

A&M Football Team To Be Better; So Are Rest Of Conference Teams

Key Men Gone

Baseball Squad Hurt by Losses

Catching and experienced pitching will be the main problem for Coach Beau Bell next spring when he assembles his defending Southwest conference baseball team for the 1956 wars.

Bell lost seven lettermen from the stellar crew that won 13 of 15 conference games and lost to Arizona in a close NCAA district playoff series. But the big loss was catcher Jimmy Williams, three-year letterman and twice an all-conference performer. So closely has Williams guarded the plate for the past three years that there isn't a top-ranking backstopper in sight, not even off the freshman squad.

Louis Nelson, who caught every batting practice for the SWC titlists last spring, is the current No. 1 man, but he never played an inning. He, along with pitchers Lynn Monical and Doug Mullins, were recommended for letters for their steady and able batting practice work all year.

In the throwing department, Bell lost three other top hands who have been around for three seasons—Joe Hardgrove, Jerry Nelson and Tex Vanzura. Wendell Baker and Dick Munday, both righthanders who pitched well last year, return for their junior year, and a classy southpaw, Toby Newton, up from the Fish team, bolsters a fine pitching corps that lacks only in experience.

The infield returns almost intact with only Joe Schero, all-SWC thirdbaseman, gone. John Hoyle,

at first; Charlie Puls, second base; Joe Boring and Dick Bleckner, shortstops, are the returning regulars, while Gordon Maxwell, up from the frosh, can more than take care of the hot corner.

John Stockton is the lone returning letterman outfielder. Reserves Clyde Stinson and Billy Ross, plus sophomores Ed Dudley and John Cantrell, fill out the outfield candidates.

The 1955 team, in gaining the school's seventh baseball championship, won 19 of 24 games during the regular season before bowing two of three games to Arizona.

The Aggies swept the SWC series with SMU, TCU and Rice and took two out of three from Texas and Baylor.

Three of the Aggie aces—Nelson, Hardgrove and Williams—signed professional contracts at the close of the NCAA playoffs. Nelson signed in the Milwaukee Braves system, Hardgrove with the Giants and Williams with the Cardinals.

Editor's Note

This section is devoted to sports at A&M. Much of the material covered will be old stuff to students who have been here.

But it is hoped that much of what is covered will be of interest to both old and new students. These are the sports and the teams that will be making the headlines in *The Battalion* during the coming school year.

No Great Favorite Picked by Writers

Compared to last season, the Texas Aggie football team will be improved, but a look around the Southwest Conference quickly dispels any optimistic outlook. All the other teams have improved too.

In fact, the writers who make the picks each year are baffled over the question of which teams will emerge on top. There's certainly no stick-out, and any of five teams will be in the thick of the running when the polls are completed this September.

Coach Bear Bryant's second Aggie team will have a greatly improved running offense, but the passing attack is doubtful, and the team is weak defensively. Although Bryant was pleased generally after the completion of spring practice, there are enough question marks to cause considerable worry.

Among the problems will be to field an aggressive defensive club. The explosive power of the line, the running and blocking of the backs, and the overall running game showed considerable improvement, but the passing attack and defense were disappointing.

The Aggie team will be composed mostly of sophomores. A total of 38 first-year men are listed on the 56-man roster. Eleven juniors and only seven seniors complete the list. Sophomores are going to make mistakes, but the team could "jell" by November.

At center Bryant has lettermen Lloyd Hale and Herb Wolf back from the 1954 "thin thirty," but both are handicapped by their size. Statistics-wise the Aggies return 11 lettermen and lose 15, but many of the lettermen will give way to sophomores, who compose the entire quarterback crop. All three prospects—Bobby Conrad, Jim Wright and Donnie Grant—have the potential, but they have not yet "arrived." It's a big step from high school and freshman ball to Southwest Conference competition.

