

# KICKING IT AROUND

By ART HOWARD

## Sugar Bowl Loss by Mile Relay Team Due To Dropped Baton When Runners Collide

A little thing like a dropped baton kept the Aggie mile relay team from a certain victory in the Sugar Bowl Track Meet last week. Usually in dropped baton means a last place for a team, but the great Cadet squad finished only six yards behind the winner, Oklahoma.

Bill Napier was running about a foot and a half ahead of Fuqua, the Oklahoma A&M first man, when he dropped the baton six yards from the second Aggie runner, Ervin Bilderback.

Reports as to how much yardage was lost vary from twenty-five to thirty yards, but there is no doubt but that the Texas A&M team could have won easily without this handicap. Coach Ray Patterson said "the other two men were halfway around the curve by the time Bilderback got the baton." Bilderback, Holbrook, and Harner gained about eight yards apiece.

Napier and Fuqua were rounding a curve and their swinging arms collided, knocking the baton out of Napier's hand. Although it was an accident, it was a bad break for the Aggie team.

All three teams, Oklahoma A&M, Texas A&M, and LSU, broke the Sugar Bowl meet record of 3:21.2 but the Oakie's 3:18.4 was chalked up as the new mark. This does not compare favorably with the same Aggie team's mark of 4:14.8 in the Drake Relays last year.

Even the low estimate of 25 yards lost would mean a difference of about 5 seconds at the mile pace. Of course the Aggie team had the advantage of trying to catch up with the pacesetters with an all-out effort, but they undoubtedly would have beaten Oklahoma A&M and hung up an even better Sugar Bowl mile record.

The team of Bill Napier, Ervin Bilderback, Ray Holbrook, and Art Harner had looked forward to winning this match and missed a lot of their Christmas Holidays preparing for it.

Coach Frank Anderson said that he was pleased with the team's work and that he thought that it would have made a 3:16 mile had the accident not happened.

## Karow Loses Verbal Battle With Ump As Opposing Player Pushes Ball Out of Hoop

Several basketball coaches have voiced criticism of the officials this year because of excessive whistle-blowing, but when Marty Karow ran out on the court that was too much for the ump and they gave the Aggies a technical foul.

The incident happened at the Fort Worth Invitational Tournament while the Aggies were playing LSU. The A&M squad had gone scoreless for the first fifteen minutes before making a score but they soon got hot and started making points. With three minutes to go, Billy Turnbow sank a shot which left the Aggies but one point behind, 42-41. Mike Garcia then hit from far out but with the ball two-thirds of the way through the hoop, a LSU player jumped up and pushed the ball back out of the basket.

This should have given us the score and a technical foul to boot, but the two officials didn't see the play. Naturally, Marty studied and started raising Cain, his Irish blood getting hot.

Two points were mighty valuable right then and he didn't want to get cheated out of them. But umpire Carl Sears (who had been looking the other way at the time) refused to give in and even gave the Aggies a technical foul.

Even the timekeeper raised his voice and shouted "Two points," but Sears refused to budge.

Luckily it all had a happy ending when Turnbow sank a field goal to put us one point behind, and with the game time already out, Bill Batey sank two free throws to give A&M the game.

But it would have been interesting to hear what Karow would have said to Sears if that had decision had cost us the game.

