

Pigskin Prospects Sighted In By Aggie Foes

Aggies Field Strongest Team Since Pre-War Days

The Texas Aggies may or may not be up there when the Southwest Conference championship for 1946 is awarded but at least the fellow who is will know the Aggies have been trying.

This year the Aggies have the best and the most material they have had since the pre-war years BUT the same holds good at every other conference school. That explains why Head Coach Homer Norton is not shouting to the skies that his team will win all their games and be the champs.

To the contrary, the Aggie mentor says that he feels confident that the winner will not come through the season undefeated, and it would not surprise him if the winner bites the dust twice. Asked who he expected to beat the Aggies he replied, "I surely hope that no one does but it probably will be one of those teams we least expect to do it. That's the way it goes in the Southwest Conference."

Lettermen will be plentiful—at last count there were 46 or so on the possible list BUT AGAIN, that means little. Many of those are of war-time variety and in some cases played but part of a year before Uncle Sam pulled them

in for his team. Coach Norton explained that in such cases it was the policy of the Athletic Department to award those boys letters. There are a lot of pre-war lettermen returning BUT there is a question of their ability to go now as they did then. Age does not improve athletes' legs and Aggie legs are no exceptions.

He expects about 150 men to try for the team and said that everyone would have an equal chance to make the team. "At the outset we will break them into two teams with the center the head man. We will scrimmage daily and from those workouts we anticipate that the best on each team will show up. Then we will gradually shift them about until we think we have a winning combination. By Sept. 20, when we divide the squad into the A and B squads, the apparently best 44 men out of the 150 will be picked for the A squad.

"That does not mean the boy assigned to the B squad is to stay there all season. The B squad is expected to furnish all replacements for the A squad and those who show in the B games may move up the following week, with a resulting move back for some."

The post-war version of the Eagle grid machine will be the first grid team to don the North Texas green and white since the 1942 season when the Dentonites slumped to third place in the Lone Star Conference. The Eagles have taken the LSC crown five times unshared and once with a tie with East Texas State, which is more than any other school in the loop.

Twelve returning lettermen are expected to be in Denton for fall training. Heading the list are Willburn Curnutt, 200-pound guard and Fred McCain, 180-pound back, who were both all-conference in 1942. Other returning lettermen are backs: Glenn Johnson, Joe Gieb, and Paul Richardson; ends: Bill Oglesby and Dan Garza; tackles: Nick Ruggieri and Leroy Gibson; guards: Maurice Waters and Jimmie Cook. Eighty-six grid prospects reported for spring training at North Texas last spring and Mitchell is expecting most of the spring trainees back for the '46 season.

It will be the first year for Mitchell and Walker at NT. The two coaches were at Marshall High School until they accepted the Eagle offer. Mitchell, a 1925 graduate of West Texas State College, has a game record of 165 wins against 46 losses and 8 ties. Walker graduated from North Texas State in 1940. An Eagle griddier himself, Walker lettered for three years in tackle position. While in the service, Walker served as a captain in the Marine Raiders in the Pacific.

May Give Aggies Trouble
By Clark H. Schooley
Director Sports News Texas Tech
The largest squad in Texas Tech history is expected to report Sept. 2 for the opening of football practice, but Coach Dell Morgan is uncertain whether there will be enough good talent from which to mold a team which can hold its own with opponents.

About 125 candidates are expected to report, about half of them ex-servicemen. There probably will be about 80 lettermen and only five men from the 1945 squad. But spring practice showed many of the veterans will be unable to play much of any game or in many games during the year.
Coach Morgan is hopeful for a strong team, but he will predict few victories in a schedule which includes four Southwest conference teams and four 1945 Bowl teams.

Sooners Say They're Easy
By O. U. Sports Publicity Dept.
Oklahoma projects: Like every other college team this season, Oklahoma will be stronger than last year. Apparently Coach Tatum will acquire 20 Sooner "O" winners from past seasons, all but three of them discharged war veterans. Of the 56 Oklahoma players considered certain to report back for the start of autumnal drills, 38 are returned war vets, five are deferred and 13 are under age or too young to register.

