

Clyde La Motte to Speak at Quarterback Club Tomorrow Night

Hard Luck Guy Out Again . . .

Aggie John L. Plagued By Injuries, But Fights Back

By Roger Coslett

The great John L. Sullivan was a massive man, full of fight, and spirit. Here at A&M we have another John L. He may not be as massive, but he is full of fight and spirit. He is just as respected in his own way and by his own men as was John L. Sullivan by the multitudes in the early nineties.

Both of these men are athletes, but our John L. does not clinch his long fingers in boxing gloves as did Sullivan—instead he uses them to snare impossible passes and pull down evasive backs from his safety position on the gridiron. The John L. I refer to is John L. Christensen, Aggie halfback and safety man. His story is a story of fight, spirit and determination. It is also a story of heart-break and hard luck.

Hard Luck Constantly

Hard luck seems to sit on Christensen's shoulder. John L., a senior industrial education major from Galveston, hasn't had all his heart break on the gridiron. He lost his only brother in the Texas City disaster back in 1947.

John L. attended Kirwin High School in Galveston, the seaport where his father, who is secretary for the Moore Lumber Company, his mother, and three sisters reside. While at Kirwin he lettered in football, basketball and track. Seven letters and the captaincy of the football and basketball teams graced his schoolboy record. What the record may not show are the injuries he received in his sophomore and senior years. The last two games of his high school career he was forced to watch from the bench because of a torn ligament.

John L. Becomes Ag

The fall of 1946 found Christensen on the campus of Texas A&M, but without a football scholarship. Because of the wartime shortages of uniforms he was dropped from the freshman squad after only one week of practice. His spirit was dampened but not broken.

Spring of 1948 found Christensen with a new coach and John L. with uniform. For a week and a half all was smooth sailing. Then hard luck jumped down from John L.'s shoulder and stuck his foot in John's mouth—jarring out three teeth. Christensen was out for the rest of spring practice.

The first three weeks of the '48 season found John L. on the "B" team. It was here that his hard work paid off, and his ability came to light. Coach Stittler upped him to the main squad and played him in the TCU game on defense.

Jinx Shows Up

Yes, John had won a regular number. Hard luck seemed to



John L. Christensen

Longhorns Open '49 Cage Workouts

Austin, Oct. 18, (AP)—With talk of the World Series still in the air and football season less than half gone, Coach Jack Gray opened basketball workout at the University of Texas yesterday.

Tom Hamilton, 3-year letter man from Dallas, is the only returning starter from last year's fourth-place team. Hamilton, a 6'3" forward, was the fifth biggest scorer in Southwest Conference play last year with 151 points.

Only two other letter men, Frank Womack, 5'10 1/2" guard from Houston, and Wilson Taylor, 6'4" center from Austin, are eligible to return. Pat Babb, former all-stater at Amarillo High School, Bill Huffman of Pasadena, and George Cobb of Houston are the returning squadmen.

Texas will get added height from two transfers, Bill Mayes, 6'8", from Notre Dame, and Ted Price, 6'7", from Kentucky.

Promising sophomores include Joe Ed Falk, all-stater from Milby of Houston, Luther Scarborough of Fort Worth, and Don Klein of Sherman.

Texas will miss their famous mighty mites, Slater Martin and Al Madsen, one of the most colorful guard combinations ever seen in the Southwest Conference. Letter men Wilby White and Philip George will also be gone.

have gotten off his shoulder. Hard luck may have gotten off but the jinx took its place. John L.'s number was "13" and he wore it proudly if unsuspectingly as he started against Baylor.

In the second quarter of that game John L. ran afoul of Mr. Jinx and was carried off the field with two cracked vertebrae. Needless to say he was out for the rest of the season.

Now this might have been enough to discourage the average man from the game of football; but not John L. Christensen. He came right back in spring practice and wore jersey number "22" without mishap. At last it seemed that his shoulders were free from Mr. Jinx and Mr. Hard Luck.

