



COACHES OF THE YEAR—Lined up behind head football coach Paul Bryant are his seven assistant coaches. Pictured in the usual order are, Jerry Claiborne, Tom Tipps, Pat James, Willie Zapalac, Phil Cutchin, Elmer Smith, Jim Owens and Bryant.

Bryant, Staff Fashion Aggies Into One of Nation's Top Ten

By BARRY HART
Battalion Sports Writer

Lured from the University of Kentucky to revamp the football fortunes of down-trodden A & M, Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant and his seven assistants have pulled the Cadets from mediocrity to high national ranking in two years.

Bryant, one of the nation's top candidates for Coach of the Year, served at Kentucky for eight years as head coach and left with a 60-23-5 record. Highlight of his illustrious 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.

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 but one of 10 games.

JIM OWENS, former University of Oklahoma all-American end, coaches the tackles.

Owens went to Kentucky as assistant to Bryant after playing a year of pro ball with Baltimore and was on the staff three seasons.

PHIL CUTCHIN works with the Aggie backs. A 1943 graduate of Kentucky, he served as assistant at Ohio Wesleyan from 1947 to 1950.

JERRY CLAIBORNE, an outstanding safetyman and end during four years varsity experience at Kentucky under Bryant, coaches the ends. An assistant coach at Kentucky for two years, Claiborne was head coach at Augusta, Virginia Military Academy in 1950-51.

WILLIE ZAPALAC, the only A&M graduate on the staff, coaches the A&M backs.

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 freshmen coach in 1953.

PAT JAMES, former star guard for the Kentucky Wildcats, coaches the guards. James coached at Danville, Kentucky, high school in 1952 and served as assistant to Bryant at Kentucky in 1951 and 1953.

ELMER SMITH came to A&M in 1954 from Southern Arkansas State College of Magnolia, where his team won 54, lost 27 and tied two. A graduate of Hendrix College in 1931 he assisted there until 1936 when he moved to Centenary.

TOM TIPPS, a graduate of Sul Ross College, was head coach of Pampa high school where he had a 54-16-1 record in seven years.

Spirited Aggie Cagers Prepare For Season Opener With Tulsa

By RONNIE GREATHOUSE

Win-hungry Aggie basketballers should have a big advantage over conference rivals this year. The Bryan Daily Eagle predicted them to finish last in the league race.

Two major problems face coach Ken Loeffler's spirited squad of 14 varsity players this season. First is a change in the system of play. Secondly, getting rebounds with players almost certain to be smaller than their opponents.

The Aggies encounter a Hurricane named Tulsa in their season opener Dec. 1 at Tulsa.

Loeffler introduced his "flash pivot" style of attack to the varsity last spring, and the players seem to be picking it up quickly. He describes his fast-moving mode of play as "every man's a king. Every one gets a chance to play and score."

EACH PLAYER drives in for a shot. If he doesn't have one, he throws to someone else. Sooner or later someone should get open long enough for a scoring chance.

"What we need is a tall boy," said Loeffler. "I wish we could get someone here in school who's 6-8 to come out for the team. It doesn't matter whether he's played any basketball before or not."

"We'd like to have someone who could keep those big guys on the other teams company. We don't want them to be lonely out there when we play them."

VARSIITY AND freshman teams held their usual scrimmage session yesterday. Carter Williams, 6-4, Bill Brophy, 6-3, George Mehaffey, 6-4, Fritzie Connally, 6-3, and Roger Harvey, 5-11, made up the first string varsity five.

Working with the first team, as there are no definite starters yet, were Al Love, Bryan Sutherland, Ted Harrod, Ken Hutto, Don Bilbrey, John Fortenberry, John Henry, Johnny Lesikar and Jeff Penfield.

"We've got as much material as anyone in the conference," said Assistant Coach John DeWitt. "But there's no substitute for size. One big man could make our ball club."

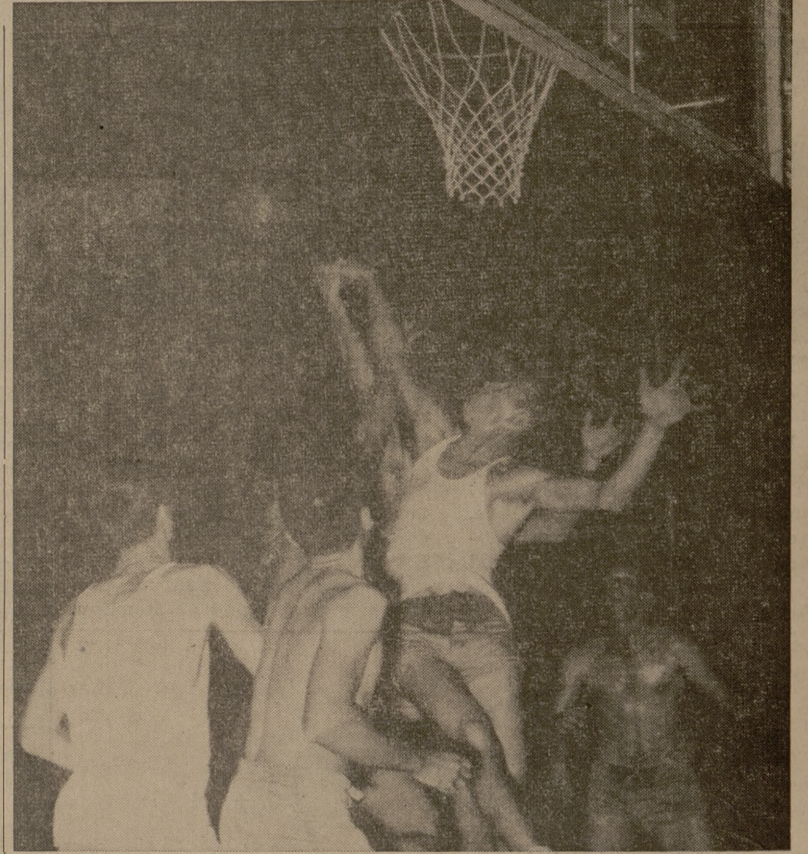
"Games today are won on rebounds. The team that gets those

rebounds can afford to miss more because they get more shots," DeWitt continued.

THE FISH TEAM, under the capable tutelage of DeWitt and Joe Hardgrove, shows definite promise.

"This team hits that basket a lot better than the other freshman teams I've seen here," said Hardgrove, who earned a basketball letter as a junior in 1953-54. "These boys are a lot bigger than last year's."

Gonzalo Diago, 6-3, Stewart Heller, 6-5, James McNichol, 6-6, Alex Roberts, 6-2, and Neil Swisher, 6-1, ran on the first string Fish team yesterday. Jack Schwake, Erwin Turner, Harry Max and Curtis Hall alternated on the first unit.



UP HIGH go three varsity basketballers in yesterday's practice. Facing the camera is George Mehaffey. Watching the action at right is Don Bilbrey.

Ag Soccer Team Plays Texas Here

A&M's soccer team will play the University of Texas tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. The game will be played at the field South-East of Kyle Field.

This is the sixth meeting between the two school's soccer teams. A&M hasn't lost a game to the Longhorns since the series began in 1951.

The game is open to the public and no admission will be charged.

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