

A&M Grid Wars Began Back in '93

Texas Aggie football history began in 1893 when the Maroon and White team was organized but no games with out-of-town teams were played. In 1894 the Aggies, then the Farmers, played road games including the first of the 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 being established at the college. Dean Puryear died at his campus home in July, 1940, living long enough to see his Aggies win a National Championship in 1939.

The Ags played no out-of-town games in 1895, but resumed a regular schedule in 1896 and have continued since.

A&M's first undefeated season was 1902, a year in which the Cadets won seven and tied two. The Farmers were champions of Texas in 1909 and 1910, but in 1910 lost a 5-0 decision to Arkansas, and battled TCU to a scoreless tie. Despite a 13-10 loss to Kansas State in 1912, that eleven was hailed as "Champion of the South."

A&M was a member of the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association from the time of its founding until the Southwest Athletic Conference was founded in 1914.

Original members of the SWC were A&M, Baylor, Oklahoma A&M, Rice, Southwestern, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

The Aggies have won the conference football title 7½ times—1917, 1919, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1939 and 1941, sharing the crown with SMU in 1940. In 1939 the Ags were rated number one in the nation and won the Sugar Bowl Classic from Tulane. On January 1, 1941, A&M defeated Fordham in the Cotton Bowl.

The Cadets were undefeated, untied and unscored upon in 1917 and 1919, and undefeated and untied in 1939. In 1940 UT broke a 19-game winning streak that cost A&M its only loss of the season. In 61 seasons of gridiron competition, A&M has met 79 teams from 24 states and hold an all-time record of 317 wins, 180 losses and 38 ties. The Aggies have scored 9,442 points to 4,580 for their opponents.

A&M has the edge on all opponents which have been played a number of times with the exception of Centenary, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. Centenary has won six of nine games and Oklahoma holds a 7-5 edge. Texas, oldest Aggie rival, has captured 41 to A&M's 16 with five games ending in a tie. Arkansas boasts a close 14-12 margin over A&M.



AGGIE COACHING STAFF FOR 1956—(left to right) Jerry Claiborne, Tom Tipps, Pat James, Willie F. Zapalac, Phil Cutchin, Elmer Smith, and Jim Owens will assist Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant for the Aggie cause during 1956.

The Aggies have won 52 openers, lost but six with two ending in ties. Openings game losses were to: Houston University (not UH Cougars) in 1897; Howard Payne in 1922; LSU in 1942; Villanova in 1948 and 1949; and Texas Tech in 1954.

A&M has 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.

Ags Open On Kyle Field With Wildcats Sept. 22

Picked at the top of the SWC race by the sportswriters in their preseason guesses, A&M runs into one of the lightest non-conference schedules in years.

Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant's talented eleven opens their third season under his leadership against downtrodden Villanova University on Kyle Field September 22. The Wildcats hold a 2-1 edge over A&M in a spasmodic series that began in 1939.

Villanova holds two of the Aggies' six opening-game losses, winning in 1948, 34-14, and again in 1949, 35-0. A&M took the first contest, 33-7, on Kyle Field and will be out to revenge their two losses this year. This marks the second straight season that the Wildcats have opened against SWC opposition, having dropped a 19-2 count to Baylor before 90,000 in Philadelphia's Municipal Stadium in 1955.

With only left end and captain Don Holcomb departed from his starting eleven and an undefeated frosh squad to supplement 27 returning lettermen, Coach Frank Reagan is looking to his 1956 team to return Villanova to its place of prominence in Eastern football circles. Winners of only a single game last year, the Wildcats are counting on depth and speed to spell the difference in Reagan's third season at the Villanova helm.

A host of speedy backs led by

returnees Davey Parr, John Bauer and Rick Sapienza plus a trio of quarterbacks including veterans Bill Magee and John Ferruolo and soph hopeful Jim Grazione, should put teeth in the Wildcats' T-attack. Up front, dependable Don Luzzi and senior guard Ron Wood anchor a robust line of proven upperclassmen and eager soph.

One week later—September 29—the Aggies travel to the swamps of Louisiana to do battle with the formidable LSU Tigers. In 1955 A&M crushed the Bengals, 28-0, in Dallas, but it could be rough in Baton Rouge.

Strongest point on the 1956 Tiger team is the line from tackle to tackle—where all the starters return. Outstanding lineman is Earl Leggett, a 265-pound tackle who was a unanimous all-SEC choice last fall and is the pre-season pick as the best offensive and defensive lineman in the league.

Three of the four top ends are gone, as well as all but one of the four top halfbacks and two fullbacks of a year ago. Quarterback is solid with M. C. Reynolds, who held down the starting post as a sophomore last year, and returning letterman Win Turner.

Top newcomers who could fill in the halfback and fullback jobs are junior college transfers Jimmy Taylor and Olin Renfro and sophomore J. W. Brodnax.

A&M moves into Dallas on Octo-

Staff One of Best

Seven Assistants Aid Coach Bryant

No modern, big-time football team is strictly a one-man coaching show, and this is as true at A&M as any of the other major colleges in the nation.

Coach Paul Bryant is ably assisted by one of the country's finest staffs with seven former gridgers aiding the head man.

Beginning his third season at Aggieland, and his fifth under Bryant, is line coach Jim Owens. Owens gained his initial football recognition at the University of Oklahoma, where he was named All-America end in 1949. Owens played four seasons of regular end for the Sooners under Jim Tatum and Bud Wilkinson and was a member of the College All-Stars. He played in two Sugar Bowl games, one Gator Bowl contest and

the Senior bowl affair. He captained the Oklahoma team in his senior year.

After playing professional ball in 1950 with the Baltimore Colts, Owens joined the Bryant staff at Kentucky where he developed two all-Americans in Howie Schellenberger and Steve Meillinger. During World War II, the 29-year-old assistant served in the Air Force. Married, Owens is the father of two daughters—Kathy, 4, and Leslie, 1.

One of the backfield coaches who works with the quarterbacks, is Phil Cutchin, former quarterback for Kentucky and a member of Bryant's staff since his return from the Korean war in 1951. Cutchin is a 1943 graduate of Kentucky who served in the infantry during WW II.

After playing his final season in 1946, Cutchin was an assistant at Ohio Wesleyan from 1947 until his recall into the service in 1950. He is married and has one daughter, Melinda, 3½.

Elmer Smith, former head coach at Southern Arkansas State College of Magnolia, has been an Aggie assistant since 1954. His Magnolia teams in eight years established a 54-27-2 record and won state titles in 1951 and 1952.

A graduate of Danville, Ark., high school, Smith was a four-year, four-sport letterman at Hendrix College of Conway, Ark., graduating in 1931. He served as assistant at Hendrix until 1936 when he went to Centenary.

After serving in the navy during WW II where he reached the rank of lieutenant commander, Smith moved to Magnolia. Smith and his wife, Sybil, have no children.

Jerry Claiborne, an end and safetyman at Kentucky during his college career, is one of the Aggie line coaches who works with the ends. He starts his third year with the 1956 season.

Assistant at Kentucky for two years, the 27-year-old father of two boys was one of the nation's top pass interception artists and played in the Orange Bowl game in 1950. He was head coach at Augusta Virginia Military Academy in 1950-51. His two sons are David, 4, and Jonathan, 1½.

(See COACHES, Page 7)

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