Dame Fortune Smiles Fortune really began to smile on John L. as he was chosen vice president of the Senior Class, was made C. O. of "B" Troop in the Cavalry, was named to the Senior Court, and was elected to the Student Senate.

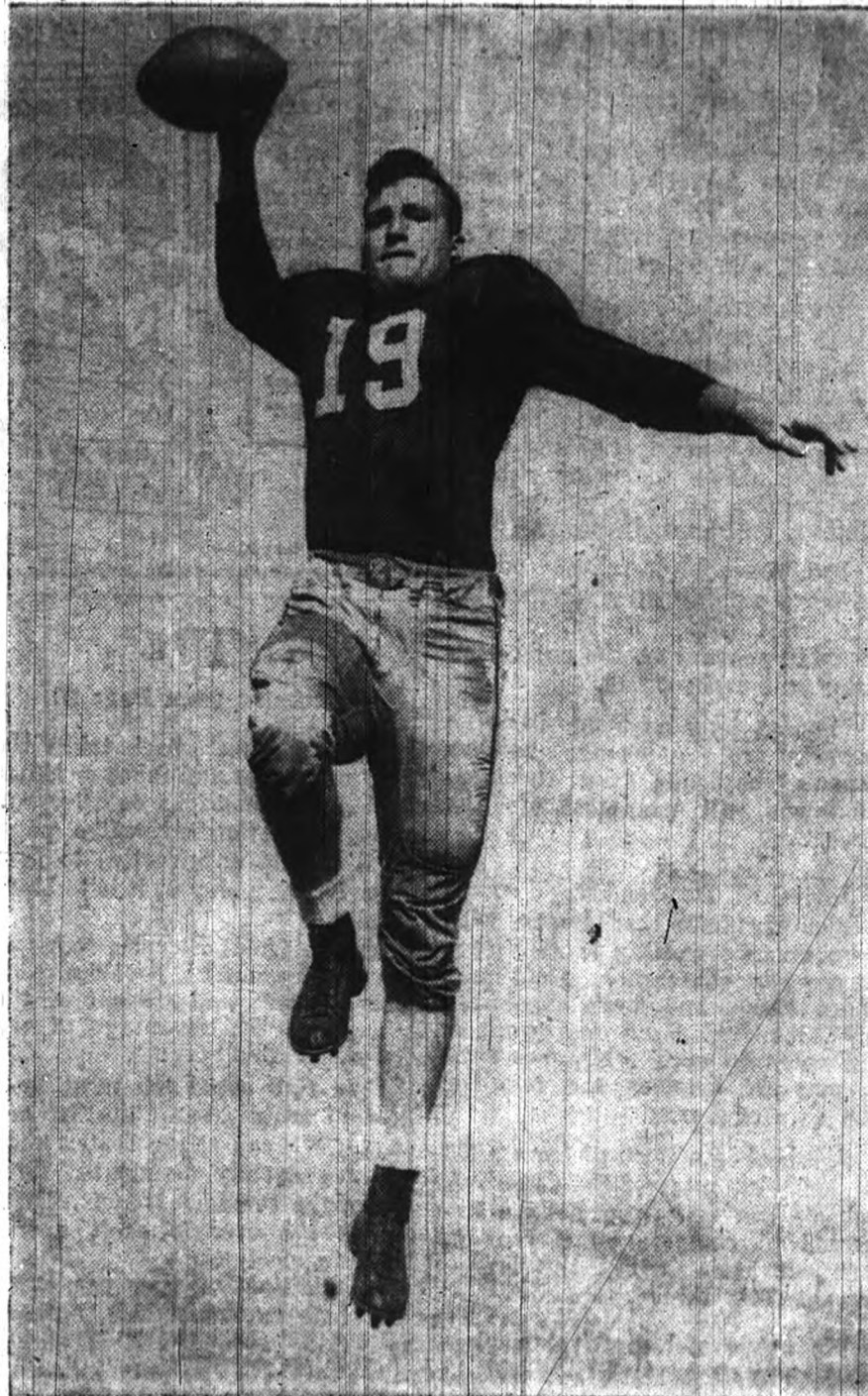
Fortune continued to smile when in the season opener (A&M-Villanova) Christensen performed well on defense. The Texas Tech game found John L. starting at defensive safety. He played the whole defensive game that Saturday. Again the next weekend John L. was a starter, this time against the mighty Oklahoma Sooners.