The deep backs are mostly sophomores too. There is great potential in such men as Kenneth Hall, John Crow, Ed Dudley and Loyd Taylor, but they do not have much experience. Jack Pardee at fullback and halfbacks Don Watson and Billy Huddleston are the only backfield lettermen.

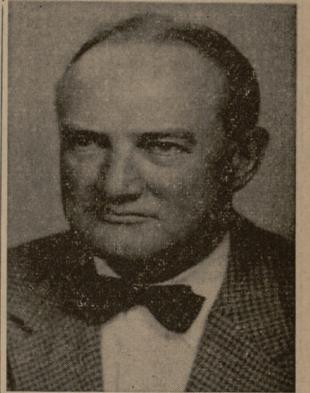
The line has some good prospects, but also has many holes to plug. Every position in the line is under-manned and inexperienced. There's a letterman at each spot but only sophomores to fill in with.

Tackle is the strongest position with Jack Powell, back in action after lettering in 1953 and being ineligible last fall; Darrell Brown, a junior; two promising sophs in Jim Stanley and Charles Krueger; and a sound squadman, Henry Clark, who may have earned a starting berth on his fine play in the spring drills.

Eugene Stallings is the only experienced end, and he's a good one. But beyond him are sophomores and a converted halfback, Bobby Keith.

Another major problem confronting Bryant and his staff is the opener with the national champions from UCLA. Should he devote his early practice days to the single-wing of UCLA? Or should he try to get ready for the conference action down the road? He can't do both at once.

It'll be an interesting season, at any rate. And what Southwest Conference season isn't?



KEN LOEFFLER
Basketball Coach

Ken Loeffler To Coach Aggie Cagers

The 1955-56 basketball season should prove to be one of the most exciting in recent years, for the Aggies have as a new coach one of the finest mentors in the country.

He is Ken Loeffler, former coach at LaSalle College in Philadelphia, where he compiled an impressive record of 177 wins against only 26 losses. For six straight years his teams have been represented in national tournaments.

Loeffler replaced as Aggie basketball coach John Floyd, who resigned to accept a position with a firm in Houston.

Under Loeffler the Aggies face a 24-game schedule that includes the usual 12 Southwest Conference games and a new series with Vanderbilt and Memphis State.

The complete schedule is as follows:

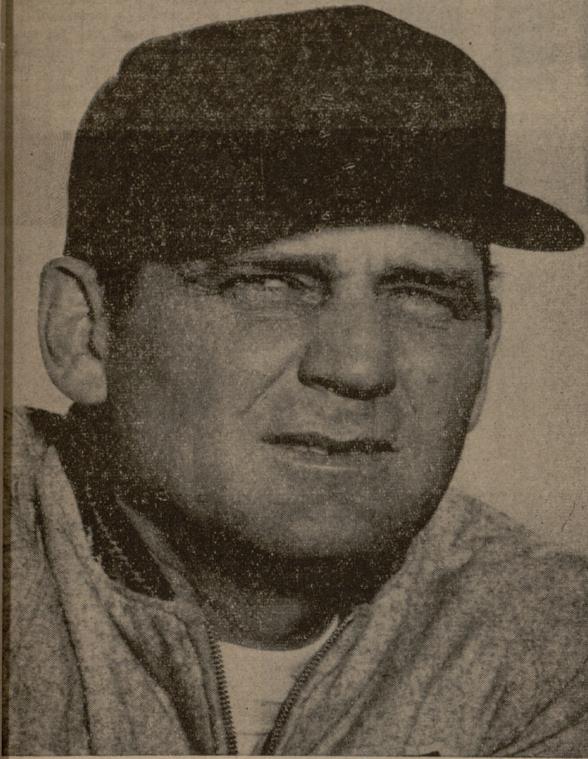
- Dec. 1—Tulsa at Tulsa.
 - Dec. 3—Vanderbilt at Nashville.
 - Dec. 5—Memphis State at Memphis.
 - Dec. 10—LSU at College Station.
 - Dec. 12—Tulane at College Station.
 - Dec. 14—Houston at College Station.
 - Dec. 28-30—SWC tournament at Houston.
 - Jan. 4—Baylor at College Station.
 - Jan. 7—Rice at Houston.
 - Jan. 10—SMU at Dallas.
 - Jan. 13—Texas at College Station.
 - Jan. 16—Arkansas at Fayetteville.
 - Jan. 19—Sam Houston at College Station.
- (See BASKETBALL, Page 4)