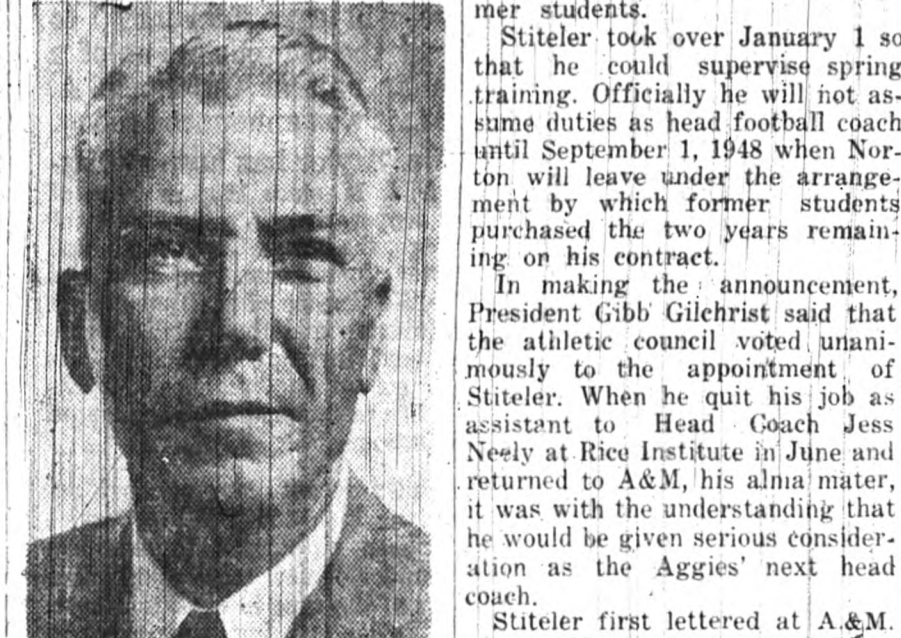
Joe Cooper, defenseman of the Cleveland Barons of the American Hockey League, operates a 20-alley bowling establishment in Winnipeg, Canada.

# 'Uncle' Bill James Retires from Aggie Coaching Staff

## Stiteler Appointed Head Football Coach

### 'Farmers' Mighty Mite' Takes Over In Time for 1948 Spring Training

The Farmers' Mighty Mite, 38-year-old Harry Stiteler, assistant football coach since June, 1947, has been named head football coach at A.&M., following payment of Homer Norton's unexpired contract by former students.



HARRY STITELER

## Bell to Fight For Abolition of PAT

DALLAS, Jan. 5 (AP)—Matty Bell of Southern Methodist, whose team won a championship by the margin of a point after touchdown, is going to renew a fight for its abolition this week when the National Football Coaches Association convenes in New York City.

"Every year," he pointed out today, "we hear the argument that the professional teams are making their game more interesting and exciting than the college brand and that we have to do something to keep pace."

"I contend that we can take a long stride ahead of the pros in the matter of thrill production by abolishing the try for point after touchdown. It was designed, of course, to reduce the number of the games. Few coaches think it fair for a team to lose a ball game by a missed extra point try after it has played its opponent on even terms or better in all-round football throughout the contest.

"Even if more tries result from abolishing the point try, I contend a much more thrilling game for the fans will result," Bell declared in projecting his principal argument for a change. "Teams seldom play for ties nowadays. They want to win. Take, for example, our game with Texas this year. We won, 14 to 13. I said then and I repeat now that Texas' failure to convert after its second touchdown in that game deprived the spectators of one of the wildest finishes football ever produced in the southwest. We were prepared to shoot the works in an effort to break a tie and win. Since we had the game won by a single point, our principal concern was to keep them from scoring. On offense we played conservative football.

Besides carrying off four of the five thoroughbred awards of 1947, Calumet Farm gained three second places in the Turf and Sport Digest annual poll.

## Mile Relay Team Takes Second Place At New Orleans

It was a hard luck-ridden mile relay team from Texas A&M that appeared in the annual Sugar Bowl track meet on Sunday, December 28 and came from way behind to take second place in a three way race with Oklahoma A&M and Louisiana State.

Bill Napier was the lead man for the Aggies and was going full speed around the quarter mile circular track at New Orleans high school stadium when he dropped the baton a scant ten yards from a waiting Ervin Bilderback. Napier tumbled and blinded from the sprint turned, stumbled back, grasped for the stick, found it and handed it to Bilderback who at this time was 35 yards away from the other runners.

Then the Aggie speedsters showed the stuff they were made of. Bilderback gained on the men from Stillwater and Baton Rouge. Ray Holbrook took the baton eagerly and pushed even further on to overcome the big lead. The stick passed hands to the Aggie anchor man, Art Harner, and the spikes of the blond team captain fairly flew around the track as he passed up LSU's contestant and was approaching the Oklahoma A&M man Richard Stople, when the finish line fairly flew in his face and the race was over. The 2:50.0 fans in the stadium, who had gasped when the baton slipped out of Napier's hands, were now on their feet in the last laps cheering on the hard pressed maroon and white speedsters. In their opinion, the Aggies deserved a win.

