

Many Aggie Traditions and Customs Originated With Sports

DeWare Field House Named In Honor of Famous Aggie in '39

DeWare Field House, the building that houses the basketball court and seats for spectators attending the games, was named for a famous Aggie athlete of many years ago. C. A. DeWare, for whom it was named, played football for A&M in '07, '08, and '09. He was captain of the football team in '08, and in '09, made the All-Southwestern Conference team as an end. He also played baseball for A&M and was captain of the team in '09.

The main function of the field house is to house the spectators for basketball games but it has many other varied uses. Tennis, volley ball, boxing and wrestling matches, and handball are some of the other sports that can be accommodated within its spacious walls.

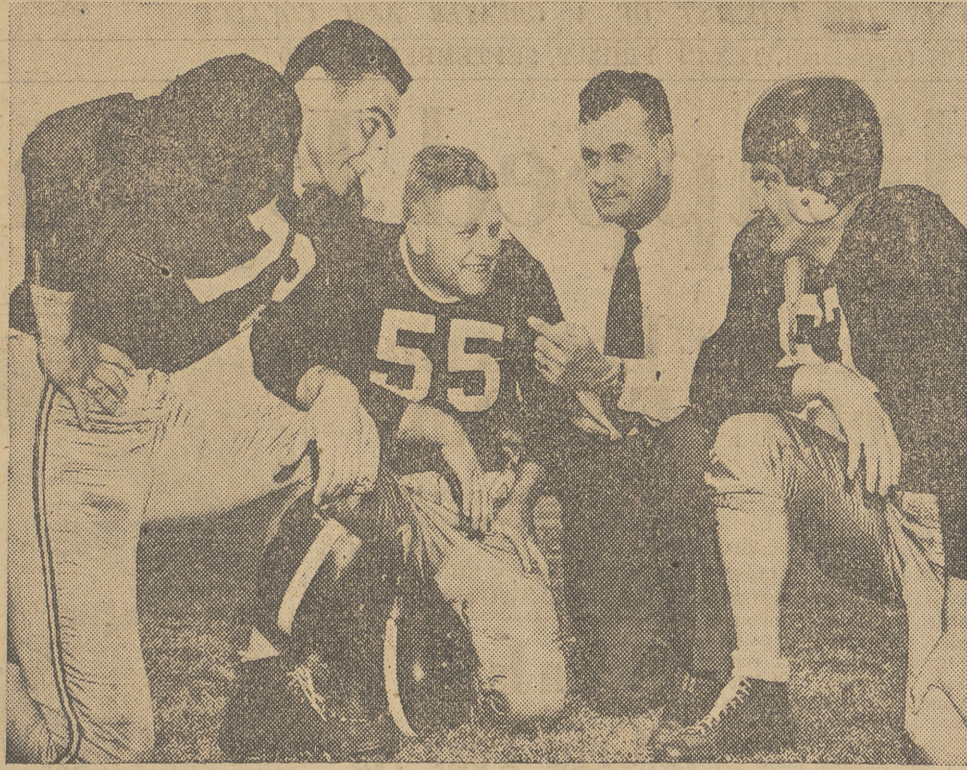
Also included are lecture rooms, lockers, examination rooms, shower baths, tumbling rooms, training rooms for boxers and wrestlers,

and offices for Physical Education Department. It also contains its own heating plant.

The seating capacity of DeWare Field House is approximately thirty-five hundred, half of the seats being placed on either side of the basketball court. It was originally intended that there be an upper deck of seats on each side of the court but their construction was never authorized.

With the present enrollment at A&M so high, nothing has been needed worse than that second tier. The field house will now seat a little over one third of the student body.

DeWare Field House was finished in 1924 at a cost of approximately \$140,000. It was originally called Memorial Gymnasium but in 1939, its name was changed to DeWare Field House to honor DeWare, one of the first football greats at A&M.



Line coach BILL DuBOSE emphasizes a point as he talks with three of his most outstanding linemen for the '49 season. Left to right, SAM MOSES, tackle from Lockhart, center JIMMY FLOWERS from Dallas, and guard A. J. DUGAS from Port Arthur.

Some Claim the Aggie Yell is Descended From Civil War

By BILL POTTS

The traditions and customs surrounding athletics at A&M are many and varied. Contained in this article are some of the more spectacular that have originated in connection with athletics as well as a few notes on the beginning of football at Aggieland.

There is much speculation today among A&M students as to how the Aggie yell and wildcat originated. Some claim that they are both descended from the old Rebel yell of the Civil War period while others contend that there is no connection whatsoever.