The material is alarmingly unbalanced with line and backfield equally represented among the 20 returning lettermen at 10 each. The line strength is generally unsatisfactory to the coaches with end the weakest position and center the only one measuring up to pre-war caliber. Backfield prospects are so-so. For example, of the eight letterbacks considered sure to return, only two, Jack Venable and Joe "Junior" Golding have even been starters.

It's virtually an All-Oklahoman squad. Of the 56 players, 45 are from Oklahoma, nine from nearby Texas, one from Arkansas and one from Mississippi.
Like Nebraska and Kansas of the Big Six conference, the Sooners are breaking in a new system. Tatum is inaugurating T formation for virtually very play and the Sooner GI's back from war, nearly all of them accustomed to single wing or A alignments when they last played at Norman, have had constant difficulty with fumbled laterals and the new T style of blocking high in the line. The OU

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one off the A squad to make room for him. At no time do we plan on having more than the 44 men on the A team.

"The plans are subject to change but as it stands now that seems to be the most logical way to find our best men. The fact that a man has lettered, or has made the All-Conference team, or even got All-America mention does not win him an A team assignment automatically. This year he will have to prove he is better than others to get up there," Norton explained.

As to beating Texas in Austin this year he said, "Let's not play that game on paper now, or at any time during the season. Let's wait until we meet them in Memorial Stadium on next Thanksgiving."

Looks Like Good Opener
By Dade Neville McCloud
NTSC News Service
North Texas State College's 1946 football fall training camp will get underway Sept. 1 with 110 gridders expected to report according to Ochs Mitchell and Don Walker, NT coaches, with the first center against Texas A. & M. Sept. 21.

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quarterbacks also have had trouble trying to learn in a few short weeks the fancy feinting and feeding Tatum's T handoffs call for. Some progress was made but in general the Sooners will have to learn the Tatum T as they go along this fall. And facing Army, Texas Aggies, all of them with established systems, Tatum's green outfit is face to face with three quick spills in their first three games and more of the same later although they should grow better and handle the ball more smoothly as they gradually become accustomed to the new formation.

Probably Hard to Beat
By Jim Corbett
Sports Publicity L. S. U.
Prospects for Louisiana State's 1946 football array are currently riding a bull market with optimism reaching up to the coaching staff.

With nine of the eleven 1945 regulars returning, plus the return to participation of 22 former lettermen just returned from military service, the outlook looks bright in Tiger town. Coach Bernie Moore agrees he will field a better team this fall than the contingent that copped seven out of nine games in '45, but he is also aware that each opponent will also have improved and the competition will be vastly strengthened. Linemen returning from last year's starting eleven include Clyde Lindsey, end; Earl Tullos and Fred Land, tackles; Herd Miller, guard and Mel Didier, center; fast stepping Bengal backs returning are All-Conference fullback Gene "Red" Knight, ambidextrous "Slim Jim" Cason, and Dan Sandifer halfbacks, and Tittle and Ray Coates, quarterbacks. Outstanding G. L.'s returners are Ed Champagne, Walter "Piggy" Barnes, Holly Heard and Fred Hal, all tackles; Wren Worley and Russ Foti, guards; Shelton "Buck" Ballard and Charles "Chuck" Schroll, centers; Jeff Burkett, fullback, Joe Glamp, right halfback; and Carroll Griffith, wingback.

Dutch Meyer Optimistic
Next fall's Horned Frog eleven will be the best to represent the Purple and White since the 1941 team wrecked the Texas Longhorns' title aspirations.

That's the honest opinion of no less an authority than Coach Dutch Meyer himself. But he hastens to qualify this opinion:
"Every other coach in the conference can say as much or more. What we do depends a lot on how tough the opposition proves to be. "From the word that's going around. I gather that no fewer than five teams are secretly planning to cop the conference championship! So we'll just give 'em our best and hope!"

The Frogs will look like a different football team this fall because they'll be operating from single wing instead of from the familiar flankerback formation the Meyer has used for the past five or six years.

The Frogs appear to have the makings of the best passing game seen in these parts since Sammy Baugh and Davey O'Brien tossed 'em around for T. C. U. Jim Lucas, Leon Joslin, Lindy Berry and others are well equipped to uphold the Frogs' reputation for the sharpest sort of air attack.