The mile relay was one of many sporting events put on by the Midwinter Sports Association in New Orleans. Oklahoma A. & M. and Louisiana State were respective winners of the Missouri Valley and Southeastern Conference track meets last spring while the Aggies are the SWC victors.

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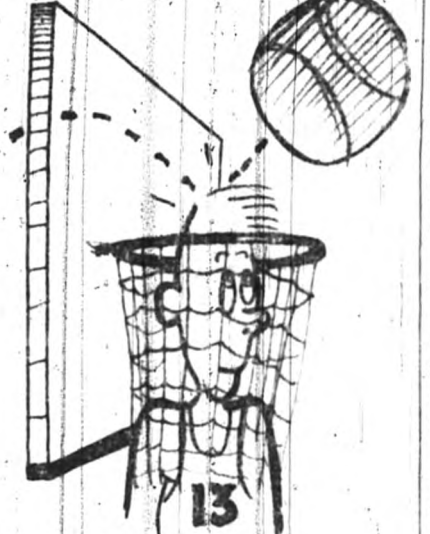
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# Battalion SPORTS

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## Aggie Cagers Finish Non-SWC Season With Five Victories

The Texas Aggie Cage Squad, twelve strong, enjoyed a highly successful holiday circuit. Three straight losses in as many tries were chalked up on the eastern



swing with defeats by Baldwin-Wallace, Ohio State, and Seton Hall.

The Baldwin-Wallace Yellow Jackets turned on the power to edge the visiting Cadets 29-64 but not before Forward Billy Turnbow jarred the buckets with 27 points to set a new scoring record at the Cleveland Arena. The previous record was 25 points set last spring.

Scoring was slower in the tilt against the Ohio State Buckeyes, 54-100. Bill Batey was high point

man for the Farmers with 12 tallies. Seton Hall proved to be a heart-breaker as the A&M hardwood artists dropped a 46-44 decision after a last-minute effort. Batey was again high-scoring with 15 points.

Immediately after Christmas, the Aggies traveled to Fort Worth to take part in the Fort Worth Invitational tournament. Opening against the LSU Tigers, Marty Karow's charges edged the foe 45-44 after making up a 17-point deficit at half-time.

A discrepancy that missed the eye of officials Carl Sears and Rubie Lissinger almost cost the Cadets the game. The trouble arose after a Bongal cager had batted out the ball after it had settled in the basket.

Victory came after Batey had dropped in a charity in the closing seconds of the contest. The six-foot forward from Moulton again paced the Farmer scoring with 14 points.

Southern Methodist proved to be tougher as the high shooting Mustangs banged out a 47-30 victory. Billy Turnbow dumped in nine points to set the scoring pace for the maroon and white.

North Texas State managed a 50-55 win after Batey had hit the hoop for 24 tallies.

This leaves the A&M cage quintet with five wins and seven losses in non-conference play before clashing with Arkansas in the SWC opener next Friday night.

## High School All-State Scattered As Brackenridge Gets One, Scots None

DALLAS, Tex., Jan. 5 (AP)—Stars in Texas' 1947 high school football race were widely scattered and six of those bright enough to make the Texas Sportswriters Association All-State Team were from teams that failed to win district titles.

Selected by more than 100 coaches and from sportswriters over Texas, the all-state team announced today includes only one boy from last year's mythical eleven. This is Byron Townsend, great Odessa back who was a unanimous choice.

The extremely well-balanced team has only one player from state champion Brackenridge (San Antonio). And finalist Highland Park (Dallas) did not place a single man on the first team.

Odessa is the only school represented by more than one player, its other all-state performer being Gordon Headlee, a near unanimous choice at guard.

William Wilson, Ennis, and James Spencer, Breckenridge, east-tackle, 18, 5' 9 1/2", 172, senior.

Tackle, Charles O'Neal, Corpus Christi, 17, 6' 1", 200, senior.

Tackle, Bill Wilson, Sam Houston (Houston), 17, 6' 1", 190, senior.

Guard, Jerald Olive, Brackenridge (S.A.), 18, 5' 8", 186, senior.

Guard, Gordon Headlee, Odessa, 18, 6' 11", 200, senior.

Center, Don Menasco, Longview, 17, 6' 1", 200, senior.

Back, Henry Stollenwerk, Waxahachie, 17, 6' 1", 175, senior.

