



Tip-In-Club Newsletter



Stephen F. Austin State University Men's Basketball

Letter from Coach Danny Kaspar

January 2002

Hello for the month of January from the Lumberjack Basketball team and coaching staff. The spring semester started on Wednesday, January 16 and the players are being made aware of their academic responsibilities. The basketball team is 4-4 in conference play and 7-8 overall.

We've been through some happy and frustrating times since I last wrote you. The happier times started with a two game road swing through Southern Louisiana to play Southeastern Louisiana and Nicholls State University. Southeastern Louisiana jumped on us early and led us at halftime 28-20. Behind the play of Jasen Gast and our three freshmen; Stevin Ozier, Taylor Moore and Tim Simon, we gave a spirited and intense second half performance and won the game 55-42. The 14 points allowed to Southeast Louisiana in the second half was very encouraging to me. Against Nicholls State, our team played a more solid game from start to finish carving out a five point halftime lead. In the second half, we pulled away for a 72-59 win giving us a 6-3 overall record and a 3-0 start in conference as we entered the Christmas break. It was going to be a very good Christmas!

Our players returned on December 26th after a six-day layoff and it was evident that they had not exercised much during their layoff. Practices before the Oral Roberts game were sluggish and I was not feeling optimistic as we headed to Tulsa to play on December 29. My instincts were correct and we played poorly in a 78-59 loss. I was very disappointed in our shot selection and defense and I let the players know that after the game and in practices leading to our fourth conference game against Northwestern State. In that game, we played a mediocre first half and a very good second half and proceeded to beat them (73-66) for the first time in six years.

A tough Louisiana-Monroe team awaited us two nights later and we lost 85-72 in a game much closer than the final score indicated. Their 7' center had 21 points, 10 blocks, 9 rebounds and numerous intimidations. We shot the ball well but were out rebounded for the first time in conference play.

Tough conference losses to Lamar (57-56) and Sam Houston (49-45) followed a week later. In both of these games, we were out rebounded and shot the ball poorly. The Lamar loss was especially tough as they hit a very difficult shot with three seconds remaining on the clock to win it. The Sam Houston State loss was also decided in the last minute. A 55-52 road loss to UT-Arlington followed, in which we led the vast majority of the game. UTA outscored us 8-0 in the last 2:39 of the game. For the fourth straight game, we were out rebounded.

Our team needs a win right now real bad. Confidence is a very valuable asset and a win would give us some. Our losses have come in very competitive and close games, but they're losses nevertheless. We'll keep working hard to turn things around in our favor.

Finally, Bogdan Konontsuk, a 6'8" forward we signed out of McLennan Community College in Waco during the early signing period, collapsed and died in a game on Saturday, January 12th. The reason for his death was listed as heart failure/problems. I had become very fond of Bogdan while recruiting him. He was a fine young man and a very good basketball player. We will miss him very much! Please keep his parents and family in your prayers. Bogdan was from Estonia, a former Russian province and his parents still live there. This must be very difficult for them.

Your support of the Lumberjack basketball program is very much appreciated. We will work hard and continue striving to give our very best on the basketball floor and in the classroom!

2001-2002 Lumberjack Schedule

November

W Athletes First 77-76

W Ezybonds 67-59

L Arizona State 92-61

L Jackson State 68-59

W Texas Lutheran 71-52

W Rice 90-86

December

W Southwest Texas 75-64

L Centenary 62-51

W Texas Southern 76-50

W SE Louisiana 55-42

W Nicholls State 72-59

L Oral Roberts 78-57

January

W Northwestern State 73-66

L Louisiana-Monroe 85-72

L Lamar 57-56

L Sam Houston 49-45

L UT-Arlington 55-52

24th @ Southwest Texas 7PM

26th @ UTSA 4:15PM

31st Nicholls State 7PM

February

2nd SE Louisiana 6:15PM

7th UT-Arlington 6PM

9th McNeese State 4PM

14th @ Lamar 7PM

16th @ Sam Houston 4PM

21st Northwestern St. 7PM

23rd Louisiana-Monroe 4PM

26th UTSA 7PM

March

2nd @ McNeese State 2PM

4th SLC First Round

6th SLC Second Round

9th SLC Championship Game

Player Profiles

#24 Skip Jackson

5-11 Guard

Junior

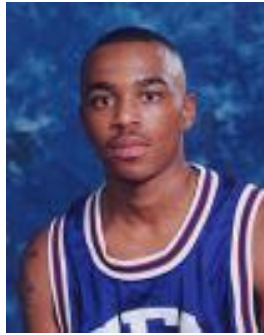
Beaumont, TX

Current Stats

10.3 Points per Game

1.6 Rebounds per Game

2.3 Assists per Game



#12 Edwin Tatum

6-4 Forward

Junior

Oklahoma City, OK

Current Stats

3.7 Points per Game

4.7 Rebounds per Game

1.1 Assists per Game