In fact, the backfield will be the strongest in many a day. There are five or six good candidates for every post, with such new men as Dave Bloxom, Tom Bishop, Charles Jackson, Pat Wright and others adding to the strength of last year's lettermen.

Weakness would appear to be center and tackles. Jim Cooper is the only letterman available at this position, and it'll be a miracle if he can keep things going without some adequate relief.
Salvation here could be the return of Billy Hale, who lettered at center in 1943, who would be a senior. Hale was captain-elect of the Texas Tech eleven of 1943, when he entered the Navy V-12 program and played for the Frogs the first half of that season.

Billy writes Coach Meyer that he plans to re-enter T. C. U. (if he is discharged from the Navy in time) and will play his final season of collegiate competition with the Frogs.
Besides the men who were out for spring practice, a number of top high school graduates are expected to report in July and Sept. Oldtimers expected in from service include Bob McCollum, '42; John Bond, '41 and '42; John Steele,

'42; C. J. Fraley, '43; and John Watkins, '42.

Don't Forget the Bruins

Baylor Sports Publicity Dept.
When fall training gets underway, Baylor will have the largest and most talented squad in its long history on hand—roughly 150 men. Of these, 18 are lettermen from the 1945 season; 12 are men who won varsity numerals before the war; and another 30 have had prewar college experience, either freshman lettermen or varsity squaddens.

Biggest problem facing Head Coach Frank Kimbrough in September will be one that has never troubled Bruin grid mentors in the past—finding the right combination. For the first time since the Southwest Conference was organized in 1915, Baylor has almost too much material to work with—rather than too little.

In the past a coach considered himself "loaded" if he had as much as a thirty man squad. Consequently, picking a starting lineup was anything but a problem—it was generally the first 11 gridders that came along. Little wonder that the current post-war manpower inflation on the Baptist campus has coaches and fans alike a bit bewildered.

To aid Kimbrough in separating the chaff from the wheat in this bumper crop of players, Baylor has added two assistant coaches to his staff—W. C. "Clark" Jarnagin and A. E. "Pete" Jones.

Jarnagin, who was graduated from Hardin-Simmons in 1937, served under Kimbrough at the same school in 1942 as Line Coach. He comes to Baylor from the Navy where he coached the line two successive seasons for the North Carolina Pre-Flight club at Chapel Hill, N. C.

Jones, a Baylor graduate of '31, comes back to his alma mater from Texas A. & M. where he served as business manager besides coaching football and baseball for two years. Prior to that "Mr. Pete" was head football coach at Bryan High School for 13 years.

Lack of experience may cost the Bears a few games this season. Since Baylor did not compete in '43 and '44 this year's squad will be made up largely of freshmen and sophomores—as evidenced by the fact that only five men will complete their varsity eligibility in the coming campaign.

Inexperienced or not the Bruins figure to give any team an interesting afternoon this fall, and if some of the talented youngsters come through as expected, Baylor might well be a prominent contender for the 1946 SWC grid title.

Razorbaks Are Unknown

According to most predictions, Arkansas will not be a strong contender for the Southwest Conference title this year but may give some of the leading teams a run for their money.

Arkansas' new coach, John Barnhill, will probably instill a bit of life into the team, enough to make all opponents work for any points made. Barnhill is sticking to the so-called "Tennessee" type of formation.

In all probability, the Razorbaks will look to Clyde Scott, the "middle" who gave Glenn Davis and "Doc" Blanchard so much trouble in the Army-Navy game in '45, as a nucleus for the team. Scott will be Arkansas' best bet for back in many a year.

Ponies to Give Good Ride

By Lester Jordan
SMU Sports News Director
Eight regulars from the 1945 SMU football team that finished second in the Southwest Conference are due to return this fall, but thus far Coach Matty Bell has found no stars likely to replace Doak Walker and Co-captains Tom Dean and Howard Maley.

Battling for Dean's position at left tackle are John Hamberger, former Sunset high star; Joe Ethridge, a squadman last year; and Jack Lindsey, a freshman star back in 1942.

Seeking Maley's position at fullback are David Moon, letterman from last year; Harold Bartlett, squadman in 1945; David Redman, star Pony in 1943; and Bill Elliott, all-stater at Highland Park last year.

