

15,000 Sore Feet

12th Man Backs Team

By HOWIE CHILD
Battalion Staff Writer

No freshman edition of The Battalion would be complete without an explanation of the almost sacred "Twelfth Man" tradition. You

Swim Team Has Chance To Win Title

If appearances are any indication at all, this year's Aggie swimming team will be even better than the 1954-55 team that was runner-up last year in the Southwest Conference.

Two outstanding freestylers, Don Horne and John Spiech, and backstroke Tommy Devenport have graduated, but coming up from the undefeated freshman team are more-than-adequate replacements.

Joining the varsity team will be Jose Merino, who holds the South American record in the 100-meter freestyle, and Tetsuo Okamoto, third-place winner of the 1500-meter freestyle in the Olympics.

Also coming up are breaststrokers Bob Barlow, Jerry Mount, Chuck Price and Dudley Caswell; backstroke Ray Cook, and freestylers Jimmy Dye, Joe Middleton and George Ragsdale.

Returning from last year's team are Dick Weick, conference champ in butterfly and individual medley; Norman Ufer, conference backstroke champion; and Dick Hunkler, conference champ in 50- and 100-yard freestyle.

Breaststrokers Wally Penberthy, Henry Goff, and Billy Bedford, backstroke Wynne Snoots, utility men Gayle Klipple and Rippy Woodard and divers George Parr and Bruce Martin can also be counted on for points.

"We have an exceptionally good team coming up," said Coach Art Adamson. "There isn't much depth, but what we do have is very good."

will head about it until the day you graduate, and you might even get pretty sick of it, but as we say, the freshman edition would be incomplete without it.

It all began one day in January, 1922, in the forerunner of today's Cotton Bowl Classic at Dallas. Texas A&M was playing the famous Praying Colonels of Centre College.

As the game entered the fourth quarter, the Aggie coach, Dana X. Bible, now athletic director at the University of Texas, saw his light but fast backs being carried one by one off the field. With some time left to play, Bible was down to one backfield substitute. Then he remembered a sophomore back who had been working out with the squad all season, a boy named King Gill with plenty of heart but without the weight and experience. Gill had not been taken to Dallas with the team, but he had gone to the game and was in the stands with the Corps of Cadets.

Bible sent a yell leader into the stands to find Gill and to tell him to suit up and join the squad on the bench. Gill did not actually play in the game—as a matter of fact, he didn't even suit out—but since he was called upon from the stands and was ready, he became the original "Twelfth Man on the Team."

From this simple beginning arose another of the college's many hallowed traditions, and it is because of this small incident that all Aggies' feet hurt after football games.

For each student gets on his feet at the opening kick-off and remains standing through the final whistle, except for a brief rest period during half-time, when it is thought that the team can get along without reinforcements. This is supposed to symbolize the readiness of the student body to charge down on the field at any moment, should the eleven men on the gridiron need assistance or replacement.

It has been argued that if the

students were actually called upon to help the team, they would be in much better condition if they had been allowed to sit down and rest before coming on the field. The logic of this statement is not to be questioned, but as is usually the case when logic and tradition clash, tradition has prevailed.

Another suggestion, this one made by a Tired Old Veteran of Many a Football Game, was that the students elect one person each Saturday to serve as The Twelfth Man. This fellow could stand up all afternoon and play like he was a symbol, while the rest of the student body sat down and watched the game. This idea was rejected on the grounds that it was not democratic. The general sentiment was that if one Aggie had sore feet, then all Aggies should have sore feet. Again reason gave way to custom, and tradition prevailed.

In fact this tradition has prevailed so strongly that the school even has an official song about it. It is "The Twelfth Man," written by Mrs. Ford Munnerlyn. The gist of the song—you will learn the words later, so there is no need to repeat them here—is that no matter what happens, the Ags can just grin and bear it, because they are the Twelfth Man on the Fightin' Aggie Team. This song is sung after every game that the Aggies lose. By the time you leave A&M you probably will be very familiar with it.

A few years ago a new tradition, the "Sixth Man," was almost born. So many members of the basketball team quit the squad that some feared that the coach would actually have to call on replacements from the stands of the coliseum. Fortunately this never happened, but it left many wondering if future Aggies will be able to sit down at anything.

The largest crowd ever to see an opener in College Station was 27,000. That was when the Ags played Villanova in 1949.

Football History Of A&M College Began in 1893

Texas Aggie football history began in 1893 when the Maroon and White team was organized, but no out-of-town teams were played. In 1894 the Aggies, then the Farmers, played road games, including the first of traditional battles with the University of Texas Longhorns, then the Varsity.

The late Dean Emeritus Charles Puryear, who had joined the faculty in 1888, was the first manager and one of those responsible for football's being established at the college. Puryear died at his campus home in July, 1940, having lived long enough to see his Aggies win a national championship in 1939.

