

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1956



Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant

## Aggies Favored to Win Conference With Eleven Regulars Returning

### Bryant After Title In 3rd A&M Year

After a season of heartache followed by one filled with hope for the future, Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Paul (Bear) Bryant looks to his third year at A&M and finds his Aggies chosen to win the Southwest Conference in the preseason guesses.

The 19th coach at Aggieland, Bryant came to the SWC from Kentucky in 1954, after compiling an impressive record of 60 wins, 23 losses and five ties. He received recognition as one of the nation's finest gridiron mentors while building the Wildcats into a major football power from 1946 to 1954.

Bryant took his Kentucky teams

to the Orange, Cotton and Great Lakes Bowl games, but the highlight of his brilliant career came on January 1, 1951, when his Wildcat eleven downed the powerful University of Oklahoma Sooners, National champs in 1950, in the Sugar Bowl.

Coach Bryant stepped into the head coaching job at A&M and, although the Aggies lost all but one of 10 games, was lauded nationally for his work. The outmanned "thin 30" fought a losing battle against overwhelming odds, outplaying many of their opponents, including a 7-14 loss to conference champion Arkansas, and a 3-6 heartbreaker to the SMU Mustangs in Dallas.

Last year Bryant took his team to their first season since 1943 with a 7-2-1 record and second-place in the SWC. The Ags took champion TCU to the cleaners, 19-16, but a spirited Texas eleven rode herd on the Farmers to the tune of 21-6 on Thanksgiving day, knocking them out of the title.

One of the most successful coaches in collegiate ranks, Bryant has completed 11 years as a head coach after being an assistant at his alma mater, Alabama, and Vanderbilt.

His head coaching record is one of the nation's best—74 wins, 36 losses and seven ties. He coached

Heavily favored to remain in the Southwest conference cellar a year ago, Coach Paul Bryant's Aggies are picked right at the top of the heap this season.

Following a survey of the other conference teams, the general consensus of opinion around the league is that the Aggies of 1956 could have a better team than in 1955 but they could end up with a worse record. All will be stronger and it appears that a much more balanced race is in store for the coming campaign.

The Ags will have a good, sound first team with 11 starters returning from the 1955 squad that fashioned a surprising 7-2-1 record. Beyond the first team it's a big question mark. 21 lettermen return, but many of the sophomore who must step into second team roles are doubtful and inexperienced.

A&M's offense will be better, both in running and passing, with the defense a good one, although only one deep. The number one problem is at quarterback where

Jimmy Wright, Don Watson, Roddy Osborne and Luther Hall appear to have equal shots at the starting position.

The strongest positions are at fullback and center. Big Jack Pardee, all-SWC in 1955 and bidding for all-America honors this season, returns to the middle of the backfield. Behind him is hard-hitting Richard Gay, the Louisiana newcomer that loves contact.

Aggressive Lloyd Hale will be back at the center position he has (See AGGIES, Page 7)

### Aggies Have Four for Six Bowl Record

The Aggies have won four of the six bowl games in which they have participated.

Victims of A&M were Centre College in the Dixie Classic of 1922; Tulane in the Sugar Bowl, 1940; Fordham in the 1941 Cotton Bowl; and Georgia in the President's Cup Bowl of 1950.

