

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1956



CHARLIE KRUEGER—A&M's fine junior left tackle from Caldwell is due to make way for plenty of yardage by Cadet backs in 1956.

Aggie Offense Better, Defense Sound, But Must Play 110 Per Cent to Win

Krueger, Clendennon Only Lettermen

Books KO Powell Right Tackle Thin

With last year's first-string right tackle, Jack Powell, ineligible for the 1956 grid season, Coach Paul Bryant's tackle situation looks sour.

Powell, 225-pound senior two-year letterman, didn't make the necessary grades to keep him in school during the summer session, and, although he still was eligible according to conference rules, cannot play because of A&M regulations. He'll put his two-year service stint in as soon as possible and try to be back to finish his final year in 1958, but that won't help the Aggie line in '56.

"We've got to have some sophomores come through at tackle observed Coach Bryant. "Without some tackles we can't suit up."

Only Charlie Krueger and Bob Clendennon, among the candidates, played much ball in 1955. Krueger, of course, was a regular on the

left side last season and holds down that position again this year.

"Krueger played well last year," said Bryant, "Especially against Texas. He's big enough (6-4, 220), but not as quick as we'd like him to be."

On the second team at the moment, Bobby Lockett hopes to crack the starting lineup somewhere. A squadman last season, the 195-pounder moves well and is strong.

"LOCKETT LOOKED good in the Spring, commented Bryant. "He looks like a football player and I still may move him to the right side."

Clendennon, a junior-college transfer from Tyler in 1955, played second-team and looked good upon occasion. He's a 6-2, 220-pound lad from Waco.

Behind Clendennon at the left tackle spot is sophomore Ray Doucet, a freshmen starter last season. Light at 187, Doucet makes up in spirit and aggressiveness what he lacks in size.

"He'll make a football player sometime," said Bryant speaking of the Nederland boy. "But I don't know if he can help us this year."

Back to the vacant right tackle as it stands now A. L. Simmons is running on the first team with Louisiana Sophomore Kenneth Beck a close second. Simmons was a squadman in '55 while Beck was hurt early in the season and didn't play a down.

Beck, who couldn't move well in the Spring due to his tremendous 260 pounds, has trimmed to a powerful 220 and hopes to get down to around 210 as his playing weight.

WITH A HOPEFUL look in his eye Coach Bryant comments: "If Beck comes through, it'll be wonderful."

Behind these two are sophomores Leo Wotipka, a Baytown product, and Jerry Cramer, the Breckenridge boy who took a look at every school in the Southwest before choosing A&M.

"Our offense will be better," voiced A&M Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant speaking of his 1956 Aggie football team, "but the opposition's defense will be better in direct proportion.

"Both our running and our throwing will be better in 1956, but everybody else is better this year, a lot better. Our biggest problem will be to get our team to play 110 per cent effort on 10 consecutive Saturdays, beginning September 22. Any game we win, we've got to play better than 100 per cent, because our opposition will be tougher and pointing for us," pronounced Bryant in evaluating the Aggies and the rest of the Southwest Conference. "I expect our opponents to play 100 per cent ball against us."

The Aggies, who surprised everyone by finishing second in the SWC last year with a 7-2-1 record, open on Kyle Field with the Villanova Wildcats September 22. Coach Bryant and his team of assistants have been putting the Cadets through two-a-day drills since the opening of fall training on September 1.

A&M's mentor added that in his opinion, the Aggies played five fired-up ball games last year—LSU, TCU, Baylor, SMU and UH—and that "some boys even played well against Texas, but there weren't enough of 'em."

Ten of Bryant's men were with

him at Junction in 1954, his first year at A&M, and the Aggie head coach says they've come farther than he expected them to at that time.

"There's not a guy in that bunch who's not a good football player," adds the coach in reference to his original group.

As to 1956 Bryant sees the Aggies throwing more than in the past, especially more of the non-optional type of pass, rather than the pass-or-run situation.

"It's not how much you pass, it's how well you make it pay off," commented Bryant. "Last year we completed passes for scores eight times and had only seven of our tosses intercepted while picking off 19 of our opposition's."

"I'd like, of course, to have two units, but right now we don't have

two teams good enough to play in the SWC. If we don't have five or six sophomores come through and play some good ball for us, we're in trouble. I'm not worried about those boys who played good ball for us last year, because I know they can do it again. I'm expecting those seniors to really play some ball, but everybody's got to be a lot better if we're going to win some games.

"Our defense is sound—we won't be giving away much," spoke the Aggie head man. "Our first group is sound on pass defense, but we need help in our second unit secondary."

"We're not quick enough nor heavy enough in the line and we lose three good tackles is Darrell Brown, Henry Clark and more recently Jack Powell, so we must get some help there."

Pardee, Gay in Solid As Aggie Fullbacks

The Aggie's fullback position is the soundest on the 1956 squad with potential All-American Jack Pardee back for his final year and brilliant Sophomore Richard Gay behind him.

Pardee, sixth in the Southwest Conference in rushing last year with 452 yards gained, is head and shoulders above any line crusher in the league and rates among the top four fullbacks in the nation. Jack's yardage came on 83 tries for a fine 5.4 average, second behind TCU's Jim Swink of those who gained over 400 yards in '55.

"Pardee will be my fullback," said Aggie Coach Paul Bryant, "I want him out on that field, not sitting beside me. Besides being a fine ball carrier, he's awfully good on pass defense. The only thing he needs is a quicker start."

Gay, the Louisiana boy who transferred from Tulane and couldn't play freshmen ball as a result, will be the number two fullback. Gay will miss the first two games, since the rules say in order to be eligible a player must establish residence for one full calendar year. Gay enrolled on October 3, 1955, and won't be eligible in '56 until that date, missing the Villanova and LSU games.

"Gay is a good boy," declared Coach Bryant. "He likes contact and a very fine tackler. We're going to try to get him in to the game with Pardee on defense somehow."

George Gillar and Kenneth Hall are running behind Pardee and Gay, but both are learning the halfback positions should they be needed there.

'41 Last Title But Ags Won 7.5 in History

Should A&M capture the coveted Southwest Conference football crown in 1956, it will be the first time since 1941 and the eighth Aggie championship in the 41 years the conference has been in operation.

The Aggies won the title in 1917, 1919, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1939 and 1941 and tied with SMU for the championship in 1940. The closest the Cadets have come since World War II was in 1955 when Coach Paul Bryant led the team to runner-up spot with a 4-1-1 league record.

Texas leads the conference in total number of football crowns won with 8½, followed by A&M with 7½, SMU with 6½, TCU with 6, Rice with 4, Baylor with 3 and Arkansas with 2½. On three occasions no champion was named.



THE CRISTOVAL CHRUSER, JACK PARDEE—leading Aggie ground gainer last year and first choice for all-conference honors in 1956 is one of the nation's finest fullbacks and will be near the top in the all-American bidding.

1955 RESULTS	
A&M	Opp.
0 UCLA	21
28 LSU	0
21 Houston	3
27 Nebraska	0
19 TCU	16
19 Baylor	7
7 Arkansas	7
13 SMU	2
20 Rice	12
6 Texas	21
—	—
160	89

1956 GAMES	
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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