Outstanding candidates for Walker's position are Billy Mizell, letterman last season; Gilbert Johnson, freshman from Tyler; Carroll Parker, squadman in 1942; and Billy Weatherford, Highland Park high school star last year.

Returning regulars are Eugene Wilson and Harold Clark, ends; Pete Kotlarich, tackle; Earl Cook and Claud Hill, guards; Leon Schultz, center; Toadie McClintock, blocking back; Paul Page, wingback. Some of these men will have difficulty in keeping starting assignments as approximately 20 lettermen from other years have returned to the squad.

No Coupon Books Will Be Issued Prior To Sept. 9

The athletic business manager, P. L. (Pinky) Downs, has asked students NOT to come to the athletic department for their athletic coupon books, as they will not be issued until September 9. They will start issuing these books at that time to all students who have paid their full student activities fees ONLY. (These will be issued in the rotunda of the Administration Building.) After all students who have paid their full student activities fees have received their coupon books, the books will go on sale at the Athletic Department at \$7.20 each.

Downs also announced that there are only 7066 tickets available to students for the Thanksgiving Day game, and that those tickets would go on sale to students who

pay the full \$16 first. After these students have been taken care of they will go on sale to the remaining students—if there are any left. However, these tickets do not go on sale until after school starts in September, as all students are to be given an equal chance.

Married students WILL be allowed to purchase coupon books for their wives, but these books will NOT be good for a ticket to the Texas University game Thanksgiving Day. These books will also go on sale in September, except time and place to be announced later. Downs asks the students, "Please do not come down before that time." The price on the books for the wives will be the same as that paid by the students for themselves, \$7.20.

Rice is Definite Threat

Rice's 1946 football hopes are brighter than at any time during the past four years. They will have the power to be Southwest Conference champions if they get the breaks, and if some of the other schools don't get the idea that the championship cup shouldn't rest down Houston way for the next year.

Rice has a total of thirty-five returning lettermen, and among these stars one All-American and three All-Conference are to be found. H. J. Nichols, All-American guard in '44, will be back in the Jess Neeley's lineup for the '46 season as well as Huey Keeney, N. L. Nicholson, and George Walmsley all of whom are All-Conference men from the 1945 team.

With these outstanding stars, returning lettermen, and all the high school talent available to them, Rice will more than likely be up near the top of the heap when the final whistle blows in November.

Last Hurdle Will Be High

By Bill Sansing
Director Sports News Texas U.
With the 1946 football season a matter of days away, the Texas Longhorns are still a problematical squad.

For all their 42 lettermen, and returnees from three Conference championship teams, it will still take several weeks of workouts and perhaps a game to measure the full strength of the '46 squad. Potentially a powerful organization, there are definite questions to which solid answers must be found before the Steers will go to the favorite's spot.

Number one question revolves around passing, and that's a question for Uncle Sam, because the Steer's ace, Bobby Layne, is up

for induction in September. Second problem will be to find the true ability of boys back from the service, who have previous experience on Texas teams ranging clear back to 1939. And the third trouble spot is a lack of good guards and tackles. With the mass of material reporting, there are some promising applicants, but no tried and tested stars are among them.

The Steers are very well set at center—with four former high school all-staters on hand, including All-Conference Dick Harris; at end, with All-American Hub Bechtel leading the way, and at blocking back, with five former first stringers in the race.

With a murderous schedule and the toughest Southwest Conference race in years ahead of them, every one of Texas' questionable holes will need a thorough plugging if Dana X. Bible is going to close out his 34 years of coaching with a winner.

"B" Game Tax \$1.00

P. L. (Pinky) Downs Dr., Athletic Business Manager, announced this week that the admission price for the "B" squad football games will be \$1.00 including tax. This does not affect the students however as they will be admitted on their athletic coupon books.

All Star Clash Friday

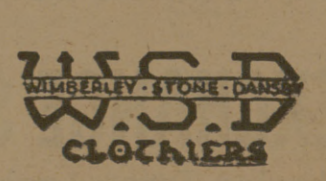
The 1946 College Station softball league officially comes to a close on Friday afternoon, August 23, when the two all-star teams, the Cyclones and the Gremlins, tangle for the title. Satch Elkins' Cyclones will meet Bennie Zinn's Gremlins on the Drill Field diamond across from the "Grove" at 5:30 that afternoon.



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