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

### Aggies Use Split-T To Move Ball in '56

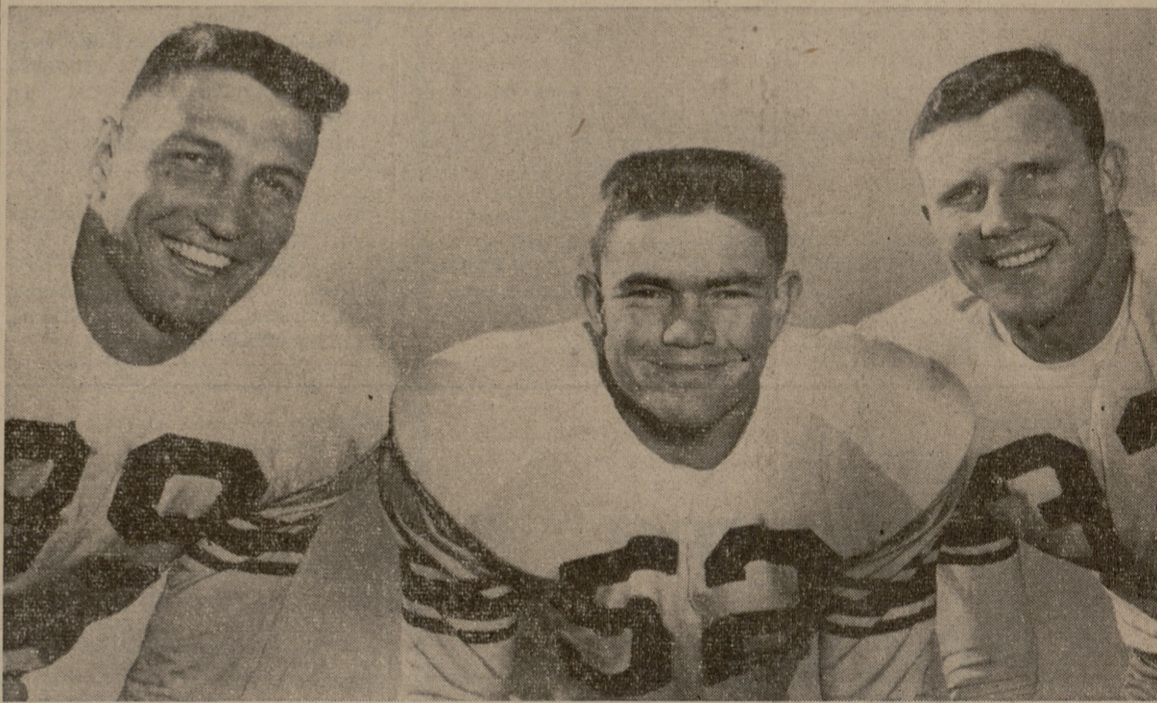
College football teams are becoming increasingly difficult to "type" and the 1956 Aggie team is no exception.

The Cadets will be basically a "split-T" team and much of their hopes for moving the ball will depend on this quick hitting, "fire-away" type of offense. Running is the keynote but the option run or pass will be utilized more fully this year.

The Aggie version of the split-T is fundamentally a straight ahead,

man-for-man blocking attack. There is very little "pulling" of linemen and emphasis is on speed in hitting the point of attack rather than faking the defense out of position. Some "delayed attack" plays will spice the offense much in the same manner as a baseball pitcher uses a change of pace.

Coach Bryant and his staff will also exploit some of the facets of the multiple-type offense and a greater variety of offense formations can be expected by A&M fans in 1956.



AGGIE TRI-CAPTAINS FOR 1956—(left to right) Eugene Stallings, left end; Loyd Hale, center; Jack Pardee, fullback. These are the three two-lettermen seniors who will lead the Maroon and White during the coming football season.

## Welcome Freshman to Shoe Headquarters for TEXAS AGGIES

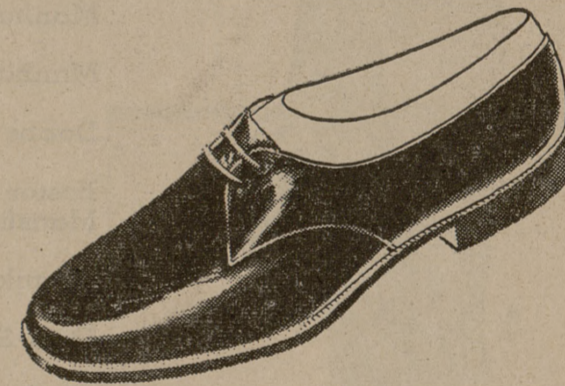
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