

Tracey, Marks Must Produce

Stallings, Keith Return at Wings

Although the Aggies have both 1955 regulars returning at the end spots, Coach Paul Bryant is probably more concerned over his wings than any other position.

Gene Stallings, all-SWC in 1955 and a terrific defensive man, will man his left end spot with his last season running mate, Bobby Drake Keith back at the other terminal. Stallings led the Cadets in pass interceptions last year with four while Keith took in three aeriels for touchdowns to lead the team.

"Stallings will definitely be our left end," asserted Coach Bryant. "He's not the quickest nor the strongest, but he plays well and until someone can beat him out, he'll be out there."

Running right behind Stallings is Bobby Marks, another Louisiana boy from New Orleans who has impressed Bryant.

"Marks has got to come

through. He's big and fast with good hands. I only hope we can coach him to play ball like he's capable. He can be as good as he wants to be."

Sophomore David Smith is the third - team left end. A letterman on 1955's Fish squad, Smith is also from New Orleans.

"Smith is strong and has average speed," commented Bryant, "But he needs a lot of work."

On the right side Bryant finds tremendous John Tracey running Keith a close second. Tracey, 6-3 and 210 pounds from Philadelphia, Penn., ran at end and fullback for the freshmen last year.

"Keith is our man right now," said Coach Bryant. "He had a good Spring, but Tracey's another one of those men who's got to come through. He's very close to Keith—big and fast. I consider him a really fine prospect."

Below Keith and Tracey are Dean Meeks, Henry Pearson and Bill Appelt. Meeks was a squadman in '55 while Pearson just came out for the team and Appelt is a junior college transfer.

Bryant Wants Title in Third Aggie Season

Coach Paul Bryant opens his third football season in the Southwest Conference and at A&M one week from Saturday and hopes that the third opener is his to win.

The 19th coach in the Brazos flatlands, Bryant has lost both his previous Cadet openers—to Texas Tech in 1954 and last year to U.C.L.A. Bryant's first Aggie team compiled a dismal 1-9 record but last season he pulled A&M to a very surprising 7-2-1 mark and second place in the SWC.

One of the most successful coaches in the collegiate ranks, Bryant has completed 11 years as a head coach after serving at Alabama, his alma mater, and at Vanderbilt as assistant. His head coaching record is one of the nation's best—74 wins, 36 losses and seven ties.



AGGIE FOOTBALL COACHING STAFF—in the usual order, Jerry Claiborne, Tom Tipps, Pat James, Willie Zapalac, Phil Cutchin, Elmer Smith, Jim Owens and Head Coach Paul Bryant.

Bryant Aided By 7 Former Footballers

Coach Paul Bryant is ably assisted in forming his Aggie team by one of the nation's finest assistant coaches staffs with seven former gridders aiding the head coach.

Line coach Jim Owens received his football education under Jim Tatum and Bud Wilkinson at Oklahoma where he was named an all-American end in 1949.

One of the backfield coaches, working with the ball-handlers, is Phil Cutchin, former quarterback for Kentucky and a member of Bryant's staff since 1951.

Elmer Smith, former head coach at Southern Arkansas State College at Magnolia has been an Aggie assistant since 1954.

Jerry Claiborne, an end and safetyman at Kentucky during his playing days is one of the Aggie line coaches working with the ends.

A native Texan, Willie Zapalac, former Aggie star and professional player, is a backfield coach at A&M.

Tom Tipps, one of the most successful high school coaches in Texas history at Pampa, joined the Aggie staff in 1954.

Pat James, Kentucky star under Bryant, works with the A&M guards.



RIGHT END BOBBY DRAKE KEITH—dependable pass snatcher for the Aggies. Keith led the Cadets in scoring catches with three in 1955.

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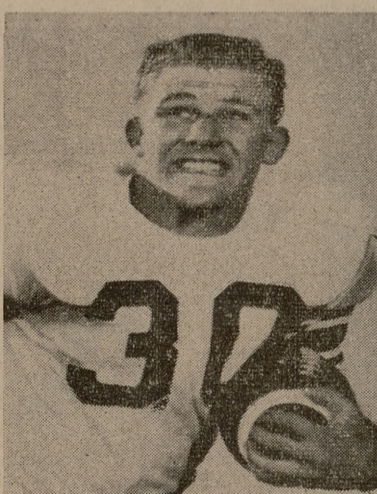
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