



Change is coming for football one way or another

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Arkansas football is bleeding. College football analysts are describing the Hogs as possibly the worst team in the nation, indicating the program is at an all-time low. The struggles are quickly turning a loyal fanbase away from optimism and into pessimism.

A 17-game losing streak against SEC opponents has the Razorbacks resting amongst the worst teams of the 130 in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS).

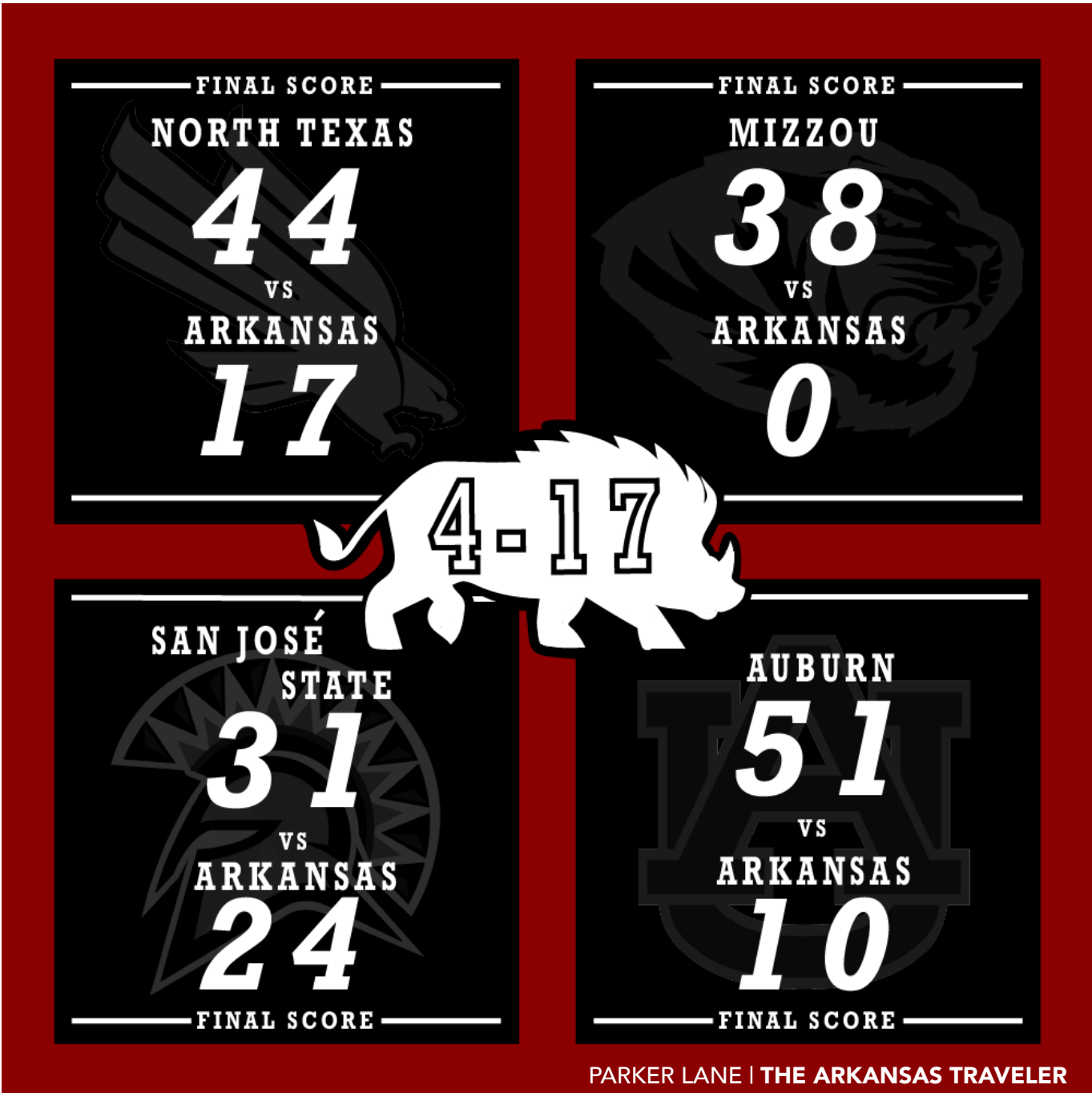
When Arkansas's head coach Chad Morris left his head coaching gig at SMU to accept the same position at Arkansas, fans hoped that Morris was a coach on the rise who would be able to take a Razorback team that had lost its spark on offense and turn it into an up-tempo, explosive and exciting unit. Morris made a name for himself as offensive coordinator at Clemson when he introduced that face-paced offense.

Through 21 games in the Chad Morris era, Arkansas has won four contests, all coming against smaller schools suffering a subpar season. The Hogs have suffered numerous alarming losses in the year-and-a-half stretch as well, with losses against North Texas and San Jose State standing as the most discouraging.

There was reason to hope that Arkansas would be able to finish the 2019 season on a strong note, with three of the four remaining games for the Hogs being winnable in the context of their opponents' recent performances.

That hope was laid to rest Saturday afternoon after the Razorbacks lost their homecoming game against a slipping Mississippi State team by 30 points, never threatening the visiting Bulldogs.

The loss marks the third



straight conference defeat by 30+ points for the Hogs, and the improved final product that Morris promised Arkansas fans at the time of the coaching change seems to move further away every week instead of drawing closer.

Against Auburn a week before, Arkansas set a record for the lowest attendance at a home SEC-conference game since Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium was expanded in 2001, attracting 54,619 fans, around 72% capacity. The next week, Arkansas broke that record, recording 52,256 fans against Mississippi State.

