

A&M Football Coaching Staff Includes Top-Flight Crew of Gridiron Teachers

When Paul (Bear) Bryant took over the reins at A&M last spring as head football coach and athletic director, he brought five coaches with him from Kentucky, making the Aggie coaching staff a high-powered collection of pigskin teachers.

Seven men, plus Bryant and a trainer, complete the Cadet coaching staff. There is no coach labeled "fresh coach," because Bryant believes "the freshmen deserve the best."

"The entire staff will coach the Fish team," he said. "They will receive the benefit of our entire staff's football training."

JIM OWENS, former University of Oklahoma all-America end, will help handle the A&M linemen.

A native of Oklahoma City, the 27-year-old Owens co-captained the Sooner Sugar bowl champs of 1949. He played on three great Sooner teams under Bud Wilkinson and as a freshman in 1946 lettered under Jim Tatum.

Owens entered the Kentucky scene as assistant to Bryant after playing a year of pro ball with Baltimore. Prior to hanging up his playing shoes, Owens participated in two Sugar bowl games, one Gator bowl contest, the College All-Star game and the Senior bowl. Was on the Kentucky staff the past three seasons.

During World War II he served as an enlisted air crewman in the naval air corps.

PHIL CUTCHIN comes to A&M from Kentucky where he was assistant the past two years. He'll work with the Aggie backs.

A 1943 graduate of Kentucky, the 33-year-old Cutchin came back after infantry service in WW II for his final year of eligibility at Kentucky in 1946. He was a half-back.

He served as assistant at Ohio Wesleyan from 1947 until his recall into the service in 1950. After a year in Korea with the First Cavalry division, he returned to Kentucky.

JERRY CLAIBORNE was an outstanding safetyman and end during four years' varsity experience at Kentucky under Coach Bryant. He'll help handle the backs at A&M.

Assistant coach at Kentucky the past two seasons, Claiborne, 25, was one of the nation's top pass interception artists, helped Kentucky to the school's first major bowl game—the Orange in 1950. Head coach at Augusta, Virginia Military Academy in 1950-51.

WILLIE F. ZAPALAC, having

served as successful freshmen coach at A&M in 1953, joins the other Aggie assistants this season under Bryant.

Zapalac, 32, attended high school at Bellville where he established a scoring record of 245 points in his senior year—1938. He played varsity football at A&M in 1941, 1942 and 1946. His last season came after serving 36 months in the air corps. He came out a first lieutenant.

After playing pro ball with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1947, he

coached at John Tarleton, Hillsboro high school and Arlington State before returning to A&M as frosh coach in 1953. Among his duties in 1954 will be chief scout and working with the backs.

PAT JAMES, former star guard for the Kentucky Wildcats, will work with the Aggie line.

A high school back at New Boston, Ohio, James was shifted to the line by Coach Bryant at Kentucky. The move was a successful one because James was a chief factor in Kentucky's 14-7 victory

over Oklahoma in the 1951 Sugar bowl.

James, 27, coached at Danville, Ky., high school in 1952 and served as assistant to Coach Bryant at Kentucky in 1951 and 1953.

ELMER SMITH came to A&M (See Page 7)

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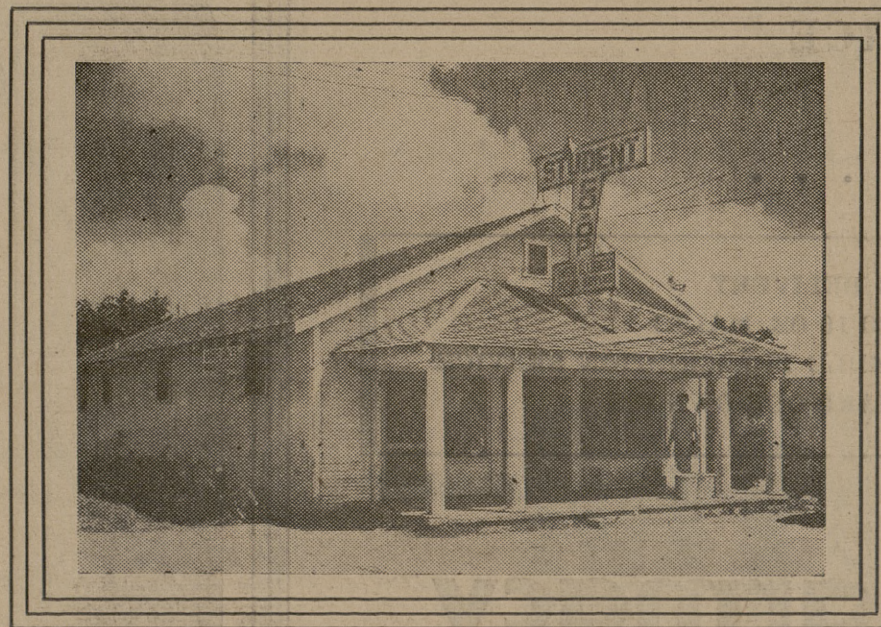
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