Conference Began History in 1914

On Dec. 8, 1914, Texas A&M, Baylor University, Oklahoma A&M, Rice Institute, Southwestern University, the University of Arkansas, the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas became charter members of the Southwest Interscholastic Athletic Conference.

In 1916 the word "Intercollegiate" was dropped from the chartered name of the organization, and "Southwest Athletic Conference" became the official name. In this same year, Southwestern University withdrew from the conference, and in 1918 Southern Methodist University was admitted.

Phillips University was admitted in 1919 but dropped out in 1921. The University of Oklahoma withdrew from membership in 1920. Texas Christian was elected to membership in 1922, and Oklahoma A&M withdrew in May of 1925, leaving the conference with its present membership.



PAUL (BEAR) BRYANT
Football Coach and Athletic Director

19th Coach

Bryant To Start 2nd Year Here

Head football coach and athletic director at A&M is Paul (Bear) Bryant, who came to the Aggies from Kentucky in 1954. The 19th coach at Aggieland begins his second year with the 1955 season.

He was lauded nationally for his 1954 coaching job at A&M, his out-manned cadets giving out a heart-rending effort each Saturday, although winning only one of 10 games.

One of the most successful coaches in the business, Bryant served eight years as Kentucky's head coach and left with an impressive record of 60 wins, 23 losses and five ties. He built the Wildcats into a major football power after the war, coaching there from 1946 to 1954. His head coaching career began in 1945 at Maryland, where his team won six, lost two and tied one.

The highlight of his career was defeating the powerful University of Oklahoma Sooners—national champions of 1950—in the 1951 Sugar Bowl game, ending the nation's longest winning streak. His defensive strategy is termed the best. He also had Kentucky bowl teams at the Orange and Cotton classics, plus the Great Lakes Bowl in 1947.

An all-Southeastern conference end at Alabama in the mid-thirties, Bryant played with such great stars as Don Hutson and Dixie Howell on the Rose Bowl team and had the advantage of the late Frank Thomas' tutoring.

A native of Fordyce, Arkansas, Bryant remained at Alabama as Thomas' assistant from 1936-39, then was an assistant at Vanderbilt in 1940 and 1941 before entering the Navy in World War II.

Track Coach Has Nine SWC Titles

Track Coach Frank G. Anderson, or Col. Andy, as the Aggies call him, is entering his 35th year at A&M. During this time, he has been freshman football coach, commandant of cadets and track coach, his present job.

During his 23 years as track coach, the Aggies thinclads have never placed below third in SWC competition, and have captured the crown nine times.

Col. Andy is noted for developing unknowns into steady performers. He says his greatest thrill was Walter (Buddy) Davis' high jump and Darrow Hooper's shot put victories in the 1952 Olympic games.

After naval duty, he launched his career at Maryland.

The Aggie coach, 41 years old, is married to the former Mary Harmon Follmar. The couple has two children—Mae Martin, 19, and Paul Jr., 10.

Intramurals Give Everyone Chance To Engage in Sports

Not everybody can go out for football, baseball, or track, but at A&M everybody can play intramurals—and almost everybody does.

A&M's intramural program is called one of the largest in the country, with about 80 teams competing in 13 sports. Teams are from the dormitories for civilian students, and the military units for corps students.

Yearly team and individual awards are given to the intramural champions.

Over-all championships are based on a scoring system which allows each team a certain number of points for entering a sport and another number for winning the league championship, runner up or other honors.

The intramural program is open to every student in A&M, and is on a purely voluntary basis. No credit is given for participation so far as scholastic work is concerned.

