

# Aggie Clay-Courters Will Be Greatly Improved This Year

By RALPH GORMAN

As coach W. M. Dowell begins his third year as varsity and freshman tennis coach, the onlookers from over around the clay courts are expecting him to turn out a prospective conference champion from the eight erstwhile Aggies who showed up so well in spring play.

Dowell has four promising sophomores coming up from the Fish ranks whom he will depend on heavily when the Aggie netmen begin meeting their opponents of the 1950 schedule.

Rated as the No. 1 man according to spring play, we have R. G. DeBerry of San Angelo. This sophomore from out West Texas way is a very good doubles player and has a unique style similar to that of Pancho Gonzales, in that he uses both hands when making a backhand stroke. DeBerry has mastered this particular stroke, which is found to be most unusual on college courts.

Following close behind DeBerry is little Bobby Duncan, sophomore from Corpus Christi. Bobby is one of the most aggressive players in the game and he plays each stroke with natural ability.

Another Soph

Slated for the No. 3 spot on this

aggregation of claycourters is Royce Tate, another sophomore who is an excellent doubles man. Tate won state high school championship in doubles play in '48.

Completing the top four we find Aaron Cohen, a San Antonio lad, who won the big city singles in '48.

There are but two returning lettermen this year to assist coach Dowell in giving the team that much desired experience.

Fryse Metcalf of Franklin will be seeking his third letter as he lettered first in '46 and returned in '49 to do it again. Metcalf was runner-up in the state tennis meet in '45.

Along with Metcalf, and another returning letterman, is Allen Aaronson, a very flashy netman from Cotulla. Aaronson is the most improved player out for the team this year. He is a junior, lettered in '49 play, and is showing promise that he will be the outstanding Aggie clay-courter for the coming season.

A squadman last year, Dick Hardin was listed among the ineligible because of junior college play the previous year. Hardin, who is from Wichita Falls, is an excellent doubles player, very much improved, and has three years of eligibility remaining.

Jimmy Gray, a Houston lad, who showed up exceedingly well as a freshman in '48, will be back with Coach Dowell this year. Gray played several good matches last spring.

Lost from the ranks of last year is Memo Elizando, a Mexico City lad, who replaced Bill Bennett as the No. 1 player of two years ago.

Also gone is Bennie Stanford of Dallas, Rodney Sellers of Price, Jimmy Wallis of Rockdale, and Ellis Garlington of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

### Replacements Good

Replacements are always in order when we suffer a loss and Galveston has done a wonderful job in furnishing us with not one, but two of exactly what we need.

The top ranking newcomer is Eugene Letsos, a well known figure in tennis circles over the state. Letsos was runner-up in the Inter-scholastic League Meet this past spring, having lost a very long and hard fought five set match to Bill Harris.

Very close behind Letsos, and pushing him all the while for his No. 1 spot, is Donald Farmer, another lad from the Island City. These two boys are the most promising of all incoming freshmen.

Word has it that Rice and the University will field the strongest teams in the Southwest Conference this year. Rice has two seniors, a junior, and a five year man, to give them a court full of veteran lettermen. Texas will be very strong in that they will have the state high school and the junior college champs of '48 becoming eligible this year.

TCU will come out with old rackets, new balls, and veteran players. They boast proudly of one Dixie Osbourne, who in reality is "nothing more" than the No. 1 Texas Junior Davis Cup man.

## Bill DuBose Line Coach Since 1948

William T. DuBose, better known as Bill, has been line coach for the Aggies since 1948 when Harry Stiteler requested that he brought from Waco.

DuBose was then head coach at Waco High School.

He and Stiteler worked together in 1938 when DuBose was line coach for Stiteler at Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi won the state high school championship that year, defeating Iquibock in the finals.

He became head coach at Corpus Christi in 1942 when Stiteler moved to Waco. Corpus lost the district title that year to Austin in the final minute of play. Austin later went on to win the state title.

DuBose became head coach at Waco in the fall of 1946 when Stiteler went to Rice. The Waco Tigers reached the state quarter-finals. The next year the Waco team finished second in the district.

