilled to have Andy Benes," Arizona general manager Joe Garagiola Jr. said. "He is a proven, quality major league starter who wants the ball, will take the ball and, once you've given him the ball, doesn't give it back."

Benes, a 30-year-old right-hander, got a deal with an \$8 million salary that matches Toronto's Randy Myers for among pitchers. Benes said he wasn't worried about joining an expansion team which has no proven closer. "I don't usually envision bad things happening," he said. "I know that when it's my day to pitch, I'm going to go out and do the best I can, and we'll see whether we win seven, eight or nine innings."

Benes, who hasn't spent a full season in the majors, probably will be the starting catcher, joining the rest of the team, which also includes rookie first

baseman Travis Lee, who got a \$10 million signing bonus.

"He's an ace," said Fabregas. "I think that's what our team was lacking — a guy that goes out there every fifth day, and you know you're going to be in the ballgame."

Benes wanted to stay in St. Louis and continue to play alongside his brother, Alan, but his \$30 million, five-year contract with St. Louis was agreed to about 90 minutes after the Dec. 7 midnight EST deadline and was rejected by baseball officials.

Thwarted in his attempt to re-sign with the Cardinals — forbidden by baseball rules from resuming negotiations until May 1 — Benes chose the expansion team because he liked Phoenix as a place for his family and because of what agent Scott Boras told him about the Diamondbacks organization.

"I called (owner) Jerry Colangelo on Thursday and I said, 'I have an idea, and I proposed something,' Boras said. "I said, 'This is a great deal, it's well below market value. We'll give you the price; what we want is the flexibility.'"

Benes, who made \$4.85 million last year, will get \$6 million in each of the three seasons, but can terminate the contract after 1999 and become a free agent again.

He also can earn \$550,000 a year in performance bonuses: \$50,000 per start from 31-36, \$50,000 for pitching 210 innings, \$100,000 for 220 innings and another \$100,000 for 230 innings.

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Sergei Nakariakov, trumpet, age 19

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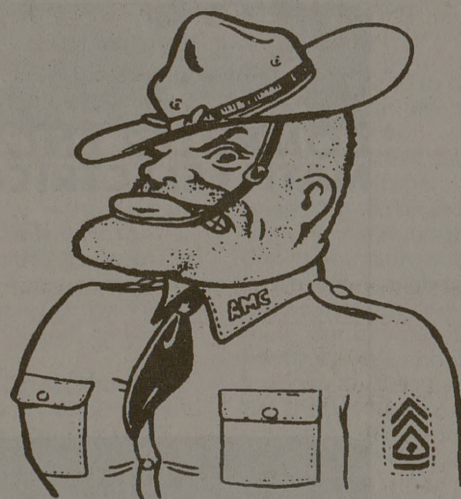
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