

Aggie Coaches Are to be Taxed to the Limit This Year

Bill James, Lil Dimmitt and Manning Smith, Norton's Assistants, Will Have Much Responsibility This Year

With three of Aggieland's serving in the army, the Cadet coaching staff for the coming '42 session will be taxed to the maximum as they prepare their vaunted plans for the defending Southwest Conference champions.

Coach Homer Norton and his staff of Line-Coach Bill James, Trainer Lil Dimmitt and Manning Smith have been carrying the bulk of the load this fall and certainly have their hands full for the coming year.

At present, Coach James has

However, Coach Norton has no discrepancy to that setup since "Uncle Bill", as James is lovingly known by all his players, has more than once come through when the going was rough. The cry for guards and tackles was loud last year, but by the end of the grid season, James had produced an all-conference tackle and a couple of guards that were rated far above the average by most sports experts.

And it hasn't been just that particular day that "Uncle Bill" has

There he stayed until 1934 from where he came to A. & M. touted as one of the best line coaches in the country. And he has lived up more than to mere expectations. He produced such stellar players as Joe Routt, twice All-American guard; Joe Boyd, another All-American and All-Conference tackle for two years; Marshall Robnett, All-American guard in 1940 and winner of most valuable line-man award; and Martin Ruby, last year's tackle who won the most valuable line-man award.

Head Coach Homer Norton Begins 9th Year at Aggieland

By Chick Hurst
Homer Hill Norton, head football coach and director of intercollegiate athletics of Texas A. & M. College has had one of the most interesting careers of any figure in the sports world today. The genial Aggie mentor was born December 30, 1896 at Carolton, Alabama, one of the six sons of a Methodist preacher. He attended Birmingham High School and Birmingham-Southern College, graduating from the latter in 1916.

Outstanding Athlete

In college he was an outstanding athlete, winning his letters in four sports, and in his senior year was voted the best all-round athlete in school. Norton started out to become a professional baseball player, but in 1920 he gave up a promising career with the Columbus, Ohio team of the American Association to become head football coach at Centenary.

Keen Football Mind

Norton has one of the keenest football minds in the business, as his record will attest. To the casual acquaintance Coach Norton gives the impression that he is somewhat defense minded, but this is merely a cover-up for a brain that is constantly thinking of ways to build a better offense. In fact, Coach Norton might be compared to the famous Frenchman, Marshal Foch, whose motto was "when in doubt, attack".

Proof of this is the famous offense which Norton created which was known as the "Double Shuffle". Experts agree that this is undoubtedly the trickiest and most deceptive offense which has ever been designed in football, and the hardest to stop—if, and that's a big if, the right sort of team is on hand to use it. The "Shuffle" requires a quarterback who can

1940 Sugar Bowl Classic. The 1939 Aggies were voted National Champions, and Norton declares that it was the greatest team he has ever coached.

With almost the same team returning in 1940, Norton's men lost only to Texas University, shared Conference honors with S. M. U. and then defeated Fordham in the Cotton Bowl by a count of 13-12. The 1939-40 Aggies were unbeaten and untied in 19 straight games, a record which has never been equalled in the history of the Southwest Conference.

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Trainer Dimmitt

Coach Manning Smith

Line Coach James

charge of all the line-men, which includes the centers and the ends. In fore-gone years, James took care of the guards and tackles only but with the departure of Dough Rollins and Charlie De-ware, the whole job will be upon his shoulders.

come through. His experience in coaching dates way back in the '20's when he first undertook the tedious task with Birmingham. From there he went to Fort Worth Central high school, T. C. U. before he finally embarked for Texas university in 1925.

For Manning Smith, this will really be his first year at full-fledged varsity coaching. He takes over the backfield, a spot left vacant by the departure of Marty Karow, now at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station. "Smitty" served as co-freshman coach of all sports last year besides being head tennis mentor. He came to A. & M. along with his own coach, Homer Norton, from Centenary College, after distinguishing as an All-American half-back.

Trainer Lil Dimmitt, after being appointed as head baseball coach, inherits the head mentorship of the freshman team for the year. Lil now has had the privilege of coaching three of the four major A. & M. sports. Before Dimmitt came here he was the head coach of Beaumont High School, where he gathered honors upon honors. Coming here in 1935, he has mostly confined his duties as a trainer, plus doing his odd jobs here and there in athletics.

This year, this small staff of coaches face their greatest test—a job which will require every ounce of their energy. They have already shown their ability and you can bet the Cadet team will have all the football learning they need after these coaches get through.

