

# Loeffler Leads Cagers Out of Wilderness

From the top to the bottom in one leap is not something the average man cares to try in the course of a lifetime, but to Ken Loeffler, A&M's head basketball coach, it's nothing more than a way to make a living.

From the nationally-famous head coach of two-time national champion LaSalle to the coach of the disastrous Aggies, wallowing deep in the cellar of the country's poorest major basketball conference, is the jump Loeffler made in 1955.

One of the most successful basketball coaches in the business, Loeffler was named head coach at A&M in March of 1955 following the resignation of John Floyd.

In six seasons at LaSalle, Loeffler's teams won 145 games, lost but 30 and won two national championships. His teams also placed

second once and took a third place in the national tournament.

A graduate of Penn State College and the University of Pittsburgh law school, Loeffler coached at Geneva College and Yale University and served as a major in the air force during World War II.

Following the war, Loeffler coached St. Louis in the national professional league before moving to LaSalle and his outstanding success. One of his LaSalle products—Tom Gola—was an all-America player four seasons and many call him the greatest player in the history of the game.

Loeffler, with practically nothing out to work with, led the Aggies out of the SWC cellar into a fifth-place tie with Baylor in 1955-56. The Cadets had a 6-18 season and 3-9 conference record.

## A&M Varsity Basketball Schedule

- Dec. 1—Centenary at Shreveport
- Dec. 3—St. Mary's at College Station
- Dec. 5—Sam Houston at Huntsville
- Dec. 7—Trinity at College Station
- Dec. 10—Loyola at New Orleans
- Dec. 12—Mississippi Southern at Hattiesburg
- Dec. 13—Florida State at Tallahassee
- Dec. 15—Georgia Tech at Atlanta
- Dec. 18—Miami at Miami
- Dec. 27-29—SWC tournament at Houston
- Jan. 2—Rice at College Station
- Jan. 5—Arkansas at College Station
- Jan. 8—SMU at College Station
- Jan. 15—Baylor at Waco
- Feb. 2—TCU at Fort Worth
- Feb. 5—Texas at College Station
- Feb. 9—Arkansas at Fayetteville
- Feb. 12—TCU at College Station
- Feb. 16—Baylor at College Station
- Feb. 19—SMU at Dallas
- Feb. 23—Texas at Austin
- March 2—Rice at Houston

## Non-SWC

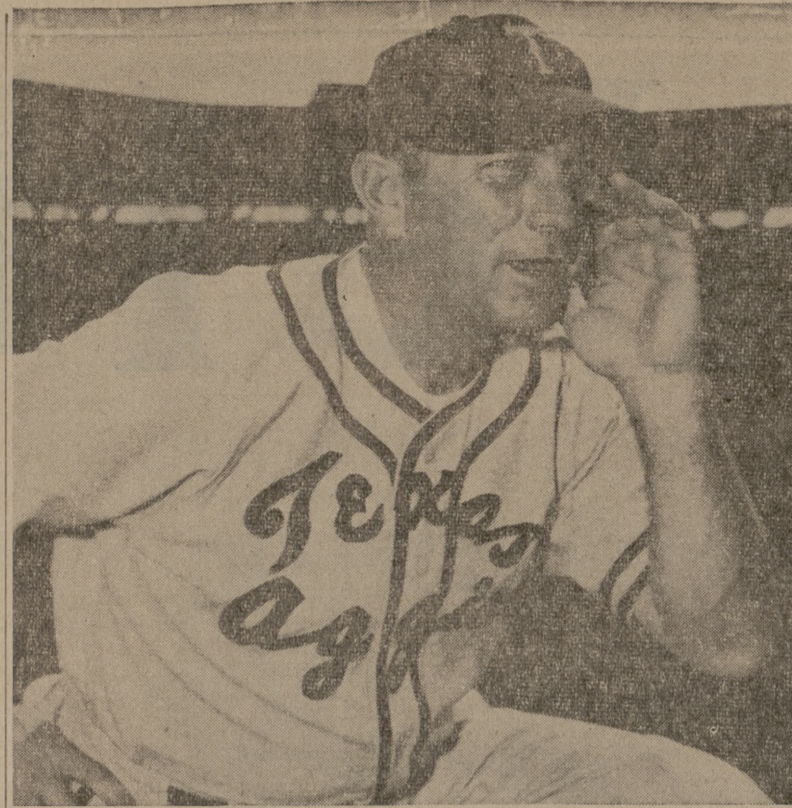
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A&M holds a close 2-1-1 edge in the young series that began in 1952. In 1955 the Aggies racked the Cougars to the tune of 21-3.

One of the powerhouses in the southwest and a definite favorite to win the Missouri Valley championship, Houston will be an improved team over the 1955 club that had a 6-4 record.

Featuring three of the finest fullbacks in the area in curly Johnson, Donnie Carraway and Owen Mulholland, the Cougars also have good material in Don Flynn at quarterback, guard Rudy Sptzenberger, tackle Dalva Allen and center Billy McIlroy.

Head Coach Bill Meek will have a speedy team, both in the line and backfield and the passing game should be vastly improved. The Cougars will be one of the toughest on the Aggie schedule.



Coach Roy (Beau) Bell

## Aggie Baseball Mentor

# Coach Beau Bell Ex-Big Leaguer

Ironically, Roy (Beau) Bell, A&M's head baseball coach, played more basketball in his undergraduate years as an Aggie than he did baseball.

Although Bell lettered three times in basketball as compared with two years on the diamond, his fame came from hitting the ball and he was all-SWC right fielder both years.

As a fly-chaser, Beau led the conference in hitting during his senior year. An exceptionally good eye brought his collegiate average to .474 that season. His homer in the final game of the conference gave A&M the crown.

After college Bell played major league ball for the St. Louis Browns, the Cleveland Indians and the New York Giants. In his best major league season he hit .344.

Coach Bell has won two SWC titles in his six years coaching the

Aggies. His teams took the crown in 1951 and 1955.

Bell's 1956 team finished the season with a 10-13 record with five wins and nine losses in conference play for fifth place.

"We had a fine pitching staff and defensive team, but we didn't have enough offensive strength," says Bell of the 1956 squad.

Five Bell products have reached the professional ranks in the last two seasons. Off the 1955 squad came Pitchers Joe Hardgrove and Jerry Nelson and Catcher Jimmy Williams and this season Joe Borling, shortstop, and Centerfielder John Stockton were signed to contracts.

Besides baseball and basketball, golf rates high on the list of activities for Bell. A World War II veteran, Beau's excess time is spent with his wife and daughters.



KEN LOEFFLER—Aggie basketball coach

## 1956 Grid Schedule

- Sept. 22 Villanova at College Station
- Sept. 29 LSU at Baton Rouge
- Oct. 6 Texas Tech at Dallas
- Oct. 13 Houston at Houston
- Oct. 20 TCU at College Station
- Oct. 27 Baylor at Waco
- Nov. 3 Arkansas at College Station
- Nov. 10 SMU at Dallas
- Nov. 17 Rice at College Station
- Nov. 29 Texas at Austin

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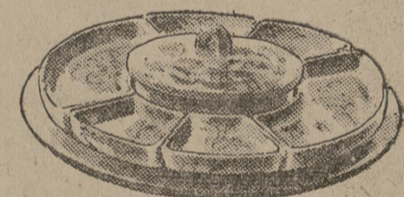
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