Back, Reed Quinn, Austin, 17, 6', 185, senior.

Back, Byron Townsend, Odessa, 18, 6', 180, senior.

Back, Bill Berkhalter, Texarkana, 17, 5' 5 1/2", 174, senior.

## 42 Football Star Hurt in Accident

Colleen Rogers, 26, of Bryan, co-captain of the 1947 Aggie football team, was seriously injured in a head-on collision near Waco, December 24.

Rogers, former Mart High School grid star, was suffering from a collapsed lung, broken jaw, and severe cuts and bruises, attendants at Hillcrest Hospital in Waco reported. His wife suffered a fractured pelvis and severe cuts on the face and legs.

Rogers' car collided head-on with one driven by a Waco man, John W. Ferguson, seven miles east of Waco, near the Teague-Creek Bridge on the Waco-Martin Highway.

Latest reports from Hillcrest Hospital state that Mr. and Mrs. Rogers are "greatly improved."

## Ponies Take Crown In Cage Tourney

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## Athletic Banquet To Hear Carothers

Frank S. Carothers of Houston, Texas businessman and civic leader, will be the principal speaker at the annual banquet honoring the Texas A&M football and cross-country teams by the Brazos County A&M club and the A&M Athletic Council, Friday night, January 16, at Sbisla hall.

Carothers is vice-president of the Norvell-Wilder Supply Co., of Houston, director of the Tyrrell Hardware Co. of Beaumont, director of the Port City State Bank of Houston, vice-president of the River Oaks Country club of Houston and has served as a director of the Houston chamber of commerce.

## Veteran Mentor Ends 13 Years at A&M To Devote Full Time to Camp Stewart

Line Coach Bill James' resignation was accepted last night at a meeting of the Athletic Council.

On behalf of the Council, a statement was released by Bill Carmichael that "The entire athletic staff regrets to see James leave. His fine character and superb coaching ability have added much to the athletic records of A&M."

"Uncle Bill" has attempted to resign several times in the past years but each time was persuaded to stay on for "another year." Coach James has worked at A&M only during the football season and spring practice, the rest of the time he has devoted to Camp Stewart and various ranching interests.

After coaching a year at Birmingham High in Fort Worth in '23 and to TCU the following season, Coach James coached the Texas U. line from 1925-31.

Bill came to A&M in 1934, succeeding Cal Hubbard, now a famous major league baseball umpire. He turned out three All-American men, guard Joe Routh, '37, '38 tackle Joe Boyd, '39, and guard Marshall Robinson, '40.

In 1939 the combined line and backfield of A&M gave up an average of only 76 yards per game. Uncle Bill will always be remembered by A&M for his part in turning out this immortal Aggie team which won National honors. Coach James' resignation will become effective on March 1, but his successor has been announced as yet.

West Texas, Camp Stewart is known as one of the finest athletic camps in the state and is the summer meet for athletes. It has grown so in the past few years that Coach James has a full-time job with it alone.

A little-known fact about Bill James is that he played tackle for Center against Texas A&M on January 2, 1927 when the "Twelfth-man Tradition" was born.

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BILL JAMES

## Border-Southwest Playoffs Proposed

EL PASO, Texas, Jan. 5 (AP)—Border Conference executives December 29 at their annual winter meeting authorized an effort to arrange playoffs in basketball and football between the nine-school conference and the Southwest Conference.

A two-year football contract between Texas Tech and Texas College of Mines was signed, the first game to be played at Lubbock next year on November 6. In 1949 the teams clash in El Paso on November 5.

## Daniel's Speech Reset for Friday

Attorney General of Texas Price Daniel, who was supposed to speak to the Pre-Law Society this afternoon, has been rescheduled for Friday, President of the Society Peyton McKnight has announced.

Time and place of Daniel's speech will be announced later.

ONLY TWO PUNTS  
AUSTIN, Tex. (AP)—The Texas School for the Deaf wound up its football season undefeated, untied, rolling up 510 points in nine games, an average of more than 56 per game. The opposition got a total of 13. Only twice during the season did the team have a punt.

Jess Hawthorne, former University of Texas player, is the coach.

That's Mary—she lives in a world all her own since she got her new Marjorie Montgomery Lester's Smart Shop Bryan

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