Things were still looking up for Christensen until the game with L. S. U. John L. was returning a punt in the second quarter when Mr. Jinx popped up to take a hand in his future once again. The hard luck guy from Galveston suffered a knocked-down shoulder—no he wasn't wearing number "13" just twice that, number "26".

It is expected that Christensen will be out for at least three weeks with this latest injury. The Aggies will sorely miss his services. But John L. is still fighting. He is the epitome of the spirit of the Aggie team. Though they are down, they are not out, and at any time they may rise from obscurity to topple the best.

S BATTALION S SPORTS

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Jim Cashion, senior quarterback from College Station, engineered the Aggies to their only touchdown against the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs in Fort Worth Saturday. With Cashion calling the signals, the Cadets moved from their own 20 to the Frog goal in 15 plays. Glenn Lippman carried it over for the six points from the two.

SWC Play This Year May Be Best of All Time

BY HAROLD V. RATLIFF Associated Press Sports Editor

Dallas, Oct. 18 (AP)—The grade of football in the Southwest Conference is pretty high this season. It may be the best of all time when you look at the entire field. Outside of Texas A&M, the circuit can hold its own with any football in the country except perhaps Notre Dame—and who can hold its own with that outfit?

Anyway, there's a reason for so much strength over the league. Check the rosters and you'll find 30 or 40 players who have been on varsity squads four years. It was brought about by the war, when freshmen were allowed to play on the varsity.

Rice, for instance, has seven fellows who are seeking their fourth varsity letters. Texas has six who have been on the varsity four seasons. So has Southern Methodist, Baylor and Texas Christian have five each and so on.

Checking through the conference we find these men will be after their fourth varsity letters this year: Texas A&M—Wray Whitaker; Arkansas—John Lunney, Alvin Duke and Leon Campbell; Texas Christian—Lindy Berry, George Boal, Morris Bailey, Charlie Jackson and Morelle Hicks; Baylor—Clark Heironimus, Rupert Wright, Jerry Mangum, Dudley Parker, Frank McKinney; Southern Methodist—Doak Walker, Dick McKissack, Frank Payne, Fred Goodwin, Bobby Folsom and Raleigh Blakely; Rice—Tobin Rote, Joe Watson, Gerald Weatherly, Jack Price, Ralph Murphy, James Williams and Bill Taylor.

The question of equal competition in Texas schoolboy football has been discussed for years. Time was that all the schools were in the same class and you'd find a school like Waco playing one like Granger. Of course, the big school always won.

Thus came about the various divisions of the Interscholastic (See SWC PLAY, Page 4)

Post Sports Editor, '48 TU-A&M Game Movies on Night's Program

Clyde La Motte, sports editor of the Houston Post, will be the main speaker at tomorrow night's meeting of the Quarterback Club.

Again this week, the meeting, open to everyone on and off the campus, will meet on Wednesday instead of Thursday night because of the Fish football game that night.

Along with the featured speaker, La Motte, will be the awarding of prizes in last week's Quarterback Club contest and an outstanding football movie for the audience to view.

La Motte, who was promoted to his position this fall, has been a member of The Post news staff since 1941. At the time of his promotion, he was assistant city editor.

La Motte was sports editor of The Daily Texan in 1939-40 and was a member of the sports and news staff of the Austin Tribune for more than a year before going to Houston. He has a brother, Dr. Charles

La Motte, who is a professor in the biology department at A&M.

The movie tomorrow night will be that of the Thanksgiving Day game last year between A&M and Texas.

Normally, the pictures of the A&M-TCU game of last Saturday would be shown but due to schedule changes in having those pictures processed, they will not be available. The processing schedule changed because the movies of last Saturday's game were taken in full color and more time is required for processing.

The movies of last year's A&M-Texas game to be shown tomorrow night are in full color.

