

SPORTS SLANTS

By JIM CARRELL

The resignation of basketball coach Ken Loeffler came as no surprise to many... and with it "give-and-go" basketball returns to the East and Aggie hopes for a successful basketball team must go awaiting.

Ending a brief two year stay at A&M, Loeffler, in making his resignation, said: "Having accomplished my mission in bringing A&M basketball to the brink of Southwest Conference championship contention, it is my voluntary desire to resign my position as basketball coach as of this date, May 28, 1957.

"This is in no way a confession of guilt of charges which have been made against me by the conference."

Loeffler was paid the entire amount of his contractual agreement and President D. W. Williams in accepting the resignation, stated: "It is worth this amount to clear the air of all charges and questions concerning all members of our athletic staff and prepare the way for free development of an aggressive and well-rounded athletic program at the college."

These are a portion of the official statement issued by the President's office immediately after the resignation Tuesday morning.

However there is more behind this situation than meets the eye. Loeffler had to go and there are a number of reasons.

Probably one of the major reasons was a continued clash of personalities between him and Athletic Director Paul Bryant.

Another reason is the players. If he had chosen to stay all members of the squad would certainly choose to remain at A&M. Now that he is leaving, Wayne Lawrence, the 6-9 sophomore-to-be from Connecticut, has publicly stated he will not attend A&M next year. The way is still open for those to leave who have eligibility remaining where a year from now they would of necessity be forced to stay.

Lawrence was to have been the key to solution of the basketball problem. He would have become the big man in the give and go offense, and no one wins without the tall man.

Probably no other members of the squad will leave.

Had Loeffler chosen to remain it is extremely doubtful that his contract would have been renewed. His openmindedness and frankness in statements he has made have kept him in hot water, and he has not restricted himself to athletics.

Formerly a business law professor, Loeffler was not permitted to teach here at A&M. This has been a disappointment to him.

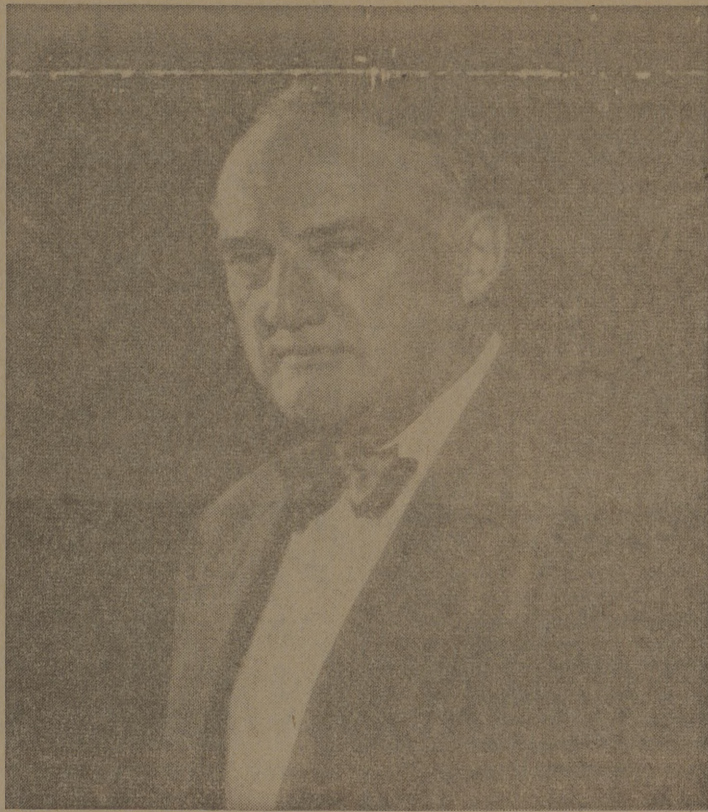
He has drawn criticism for stating that it is difficult to attract good ballplayers to A&M because of the locale and the absence of coeducation. No one denies this but many would just as soon not hear it mentioned.

There was also an objection by Loeffler to his not being allowed to recruit. To have any kind of athletic team a coach has to have players and in college recruiting is the only way to get those players. To remain would have been to fight a stacked deck.

The resignation of Loeffler could go a long way toward solving the NCAA athletic probation currently in effect against A&M. Though the probationary period ended May 14, the NCAA must first meet and vote to drop the probation before the school is allowed off the hook.

"Now that neither the student involved in this matter nor the coach whose activities were questioned are at the college," stated Williams in continuing his statement, "I confidently expect the conference and NCAA to clear the college in every way at the first possible opportunity."

