

# Crow, Watson, Taylor Solid at Halfback Spots



LOYD TAYLOR—A&M's sparkling little right halfback who plucked the Rice Owls clean last November, scoring 14 points in 58 seconds in the Aggies' memorable 20-12 lashing of the Houston team.

## Bryant to Use Both Split, Straight-T to Move Ball

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

The cadets will be fundamentally a straight and split-T team and much of their hopes for moving the ball depend on this quick-hitting, "fire-away" brand of offense. Running is the keynote but the option run or pass will be used more fully this season.

The Aggie version of the T is basically a straight-ahead, man-

for-man blocking attack. There is very little pulling out 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 many facts of the multiple-type offense and a greater variety of offense formations can be expected by A&M fans in 1956.

"We have three first-string halfbacks," declared Coach Paul Bryant in reference to his Aggie backfield.

John Crow is solid at left half, but right now I consider both Don Watson and Loyd Taylor as first-team right halfbacks. Either can and will be able to run at both halves, should one or the other win the right position."

Crow the big, elusive Louisiana boy from Spring Hill was the Ags second leading ground gainer last year, although he was out all but a few minutes of the TCU game and didn't suit up for Baylor.

"I think Crow has grown up now," affirmed the head man. "He played some fine ball last year, in fact he played terrific games against LSU, SMU and Texas, especially Texas. He's our biggest threat to go all the way."

Behind Crow, if anyone is needed, is junior squadman Carlos Esquivel, sophomore John Polk and newcomer Emmett Smallwood.

Smallwood, low hurdler and broad jumper for the Aggie track team, was a 1954 Fish starter but didn't come out in 1955.

"We're taking a good look at Smallwood," said Bryant. He's plenty fast and might do us some good."

Taylor is the man who bombed Rice clear out of Houston last fall, scoring 14 points in 48 seconds in that never-to-be-forgotten last four minutes. Loyd led the A&M scorers in '55 with 31 points, including 13 of 15 extra points.

"Loyd is a sound football player, small but strong," commented Coach Bryant. "He does a good job at anything

he tries and he'll be one of our three top halfbacks until somebody beats him out."

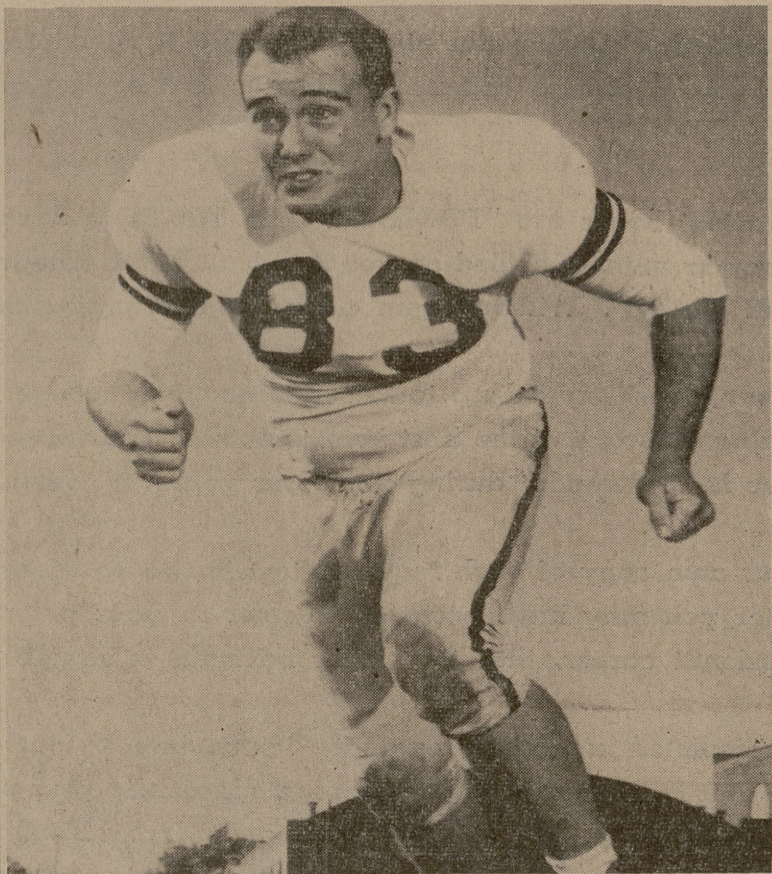
Watson will be remembered, if he never plays another down of college football, for his memorable afternoon in Fort Worth last October in A&M's 19-16 win over SWC Champion TCU. Don caught a pass for the Aggies' first touchdown and his 51-yard sprint up the middle put A&M out in front to stay.

Little at 5-10 and 155, Don is a fine athlete with lots of desire. He's a two-year letterman.

Back of these two are Bobby Conrad and Kenneth Hall. Con-

rad, the most versatile player on the squad, played quarterback, both ends and both halfbacks as a sophomore in 1955. Bobby had a disappointing Spring, but in Bryant's words "... is a good athlete and we hope he'll come through at halfback. We know he can play end."

Hall, the most publicized high school athlete to ever come out of Texas has been disappointing so far, but may explode any minute. As Coach Bryant says "... he catches your eye. Even running on the field. Hall has lots of ability, we hope he'll make a football player for us."



LOUISIANA'S KENNETH BECK—who slimmed down from a whopping 260 in the Spring to a tough 218 this Fall to make his bid for the vacant right tackle post.



JOHN CROW—spells triple trouble for A&M opponents from his left halfback spot this season. The Aggies' second leading ground gainer in 1955, Crow is expected to be one of the finest backs in the Southwest this year.

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## TCU Sport Poll Picks Winner Only Six Times

A good example of the difficulty in picking a winner in the Southwest conference from year to year is the record of the TCU Pre-Season Poll, conducted by the TCU Sports News Service each year before the season gets underway.

The Horned Frog poll has been in operation since 1934, but they have picked the actual winner only six of those 22 years. 1955 was their worst call in history as they chose the Rice Owls to capture the SWC crown only to watch the Houston bunch lose six straight league games and wind up deep in the cellar.

The only times the poll has been correct were when they picked TCU in 1938, SMU in 1940, Texas in 1943, 45 and 1950, and Rice in 1953. The TCU guessers picked A&M in 1936, 1937 and 1942, but the Aggies disappointed them and wound up in third, fifth and fifth place respectively.

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