The record-low attendance

against the Bulldogs was the lowest in any Arkansas game since 2001. It fell short of the previous record-low against Weber State, a game that was added to the schedule after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks led to the cancellation of the North Texas game, according to HawgBeat.com.

The fans have clearly lost their faith in the program at this point in the season.

History major at the UofA and longtime Arkansas fan David Stancil, a sophomore, is disappointed where the program is at.

"The staff has been disappointing to say the least," Stancil said. "The atmosphere of Razorback Stadium is not what it was a decade ago. No one expected instant success, but this has been an embarrassment to Arkansas football."

Arkansas' performance against Mississippi State mirrored the almost one-third-empty stadium, and Morris's response after the game was nearly identical to what he has said all year.

"I'm very disappointed with our performance," Morris said Saturday.

Granted, there is only so much to say after consistently underperforming every week. But as the performances do not improve week-to-week, and the answers, likewise, stay

the same, there is reason to believe that things will not get better.

Arkansas's struggles have not only caught the attention of the fans, but of college football experts as well. College football broadcaster Joel Klatt said that "Arkansas might be the worst team in the country," while appearing on The Herd with Colin Cowherd on Fox Sports 1.

There are still three games on the ledger for Arkansas, two of them against teams who are potentially, and probably should be, beatable. That does not matter.

Florida State fired its

second-year head coach Willie Taggart on Sunday after going 9-12 in his first 21 games as the head of the Seminoles, compared to Morris' 4-17 record through the same time span. The 'Noles went 5-7 last year and are projected to finish 6-6 this year.

Florida State athletic director David Coburn cited high expectations as grounds for letting Taggart go.

"Frankly, 6-6 isn't good enough," Coburn said.

Arkansas has passed the point of salvaging the season with a win or two at the end of the year, if that even happens. The focus has shifted to what move athletic department officials will make next.

The Arkansas football program is not a lost cause, and Razorbacks fans and officials alike know it. An exciting crop of new talents has showcased promise and potential for making Arkansas football relevant again, if it is placed in the hands of the right person.

That crop includes the dynamic duo of freshman receivers Treyton Burks and Trey Knox, running back Rakeem Boyd, tight end Hudson Henry and quarterback KJ Jefferson.

An intentional decision to improve the defense and offensive line, and a commitment to allow the young offensive talents lead the Razorbacks into battle would be a recipe to produce a football program that is not the laughingstock of the SEC. With the right staff at the helm of the program, it is more than possible.

But this group, which has driven Arkansas football in the ground, is not that staff.

A change is brewing that will dictate the future of the program. Whether that is relieving some assistant coaches of their duties and giving Morris a chance will some different personnel around him, or cleaning house altogether, what happens this offseason will impact the future of Razorback football for years and years to come.

Tournament brings spooky spirit of Ultimate Frisbee to Fayetteville

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Ultimate frisbee players from across the country dressed up in Halloween costumes to compete in the 29th annual Harvest Moon Tournament in Fayetteville on Oct. 26-27.

The tournament featured five divisions: open, women, mixed, college men, and college women. No matter the division, each team dressed up in outrageous costumes to play against teams from across the nation. Teams from Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and many more made the long trip to Fayetteville for the fall tournament.

Although rain poured all morning, the players braved the rain on four separate fields: The Lewis Soccer Complex, Kessler Mountain Regional Park, the University Intramural Fields, and the Gary Hampton Fields.

The Harvest Moon tournament is a more casual, fun environment compared to that of a competitive tournament.

"You just get to experience the culture side of the sport rather than the competitive side," said Sheldon Shinn, a



Heidi Kirk Staff Photographer
Canaan Zeigler (left) and Kay Thomason (right) cheer on their teammates Oct. 27 at the ultimate frisbee Harvest Festival.

UA senior.

Players dressed in costumes such as grandmas, prisoners and lumberjacks and competed against each other. Players joked with each other while playing, made riskier throws than they usually would in a competitive tournament and called their own fouls, all while maintaining a semi-competitive atmosphere.

"It's a big emphasis on the spirit of the game, which is something that's really

specific to ultimate," said Andrew Watson, a UA junior. "We're just trying to have a good time instead of trying to get better."

Kyle Antonio, a junior who is the team captain for Arkansas's team "Ludicrous Speed," enjoyed the break from the competitive ultimate scene.

"We have a lot of competitive tournaments throughout the fall season," Antonio said. "I feel like this is a really good one where you

can just bond, get to know each other and have fun."

"Nebraska Cornfed," the team from Lincoln, Nebraska, made a six-hour drive to play in the tournament and dressed up in Star Wars-themed outfits. The team brought a speaker and danced to Star Wars music on the sidelines. One of them was dressed as Princess Leia, and kept the wig on for the whole game.

Its first game was against "Ludicrous Speed,"

which the UofA won 13-11. Arkansas dressed in business-casual, with some players even dressed in full suits.

"This is fantastic," said Grant Paisley, a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "This is a really fun, relaxed time, not too serious. I mean we're playing with lightsabers in our hands."

UNO, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, played the UofA in its second game. The players were dressed up as Waldo from the "Where's Waldo" children's books and lost 12-9 to Ludicrous Speed in their second game.

"I think [the tournament] really gives us a good name in the ultimate community," Watson said. "We have teams all the way from Nebraska, and they come here every year because they like to come back."

The UA players all seemed to get a kick out of Mizzou's theme of dad outfits. Mizzou players broke out their hawaiian shirts, high socks and fake mustaches and hollered encouragement towards their teammates on the field.

"They were supposed to have a charcoal grill set up with them, but unfortunately that's not allowed on the turf field," Shinn said.

The tournament had a \$450 entry fee for each team and included dinner after the Saturday contests, as well as merchandise for each player.

Not every game's score was logged, and there was no trophy for the winning team, but the players did not seem to care.