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Meet the Aggies of 1943 on Kyle Field

Norton's Youngsters Will Show Lots Of Fight This Season

Meet the Texas Aggies of 1943—all 45 of them, folks! And don't be surprised if Coach Homer Norton adds a few as the season progresses.

There are 16 backs, three centers, eight guards, 10 tackles and eight ends who are being issued new uniforms for the first on Texas A. & M.'s 1943 schedule of nine games.

The first opponent will be the Bryan Field Flyers on September 25 at Kyle Field, the Aggies' home gridiron.

The next three games will be on the road: October 2, a night game in San Antonio's Alamo Stadium against Texas Tech; a night game in Baton Rouge October 9 with Louisiana State; and the opening Southwest Conference fray against Texas Christian University at Fort Worth on October 16.

The second home game of the Aggies will be played against North Texas Agricultural College on October 23, this game replacing the date vacated when Baylor University gave up conference play for the duration.

October 30 will find Norton and his youngsters facing the Arkansas Razorbacks in Fayetteville, and the annual game with Southern Methodist will be played on Kyle Field here November 6. The Rice Institute game at Houston on November 13 will be the last for the Aggies except the annual Thanksgiving Day battle with the University of Texas Longhorns on the home grounds at College Station November 25.

Coach Norton and his assistants, Bill James, Manning Smith and Lil Dimmitt have divided the squad into three teams, and it is planned to substitute by teams during the coming season.

The 1943 Texas Aggie squad contains only four boys who were on the College Station campus for spring football practice. None of the present squad has made a varsity letter at Texas A. & M. or any other college or university. None

has had varsity "bench service" during a regular season, but all have had high school or junior college football experience of varying lengths of time.

By far the majority of Norton's squad is under 18 years of age, although some of the boys are older and are in school under deferment from military service because of the courses they are taking. One is married, and several may not be allowed to remain throughout the season by the selective service boards.

Norton's tentative first team has Eldon Long of San Benito and Marion Settegast of Houston, a pair of 6-footers at ends; Goble Bryant of Dallas and Monty Moncrief of Dallas, 200-pound tackles; Herbert Turley of San Antonio and Harry Neville of Conroe at guards; Dick Wright of Nacogdoches at center; and the backs are Earl Beesley of Dallas, Stanley "Red" Turner of Beaumont, Bob Butchofsky of Ysleta and Marion Flanagan of Sweetwater.

Pushing the "white shirts" are the "reds" with Bill Geer of Fort Worth and Jim Wiley of Dallas at ends; Otto Granzin of Miles and Sparky Eberle of Sweetwater at tackles; Charley Hohn of College Station and Charles Overly of Longview at guards; Bob Gary of Dallas at center and in the backfield are Don Deere of Breckenridge, George McAllister of Eden, Jess Burdett of Abilene and Bill Gunn of Columbus running neck and neck for the blocking spot, and James Hallmark of Kilgore.

The third team is two-deep at all but the center and one backfield post. Ends are C. E. Wright, Beaumont; C. W. Yeargain, Dallas; L. E. Moore, Forney, and R. L. Schodde, San Antonio.

Tackles are Joe Sacra, a late registrant from Denison; E. M. Goltz, Abilene; T. T. League of Hamilton; J. H. Jones of Wichita Falls; C. R. Shira of Hamilton, and J. S. Williams of Haskell.

Guards are W. A. Brown of Grapeland; H. N. Brennecke of Brenham; J. L. Mizell of Conroe, and B. R. Reynolds of Houston. The center is O. H. Sims of Houston, and backs are: E. H. Muehlhaue, Belton; W. F. Berger, Sonora; B. G. McCurry, Royce City; E. R. Callender, College Station; W. M. Soyars, Sabinal; K. F. Pogue, Dallas and D. R. Hughes, McLeod.

Advance ticket reservations received to date by the A. & M. athletic office indicate the 1943 season will see large crowds at Kyle Field despite wartime travel restrictions and the inexperience of the squad that will represent Texas A. & M. in the Southwest Conference race.

Coach Norton called the team together in the midst of practice early this week and complimented the boys for the manner in which they have pitched in and mastered the Aggie system of football in so short a time.

"Your running game at this stage of training is very pleasing to me," Norton told the youngsters. "You can win some ball games with a little more improvement. Now we'll start in on the Football Story Continued..... passing game, and if you do as well with it as you have with the running plays, we'll give somebody a good football game."

And after practice the coach delivered his annual pre-season oration.

"The boys," Norton said, "seem to realize the responsibility that is on their shoulders to play the high class of football that fans have come to expect from all teams wearing the Maroon and White.

"We must admit that there is a lack of experience on the squad, but by the same token the other schools are facing just as serious

team out of boys who never have played together before this season.

"Some of the Southwest Conference teams have boys who have played a little bit of college football, but they all are strangers to the various systems of play employed at the different schools.

"Of course if I had my choice, I'd take experienced boys; but let me tell you right now that I've never before seen such determination, such willingness to learn, such eagerness to fill the shoes and jerseys of the regulars on the Aggie teas of years gone by.

"When the new numbering system prevented some of the new boys from getting the jerseys of the Routts, Kimbrough, Thomason, Robnett, Boyd, Pugh and our other fine boys, the newcomers were heart-broken. They came out for football with a single purpose—to carry on for the fellows they have seen play and had read about—and I may be less optimistic after a couple of games, but I firmly believe these boys we have here will give any team on our schedule the battle of their lives.

"Sure they're green. They'll be trapped, sucked in, boxed out and run-over. I know that. But the team that does too much of it is going to know it hasn't been playing checkers or parcheesi.

"I'm really agreeably surprised with my 1943 team. They may not play the best football in the world, but they'll be trying to win every game. They'll make mistakes, and those mistakes will roll off and be forgotten when they show the spirit I know is in them—and come back after a let-down with fire in their eyes and the old jinniger in their play.

"From the players' bench, I'm going to have the time of my life. Win or lose the boys are going to be playing football for the lessons it teaches in cooperation, teamwork, good sportsmanship and fine physical fitness. I'm going to play a lot of boys, make frequent substitutions by teams so the youngsters will not stay in there and get hurt because they're too tired to protect themselves at all times.

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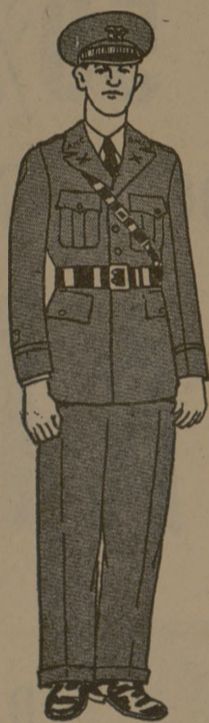
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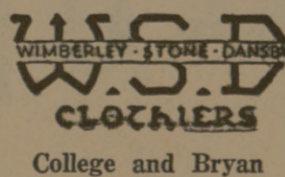


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