

Aggie Football Outlook Bright, Dark in Spots

By BOB CLENDENNEN

The football picture at A&M is like looking out from a mountain top during a Spring thundershower. Some parts of the country are crystal clear, with the sunshine bringing every detail to knife-edge sharpness. But other parts of the landscape are nearly obliterated by squall lines and thunderheads.

The brightest spot on the team is at quarterback, where there are three men capable of playing on anyone's team. Roddy Osborne started out in spring training where he left off at the Teasip massacre. Charlie Milstead has given notice to everyone that he intends to get few splinters from warming the bench next fall, and Jimmy Wright finally came through to show everyone the kind of player he can be. Wright could always pass, and was a fair runner and signal-caller, but this spring he ended up as a fine cornerman on defense and a credit to any squad.

It's a good thing that the Aggies won't have to meet these men on Saturday.

It's lucky for the Aggies that these men will be in the Maroon and White next fall. The sun shines on more than the man under. In a word, the Aggie backfield will be "loaded" for the coming season.

There are backs a-plenty who can run, catch passes, throw, and more important, block and tackle. The fullback position is not hurting. There is a rat-race between Richard Gay and young Gordon LeBeauf, with both men showing that they have what it takes to make the Bear's team.

Still the sun shines. The figures of All-American Charlie Krueger and massive Ken Beck may go into the record books as the best tackles in the conference. John (Tiny) Tracey, a speed merchant at 215 pounds, is a believable contender for almost any position on the team. He's found a home at end, and

will stand alongside Krueger on the left side. There is a blocking combination to give other coaches nightmares!

Now come the clouds... for at guard and center there is a lack of reserve and exceptional talent at present. Of course it's still a long time 'til the first game, and players do improve with age, experience, and added desire. John Gilbert may be the man to watch at center. He is running the first team at the end of Spring, and he will be hard to dislodge for a couple more seasons.

There is a glimmer of sunlight bouncing off the craggy jaw of towering Bill Webb at right guard. At 6' 6", 270 pounds, he is the largest man on the team. No, that's not right. Some people are "large", but Webb is bigger than that. He comes to Aggieland with six years of experience in service football and the junior college circuit.

Taking everything into consideration, it's hard to be anything but optimistic about the picture. Who can tell, maybe the brisk winds of fall will blow away all the clouds that dim the view of next year's national champions!

'Potential' Key Word

Braves Forgetting Bums; Want Flag

BRADENTON, Fla., (AP) — Through the long winter months, the Milwaukee Braves have been thinking about the World Series checks that went down the drain last September. If they were nonchalant at the time, the mood has changed.

It would be wrong to describe the Braves as hungry players. They are well paid and some have lucrative winter jobs in addition. But they seem to resent the charge that they "blew" the pennant last year. If they resent it enough, they may get a real fast break from the starting gate.

No club has worked harder during spring training. If this once was a country club time somebody hits a homer or makes an error in a squad game, Coach Bob Keely blows a Boy Scout whistle that means one lap around the field for everybody.

"When we got down here I called a meeting and talked over a few of the things that happened last year," said Manager Fred Haney. "I said I didn't expect to mention them again. This is a new year and we're starting from scratch."

Last fall the mention of Brooklyn always could be counted upon to bring an unprintable reaction from Haney. No more.

"I've got one thing on my mind," said Haney. "That's winning the pennant. We've got to beat seven clubs. I think we're going to win it."

Haney said he thought the "near miss" of last year would help his club. The Braves finished one game behind the pennant-winning Brooklyn Dodgers, Milwaukee dropping two of the final three games at St. Louis to surrender its lead and the National League flag. "Brooklyn got beat out by the Giants in 1951 and came right back to win. Everybody said they would be too crushed to get off the floor, but they did. I hope we can do the same thing," the manager adds.

When Haney talks about his club, the word he used most often is "potential." In fact, he has the players talking the same way.

"Four of our men were way below their potential," Haney said. "If we can get them back up to par, we'll be all right."

"Let's start with Del Crandall. He hurt his left arm and couldn't



COACH PAUL (BEAR) BRYANT—takes his fourth entry into the 1957 football wars after A&M's first SWC title since 1941.

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All sophomores will be excused from classes after 2:50 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, to participate in the A&M College System sophomore re-testing program. Students will report to the basement of Sibia Hall by 3 p.m. to take the test. If it is possible to start on time, the testing will be completed by 4:30 p.m.

Robert B. Kamm
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CHAMPAIGN, Ill., (AP) — Ray Eliot, dean of Big Ten football coaches, happily watched the snow melt so he could signal the start of spring practices yesterday and said the target for his University of Illinois team in 1957 will be the first division.

"You know, instead of finishing up spring drills this year with a varsity-freshman game, we're going to get up an old timer's game," Eliot said. "The date will be Saturday, May 4, and invitations have been sent to 75 ex-varsity players.

"It'll be the 10th anniversary of our first Rose Bowl champion and the fifth of our second Rose Bowl team and I think it's a good idea.

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