

Aggie Nine Opens With Cougars Here

By JIM CARRELL

A cold, stiff breeze blew from the north, providing wintry-like spring training weather for the A&M baseball club, as they continued in the second week of workouts on Kyle Field.

The Aggies, fifth-place finishers in the Southwest Conference last year with a 5-9 record, open with the University of Houston Cougars at 2 p.m. Saturday, beginning a 24-game season.

"We haven't been able to workout enough to know who is going to play Saturday with all this bad weather," stated Coach Beau Bell. "We're used to bad weather when baseball practice starts, but it seems to be a little worse this year than ever before," he continued.

In an informal intrasquad game yesterday Behn Hubbard crashed out a home run over the right field fence with Lefty Paradowski and Wayne Schaper starting on the mound for opposing squads.

Expecting to improve on a 10-13 season last year, A&M returns nine lettermen, but must receive help from sophomores, particularly

behind the plate and in the outfield.

Strong on pitching, the Aggies must give better defensive support and improve on a team season batting average of .212, which dropped to .191 in conference last year.

Lettermen returning, led by captain and two-year letterman Dick Munday, are: pitchers Paul Lang, Doug Mullins, and Toby Newton; catcher Louis Nelson; infielders John Hoyle and Joe Worden and outfielders Hubbard and James Smotherman.

Roy Robertson, Colorado College football coach, took part in football, basketball and track at McPherson College in Kansas.

Gridders Open Practice As 104 Greet Spring

By BOB CLENDENNEN

(Ed's note: This is the first in a series of articles by Bob Clendennen, a two-year letterman at tackle for the Aggies and now a student-coach during Spring training along with the other nine graduating seniors.)

Autumn-like weather and a host of new faces on the coaching staff Tuesday greeted the returning Aggie championship team out to find ways to defend their Southwest Conference crown.

The 104-man group wasted no time in getting down to the stuff from which more champions are made — fundamentals. To Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, the word "fundamentals" means nothing more or less than stance, starts, one-on-one blocks, and timing.

Along with the new coaches came some new ideas for getting the

most from the 18-day practice session. Coach Carney Laslie, (lately from West Point), brought with him a new type of agility drill for linemen which should improve their pursuit and help eliminate their losing sight of the ball during a play.

The squad divided into five teams yesterday, with regulars and hopefuls alike battling to move up, or in some cases, to stay where they were put after a preliminary evaluation by the coaching staff.

Interior linemen worked against each other in small groups for 40 minutes, then joined together for work on running plays up the middle — an area which Bryant had expressed concern about in an earlier interview.

The final 40 minutes of a two-hour workout saw two teams, orange and blue, exchange blows in a pass offense

drill and wind up the session with a snappy scrimmage which gave up-coming sophomores their first chance to taste varsity linemen. The former freshmen gave good account of themselves, while the offensive-minded blue team ground up good yardage on options and wide sweeps.

All last season, opponents had worked on the Aggies' pass defense. There were several "holes" in the defensive patterns, and it became a sore spot before the season ended. To offset this potential liability, Bryant has already begun to instill in his pass defenders a burning desire to INTERCEPT.

"We only intercepted 20 passes last fall" said Bryant. "We should have had 30."

Many changes will take place, but the primary one will be in the heart and desire of the defenders. Bryant has always maintained that the best defense is a good offense, but from the look of things to come, he isn't counting on touchdowns alone.

Bryant's philosophy and guiding goal from now on is to develop all the players possible to their finest. He would like to have four teams capable of being on the field at any time. To do this, each player will have to improve his speed, agility, and reactions. Team speed will be of even greater importance next fall, and "The Bear" intends to have everyone on the squad at his best for next year, THE BIG YEAR AT A&M.

The players seemed to enjoy the workout. They left the field at a fast run without any windprints or lags.

A soph halfback summed it up for me while we were waiting for a ride back to the dorm. He said, "We didn't have a very hard workout. Did we?" He was assured that there was more and better things to come; the advice which I now pass on to you.



BEHN HUBBARD — the Aggies returning right fielder who did not play in 1955. Hubbard lettered in 1954 and 1956.

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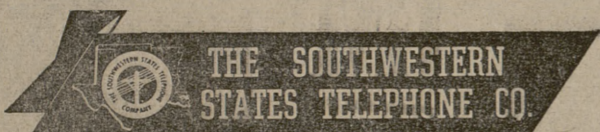


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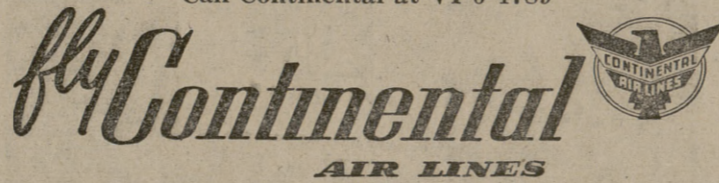
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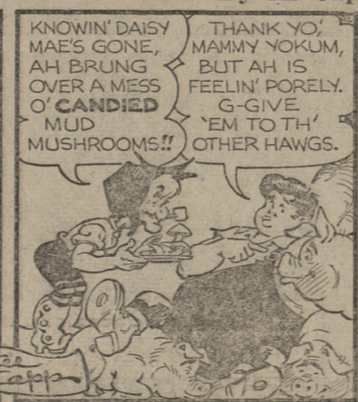
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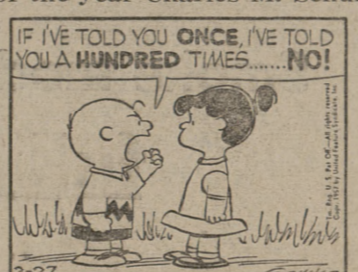


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By Al Capp

PEANUTS



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