Stiteler was an assistant coach at A&M in 1947. When he became head coach the next year he asked for DuBose as assistant coach.

DuBose has an enviable record. From 1935 through 1937 he has been on the winning side 107 times and the losing side only 33 times. Five games resulted in ties.

Born in November, 1910 at Gonzales, Bill DuBose played tackle on the high school team in 1926-27-28.

After a year of freshman ball, he played end for Texas University in 1930, end and tackle in 1931, and guard and tackle in 1932.

Freshman line coach at TU in 1935, DuBose didn't coach in 1934 when he was with the TU intramural athletic department.

DuBose is married and has a son and daughter.

# Downs Natatorium Completed In 1933

You could hear them wildcatting for miles back there in '32 when the soil was broken and the cornerstone was laid to mark the initial construction of what was to be known in later years as the largest indoor swimming pool in the south—F. L. Downs, Jr. Natatorium.

A&M's first swimming pool was located in the basement of the YMCA but was found to be inadequate for the needs of the students here.

In the original plans \$70,000 was set aside for the construction of a pool adjoining DeWare Field House.

To complete the work A&M picked men who were, at that time, working for the school. These included Dr. F. E. Giesecke who was college architect and W. A. Orth who was Superintendent of Building and College Utilities.

The pool was opened on March 15, 1933 and was named in honor of P. L. "Pinky" Downs, Jr. who was largely responsible for A&M's getting its first swimming pool.

At first it was planned to make the pool 100x50 feet but before construction was started the size was changed to 100x60 feet. This change was made because standard pools for college swimming meets were 100x60 feet.

The final cost of the pool was \$80,000.

The pool has one of the best

filtration plants of any pool in the nation.

The present seating capacity of the Natatorium is 600 and each year several swimming meets are held in the pool.

When the pool was first opened it was to be used only by Aggies but with the increasing need for a place to swim by College Station residents, the pool was also opened to them.

Presently in charge of the Natatorium is Art Adamson. Adamson is coach of the Aggie swimming team. He came to A&M in 1934 and since then Aggie Swimming teams have piled up an impressive record in Southwest Conference competition.

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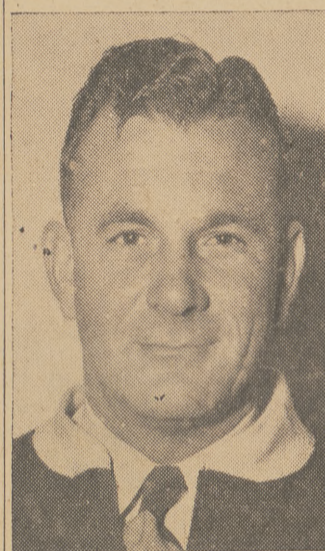
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BILL DUBOSE

**BASKETBALL**

(Continued from Page 2)

will travel far and wide. Karow has games scheduled from coast to coast for the Aggies before they take on any conference foes. He hopes that this experience on the road will help the new varsity team members in getting the valuable under-fire experience they need.

These teams that the Aggies will play across the nation are the best in competition that can be had. They will be tough to beat but they will give the team some very good practice before conference play starts.

The lead off game on the road will be against Long Island University in Madison Square Garden, New York. From there the team will travel west playing games with the best all the way to the west coast, where they will have several games.

Before the Aggies hit the road they will play a few practice games with the non-conference teams in the area. By the time it hits the road, the team should be shaping up pretty well.

As for how A&M will come out in the conference this year, it's hard to say. With some luck, and the tall boys coming through as desired, the 1949-50 Aggie basketball team could be hard to beat.

The way it stands now it is better to consider it the dark horse for the conference race than say just where it will end up. Don't overrate the Aggies and don't underrate them, just expect a better season than last.

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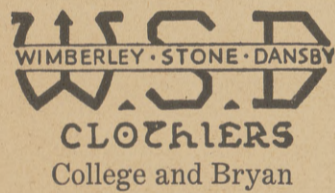
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