Coupon Book Holders Entitled to Free Game

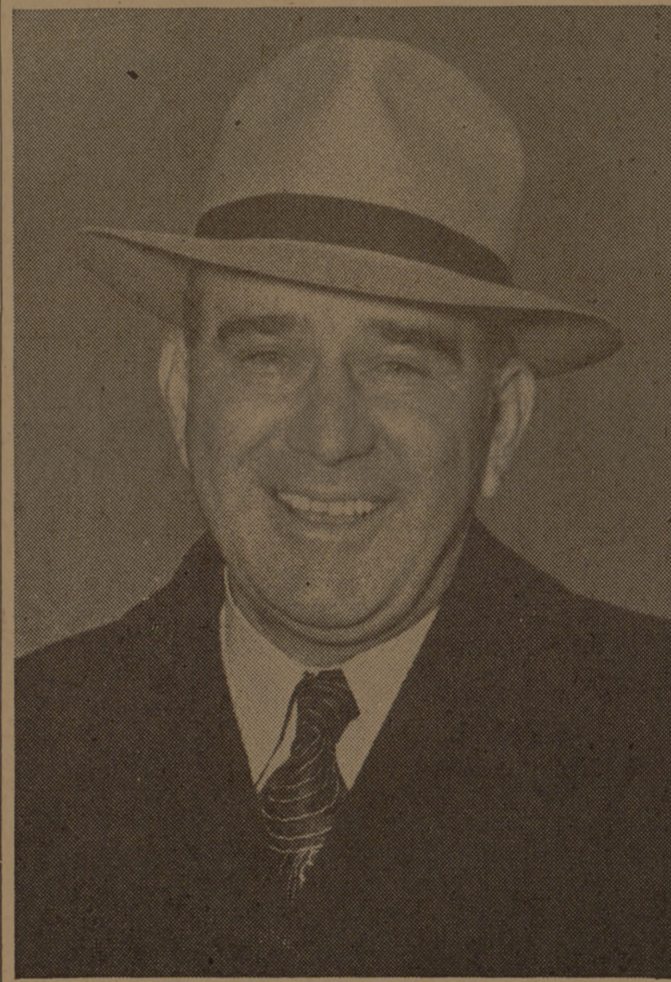
To clarify some of the arguments given on the coupon book question, the athletic department made it known that all coupon book holders will be entitled to four games as originally prescribed. Three of those tilts will be home affairs—Texas Tech, T. C. U. and Arkansas.

Besides those three games, the holder will be entitled to choose any of the four conference games on the road.

Ernst Krenek, noted Czech composer of the opera, "Jonny Spielt Auf," has been appointed professor of music at Hamline university, St. Paul Minnesota.

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HEAD COACH
HOMER NORTON

1930 outfit losing only one game, that to the Texas Aggies by a count of 7-6. During the seasons of 1932 and 1933 his teams went through fourteen straight games before being scored upon, and twenty straight before being beaten, which is something of a record.

Came to A. & M. in '34

In 1934 Norton came to A. & M. and from then until 1939 his material was scant, and Aggie teams went through some rather lean years. With spring training of 1939, however, those close to the football picture at Aggieland began to smile, and Coach Norton "delivered the goods"—which is a masterpiece of understatement.

His 1939 team started the season unheralded and unclaimed, but swept through a ten game schedule undefeated and untied, and climaxed a perfect season by defeating Tulane 14-13 in the

make up his mind in a split second which play to call, and a team which has almost perfect timing. To use the "Shuffle" effectively a team must be drilled for many long hours, and for this reason Coach Norton has had to lay it aside. For with the war, and the speedup program in effect, not enough time is available to practice this sensational attack.

But some day, if and when Norton finds the right combination, the "Double Shuffle" will once more be trotted out, and with the right kind of team handling it, brother, somebody's football team had better look out when Homer Norton's outfit hits town. The vaunted "T" formation will be forgotten when the "Double Shuffle" clicks.

1942 Season

This year finds Coach Norton with a team generally conceded to be one of the better outfits of the Southwest. In 1941 the Southwest Conference still clung to the old adage that "the champions never repeat" although A. & M. after winning in 1939 had tied for the crown in 1940. But Coach Norton's Aggies soon stilled that cry forever. With practically all the stars of his great 1940 eleven gone, Norton developed one of the greatest passing attacks in 1941 the nation had seen since the days of Ray Morrison and his S. M. U. "aerial circus". With a green team

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