However, that may be asking too much of a conference that has done little for the school so far in this matter of athletic probation and the NCAA is probably not so interested in how clean our house



KEN LOEFFLER

is as they are in punishing A&M for its rules violations. But for a change public sentiment appears to favor A&M and at the expense of the finest basketball coach in the United States, perhaps A&M will again enjoy athletic freedom. A&M will miss Ken Loeffler and what he might have done for basketball here and in the Southwest.

Former Aggie Gridiron Star Coaches CHS

Former Aggie quarterback Richard Dean "Dick" Gardemal has been selected to fill the recently vacated post as head football coach of A&M Consolidated for the 1957 season.

He was chosen from a field of 42 who had applied for the position to replace Horace Schaffer, who resigned to become principal of CHS Junior High school.

Gardemal was graduated from St. James High school in Port Arthur and received his degree from Texas A&M in 1952. He entered military service on graduation and upon separation assumed the position of assistant football coach at Lufkin.

Local football fans probably best remember Gardemal as the quarterback of the well-known Aggie backfield that included halfbacks Billy Tidwell and Glenn Lippman and all-America fullback Bob Smith. It was Gardemal who guided the Aggies to a brilliant 22-21 victory over the Texas Longhorns in a memorable Thanksgiving Day game of 1951.

He inherits a team that includes 18 lettermen from the cellar-dwelling aggregation of 1956. Included among the returning lettermen are Bill Kavanaugh, an honorable mention selection on the all-state squad last season, and Steadman Davis, an all-district performer at center during the past football campaign.

Harris, Pastrano To Fight in June

CUT AND SHOOT, Tex.—Roy Harris, the Texas heavy weight champion who meets his strongest test June 11 at Houston when he fights Willie Pastrano, has four sparring partners as he trains each day at a rodeo arena.

Benny King, manager of the rising young boxer who has won 20 straight professional fights and recently projected himself nationally when he decided Bob Baker, says:

"Harris is looking very sharp. His punching is better and his combinations are improved."

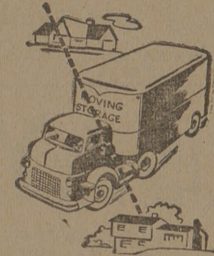
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Dallas Takes 4-Game Lead

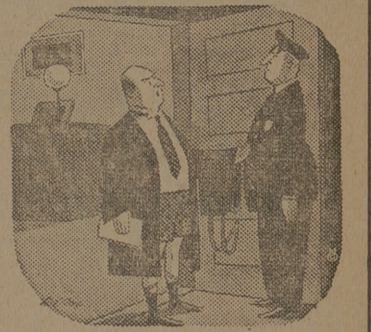
DALLAS.—Dick Getter batted in both of the runs Wednesday as Dallas beat Houston 2-0 and pulled back to a 4 game lead in the Texas League race. Dick Maibauer limited the Buffs to four singles but had to have help from Pat Patrick for the final out in the ninth.

Worth Cats, 5-3. The outcome deadlocked the three game series which ends tomorrow night. Dave Newkirk was the winner and Gene Fodge the loser.

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Arnold's No-Hitter Nets Tigers 1-0 Win

By MAURICE OLIAN

Alton Arnold's pressure-packed no-hitter in the five inning second game of a doubleheader Tuesday at Tiger Field handed the A&M Consolidated Tigers a 1-0 victory and the bi-district championship over the Liberty Panthers.

Liberty, which had gone down before the Bengals 4-2 in the initial game of their best of three series last week, had sent the playoff into its third and final battle, edging the locals 3-0 in eight rounds in the opening tilt of the twin-bill.

Coach Edsel Jones' youthful Tigers travel to Elgin to clash with the Wildcats in the regional semifinals opener Friday at 8 p.m. in Elgin. Elgin, victor over Lockhart in bi-district play, meets the Ti-

ggers travel to Elgin to clash with the Wildcats in the regional semifinals opener Friday at 8 p.m. in Elgin. Elgin, victor over Lockhart in bi-district play, meets the Tigers Tuesday at Kyle Field will tangle with the CHS-Elgin winner in the regional finals.

Chalking up the first no-hitter recorded by a Tiger hurler this season, Arnold's dancing curveball completely befuddled the Liberty batters as he fanned 12 and walked none. The sophomore southpaw faced only 18 batters in Liberty's five turns at the plate as three Panthers reached base on Tiger errors.

Edgar Feldman lost a heart-breaker in the first game of the doubleheader to Liberty's big Bubba Davis, who surrendered a total of only four hits to the Tigers—two singles in each game. Feldman struck out 11 batters, as did Davis, walked three and allowed six base knocks.

The Tigers, now boasting a 13-6 record for the season, captured the bidistrict title, scoring what proved to be the deciding tally in the third frame of the nightcap. John Martinez, who cracked out three of the Tiger's four hits for the day and also stole four bases, singled to open the inning.

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