The Aggies played no out-of-town games in 1895, but resumed such a schedule in 1896 and have continued to do so ever since.

The Aggies' first undefeated season was 1902, a year in which the Cadets won seven, tied two. A&M was also champion of Texas in 1909 and 1910, but in 1910 there was a 0-5 loss to Arkansas, and TCU held the 1909 machine to a scoreless tie. The 1912 team was hailed as "Champion of the South" in spite of a 10-13 loss to Kansas State.

A&M was a member of the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association from the time of its founding until

Ags Have Won 4 Of 6 Bowl Games

The Aggies have won four of the six bowl games in which they have participated. Their victims were Centre College in the Dixie Classic, 1922; Tulane in the Sugar Bowl, 1940; Fordham in the Cotton Bowl, 1941; and Georgia in the President's Cup, 1950.

In 1942 they lost to Alabama, 29-21, in the Cotton Bowl, and LSU defeated the Ags 19-14 in the Orange Bowl in 1944.

the Southwest Athletic Conference was formed in 1914. It is a remaining charter member of that organization along with the University of Texas, the University of Arkansas, Rice Institute and Baylor University.

Texas A&M has won the championship of the conference 7½ times, taking the title in 1917, 1919, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1939 and 1941. It was co-champion with SMU in 1940.

In 1939 the Aggies were rated national champions. That same year they won the Sugar Bowl Classic from Tulane, and on January 1, 1941, they defeated Fordham in the Cotton Bowl.

The Aggies were undefeated, untied and unscored upon in 1917 and 1919 and undefeated and untied in 1939. In 1940 the University of Texas broke a 19-game winning streak and cost them their only loss for that year.

In 60 years of gridiron competition, the Aggies have met 79 teams from 24 states for an all-time record of 310 games won, 178 lost, and 37 ties. A&M has scored 9,282 points to 4,491 for all its opponents.

A&M has the edge on all opponents which have been played a number of times, except Centenary, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas.

The Aggies have played against teams from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington.

A&M has won 52 openers, lost six and tied two. Opening game losses were to: Houston U. (not Cougars) in 1897, Howard Payne in 1922, LSU in 1942, Villanova in 1948, Villanova in 1949 and Texas Tech in 1954.

Aggie Championships

- 1925 Football, Cross Country
- 1927 Football, Cross Country
- 1929 Track, Cross Country
- 1930 Track, Cross Country
- 1931 Baseball
- 1933 Cross Country (Tied with Texas)
- 1934 Baseball
- 1937 Baseball
- 1939 Football, Pistol
- 1940 Football (Tied with SMU)
- 1941 Football
- 1942 Baseball
- 1943 Track, Baseball
- 1944 Swimming (Tied with Texas)
- 1947 Track
- 1948 Track, Cross Country, Golf
- 1949 Track, Cross Country
- 1951 Basketball (Tied with TCU and Texas), Baseball (Tied

- with Texas), Track, Epee (Fencing)
- 1952 Track, Fencing
- 1953 Track, Cross Country
- 1954 Cross Country, Fencing
- 1955 Baseball, Fencing

UT Leads A&M In Championships

The University of Texas has won more Southwest Conference football championships (8½) than any other school, but A&M is a close second with 7½. SMU has won 6½, TCU 5, Rice 4, Baylor 3, and Arkansas 2½. Three times there was no champion.

DON'T BUY

UNTIL YOU'VE CHECKED

THE

Custom-Bilt

Uniform Trousers

AT

**LOUPOT'S
Trading Post**

Shaffer's Book Store

"The Friendly Store Serving The Men of Texas A&M"

1

It's Shaffer's for Better Grades
Largest and Most Complete Stock New and Used Books
Finest, Top Quality Engineering Instruments
Everything You'll Need in School Supplies and Books Are College Approved
Typewriter Sales and Rentals—Royal and Smith-Corona

2

It's Shaffer's for Gifts
College Emblem Jewelry
College Pets
Seal Pottery and Glassware
"T" Shirts from Size 1

3

It's Shaffer's for Your Leisure Time
Truly Complete Line of Phonograph Records, 45 and 33½
Hobby Department—Airplanes, Boats, Cars—Complete Stock Plastic and Flying Models
Book Department Has All the Leading "Best Sellers" and Standard Classics—Inexpensive Reprints to Fine Leather Editions

4

It's Shaffer's for Everything You Need
Free Check Cashing
Free Campus Maps
Free 19x24 Desk Blotters
Free Plastic Book Covers

5

You Are Always Welcome At Shaffer's
We offer you the services of competent and trained sales help. There is no need for YOU to wait on yourself. We'll be happy to serve you.

Shaffer's Book Store

Across From The Post Office

North Gate