Competition Is Stiff

Even in this program without any credit, the competition is stiff between units, and the honor of being top intramural outfit is keenly sought.

Among the sports offered are basketball, tennis, flag football (each player carries a flag in his shorts and when the flag is jerked out by the opponent the runner is down), horseshoes, cross country,

6 Men, 1 Woman On Athletic Staff

Six men and one woman make up the Athletic Staff of A&M. They are Paul Bryant, director of athletics; Barlow (Bones) Irvin, administrative assistant; Pat Dial, business manager; Mrs. Mary Ruth Wilson, ticket manager; Charles E. (Smokey) Harper, trainer; W. F. Fitts, superintendent of grounds; and Jones W. Ramsey, publicity director.

bowling, ping-pong, softball, golf, volleyball, badminton, swimming and track.

Intramural athletics, which is directed by Barney Welch, furnishes all playing equipment except individual equipment such as tennis rackets, tennis balls, shoes and other personal equipment.

Welch also is in charge of furnishing officials for all the games, scheduling events and maintaining the courts and fields in top condition.

Intramural athletics receives money each year from the Exchange Store for the purchase of game equipment such as football, horseshoes, softballs and bats. These items are issued to the outfits to use whenever and wherever the athletic officers in the outfits want to.

Equipment of this type is issued in the Office of Student Activities, second floor of Goodwin Hall, at the beginning of each year.

The intramural program is planned and directed through the Student Activities Office. The intramural office is in the southwest corner of DeWare Field House and is open daily from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

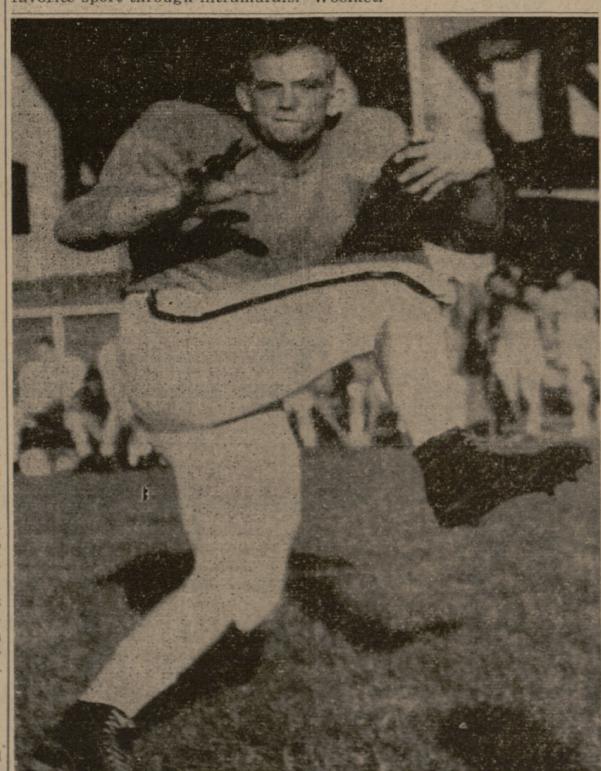
Any questions pertaining to intramurals may be brought to Welch in his office in Goodwin Hall.

"Intramurals play an important part in the life of students at Aggieland for various reasons," says Welch. "Most boys are athletically

All A&M Coaches Work With Fish

The entire football staff will coach the Aggie Fish, and there will be no coach named "frosh coach." "The freshmen deserve the best," Bryant says. "We will all coach them. They will receive the benefit of our entire staff's football training."

inclined, and although they are not proficient enough or lack time to participate in intercollegiate sports, they still can enjoy their favorite sport through intramurals.



LOUISIANA FLASH—John Crow, another of the bright stars up from last year's freshman team, may be a starter at left halfback because of his defensive ability. He is 19, 6-2, and weighs in at 195. He'll play safety, is a good shifty runner, and picks blockers well. Crow led frosh runners last year with an 8.3 yards average per carry.