The persons who were the winners in last week's contest will be awarded their prizes tomorrow night.

Winners are required to be present at tomorrow night's meeting in order to be eligible for their prize. If any of the winners are absent, prizes will be awarded to the persons who turned in the next best guesses.

The Winners

This week's winners are: Mrs. A. J. Otte, Box 5368, College Station; C. R. Pannill, Box 1152, College Station; Warren O. Albrecht, Box 2727, College Station; Mrs. F. E. Allison, Box 2867, College Station; Curtis Hayes, Jr., Apt. C-21-X, College View; Mrs. Grady Elms, 218 Lubbock, College Station; Dorothy Keeling, Box 4358, College Station; William G. Adkins, (no address given); Mrs. W. S. Van Heeder, Box 2586, College Station; James H. Carrell, Box 1166, College Station; and J. Horace Bass, History Dept. A&M College.

The guessing contest goes on again this week with the sponsors again offering 11 free prizes (See LAMOTTE, Page 4)



Clyde La Motte, sports editor of the Houston Post, will speak at the Quarterback Club meeting tomorrow night at 7:30.

What Makes the T Tick . . .

T Formation Is Creation Of Shaughnessy, Halas, Jones

BY JIM BECKER

(Editor's note: This is the first of a series of three articles on the formation and its variations, the split T, and the winged T.)

New York, Oct. 18 (AP)—More than 75 per cent of the college and pro football teams use the T formation as the basis of their offense.

Many of these teams have added variations to the Basic T. Two of



CLARK SHAUGHNESSY

the most widely used of these variations are the "Split T" and the "Winged T."

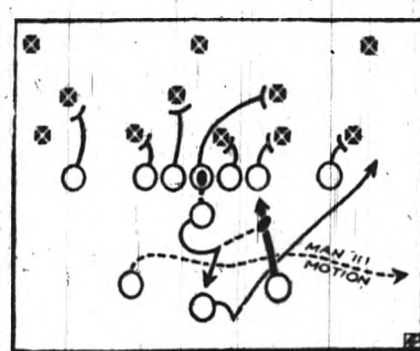
Your enjoyment of football games, broadcasts and reports will be increased if you understand the rudiments of the winged, split and plain T. This series will attempt to

explain them. The modern T formation is the creation of Clark Shaughnessy, famed coach; George Halas, owner and mentor of the Chicago Bears, and Ralph Jones, coach of obscure Lake Forest College. Actually, it is only an improvement on the formation used around the turn of the century. In those days, three linemen were posted on either side of the center, a quarterback right behind the center and other three backs in a row about five yards back of the line.

It was almost impossible to run to the outside from this setup, however, so coaches began experimenting with flankers. That is, they posted one of the backs outside the end so he could block and clear the way for a play around end. This led to the single and double wing formations, the inventions of Glenn (Pop) Warner. Four men were stationed to one side of the center, two on the other; in what is known as an unbalanced line, creating a "strong" and a "weak" side.

The T formation came back when the three coaches devised the man-in-motion and perfected the counter-attack or reverse. The line was balanced again and the backs resumed their original alignment.

Coaches who teach the T maintain that the man in motion—one back leaves his position and runs



Diagrammed here is a basic line plunge from the man-in-motion T. Left halfback runs out to right side before ball is snapped to spread defense. Quarterback takes ball, spins, hands to right half who drives through hole over tackle, then quarter drifts back and fakes to fullback who runs off end. On succeeding plays, quarter can fake to half and give to full back, or pitch out to man in motion.

out to the side before the ball is snapped—is more valuable than his predecessor, the flanker, because he can do more things. He can charge down the field to catch passes, can take a flat pass, or can block the opposing end in on an end run.

Because of this, the defense must send at least one man to cover him as he runs, which splits the defense and makes running up the middle that much easier.

He also creates a strong side which helps on power plays. But because he runs out just before the ball is snapped, the defense can have no fixed line up against this power. The man in motion also serves as a decoy on counter plays to the weak side.

Deception is the best weapon of (See "T", Page 4)

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