Those that do claim that these traditional ventings of enthusiasm originated from the old confederate yell are just as adamant in saying that the yell today sounds nothing like the one which veterans of the Confederate armies used to scare the devil out of the "Damn Yankees."

The A&M yell is different from other school's cheers in that it is called a yell instead of a cheer. Also, those men in white that will be in front of the student body this fall at football games are not "cheerleaders" but yell leaders.

The oldest yells used today are the two preserved as part of the words of the Aggie War Hymn: "Chig-ga-raa-gar-em" and "Hullaballo caneck caneck." Another old one is "Farmers Fight," also included in the War Hymn, which dates back to the time when A&M students were called Farmers rather than Aggies.

"Run!" Started T Most of the familiar yells of today were created shortly before 1916. Yell Leader W. K. "Run" Hanson probably started more A&M traditions than any other

Aggie, more than Sully Ross. For one thing, he introduced a dog mascot, who not only wore a blanket but trousers as well! This took place during the season of 1915, 17 years before Reveille appeared.

Hanson originated the T formation. It became quite a colorful spectacle, for each cadet carried a maroon handkerchief in one hand, white handkerchief in the other. All signals were given, the T would suddenly become all maroon, all white, or white on one side, maroon on the other.

Another touch of color in Hanson's day was the creation of the letters A M C in the stands. White shirts were worn under the blue blouses as regulation at that time. Cadets seated at certain spots in the stands took off their coats, letting their white shirts show—and there was A M C in living letters.

Still another touch of color at football games is remembered by students still on the campus. Campaign hats used to contain red linings, and when hats were flashed during certain yells, the stands became brilliantly red.

Capacity: 500 Before football became important at A&M, squads scrimmaged in front of Ross Hall, where the YMCA is now. The Aggies became football "champions of the south" by beating Tulane in 1902. That game was played at the Brazos County Fair Grounds, on College Avenue where Kazmeier's chicken farm is now.

In 1905 a new athletic field was opened, called Kyle Field in honor of several members of the Kyle family, many of whom had been prominent in A&M affairs. The old football field ran East-West, crosswise of the present North-South field. A wooden

grandstand with the enormous capacity of 500 (that's right, 500) was hailed as "the finest in the state." Extensions, in the form of bleachers without sun-shade, were soon added. But students were unhappy, even so, because of the lack of a gymnasium or field house.

Seven Years Bad Luck Despite the acquisition of Kyle Field, luck went against the Aggies. For seven years they were beaten by Texas University teams.

But the '09 A&M team was different. Not only did it beat the Haskell Indians—a feat comparable to beating Notre Dame today—but it walked over TU twice in one year. Playing in Houston the Aggies beat Texas 23-0. Later, in Austin, the Aggies got a 5-0 victory by virtue of a single touchdown (Only 5 points for a touchdown in those days).

That same year the A&M baseball team faced the N. Y. Giants in an exhibition game, and lost only 0-7—not bad, when you re- (See TRADITION, Page 8)

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Varsity Cage Coach Expects Better Record This Season

By BILL HAILE

Varsity basketball Coach Marty Karow is looking forward to a much better basketball season this year. For the first time in many years, A&M will have some real timber toppers on the hardwoods.

The lack of height in the last few years has played havoc with

the varsity basketballers, but it looks like that handicap is fading out fast. The two boys that are helping out greatly in overcoming this problem are Buddy Davis, 6'8", and Ken Sutton, 6'7".

Most of the 1949 season squad will be back for duty. There will be a few names missing from the roster when the basketballers

start practice; among them will be last year's Captain Gene Schrickel, and Jim Kirkland, Bill Batey, and Sam Jenkins.

Returning to the squad with letters will be John DeWitt, Marvin Martin, Jack Miller, Truett Mobley, Jewell McDowell, Wallace Moon and Bill Turnbow.

Up from the Fish team will be Buddy Davis, Ed Houser, Dick Bentley, Ray Walker, Bill Bybee, Ken Sutton, Mouse Williams, Bob Farmer and Bob Church. These freshmen along with the other Fish numeral winners, will move into the ranks of the varsity squad and will be counted on a great deal in bringing the Aggies back to fame on the hardwoods.

The 1949 Aggie freshmen enjoyed a highly successful season, winning from the Rice and Baylor frosh and later from the overrated University of Texas freshmen.

This year the Aggie hoop artists (See BASKETBALL, Page 6)

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