

# Ag Athletes Had Fine Year; Future Looks Better

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Battalion Sports Editor

Now that the last few days of the spring semester are upon us, time to go back over the past year and review the happenings in the sports world at Aggieland. In all the Aggies had a well-remembered year of sports; one of the best in several years.

**Football**

First, in football, it was an uneventful season for the men who don helmets and shoulder pads. They ended up with a 1-6-3 record with a little of that old Irish luck, they could have been on the top in the Southwest Conference. Many people thought that the Ags were jinxed as far as the football went. The footballers knocked three opponents—Texas Tech (1-4), TCU (1-4-14), and SMU (1-4-14). Only one team bettered the Ags by more than two games. That being Houston, 17-0.

During spring training, several sports writers said that the boys from the Brazos bottom were the men to watch next season in the gridiron race. The Aggies lost 11 lettermen and six of these were starters sometime during the fall. There is no doubt that Coach Jim Myers will have the best all-round material since he came here from Iowa State.

Two linemen—Bull Phillips, a junior-to-be, and Joe "Buddy" Eilers, a senior-to-be, have already been cited as tremendous trenchmen and the type of players that will probably win many honors this fall. Of course, all of this will depend on injuries and various other happenings.

In the backfield, Coach Myers may be over his quarterback worries as he has four capable ones in Ronnie Brice, Jim Linnstaedter, John Erickson and Jim Keller. Brice and Linnstaedter are noted

more for their running than passing, but Erickson is a chunker. Every one of his passes looks like a frozen rope when in flight. Keller, who came out for football this spring from the hardwoods, really impressed the coaching staff with his hard-nosed defensive play.

The freshman team last fall had a good season as they ended up with a 3-2 mark. There are several men on this squad that will help the varsity this fall. They are Ray Kubala, Jerry Rogers, Phil Peter and George Hargett, to name just a few.

It looks from here that the Aggies will have a profitable season in football this fall. Only time will tell.

**Basketball**

In basketball, the Cadet cagers were a threat for the SWC title all the way to the end. Five lettermen will be gone when the hardwoodmen report for work this Oc-

tober—three of them starters, Pat and Don Stanley and Wayne Annett. A&M's All-American, Carroll Broussard, will lead the cagers next season in his senior year. Coach Bob Rogers still has a concern in the development of seven-foot Lewis Qualls. Big Lew came a long way last season, and if he continues to improve, he could be one of the best players in the SWC. The Cadets compiled a season record of 16-8 and a 10-4 mark in the SWC. They finished the season only one game out of first place.

As for the Fish, they also had a fine season with a 9-3 record. Led by high-scoring Bennie Lenox, several of the freshmen will help on the varsity team.

**Track**

Track could become one of A&M's strongest sports if they continue their present pace. The varsity won two triangular meets this spring; more than in the past three years. Their strength was

in the sprints and the distance races, along with the high jump discus and the pole vault. Thad Crooks, a senior-to-be, broke two A&M school records this spring in the 880-yard and mile runs.

E. L. Ener won his share in the mile and he will be only a junior next fall. Terry Robinson came around in the latter part of the season in the discus throw and could be a big contender next spring. Curtis Roberts looked good in the sprints.

The Fish looked very impressive especially in the sprints and the weights. Pat Mitchell, R. E. Merritt and Danny Roberts have outstanding talents and should be great stars in their last three years.

**Baseball**

Coach Tom Chandler's men another member of the A&M hard luck team. They started out in high fashion, but injuries caught up with them in the latter part

of the season and this probably cost them the conference flag. Their main weakness was in pitching because of injuries and control trouble. Nothing can be said against the Aggies' hitting as they batted .294 as a team and had an even better average in SWC play with an outstanding .319 mark.

The varsity baseballers finished the season with a 14-10-1 record and a 6-8-1 mark in the SWC. Some of the star hitters were Terry Cobb, Byron Barber, Ray Hall, Stuffy Davis, Dick Hickerson, and Bill Puckett. Bob Collins showed up well on the mound. The Ags lose only five men off this year's team.

The winningest team at Aggieland this year was the Fish baseballers who had a season's record of 10-1—losing, only in the last game to the Texas Shorthorns. Stars on the team were Bill Hancock, Bill Grochett, Roger Crouch, Chuck McGuire, Dave Johnson,

Johnny Crain and Richard Beller—to name a few.

**Golf, Swimming, Tennis**

In the minor sports—golf, swimming and tennis—golf came out on top at A&M and in the SWC. The linksters won 34 points out of a possible 42 in taking the championship. The foursome of Billy Martindale, John Lively, Dickie Doble and Ralph Johnston became a feared quartet around the conference. Martindale is the only man lost off the squad.

In swimming, the Aggies had their stars in the Baker twins—Bill and Bob—even though Texas and SMU dominated the SWC.

The same goes for tennis as Texas and Rice proved too strong for the Cadet racketeers. Jerry Foster and Richard Halter, who are only juniors, will show the way next spring on the courts.

In summing up the year, the Aggies had a very respectable year, but next year appears even better!



(Left to right) Tom Shifflett, Chairman of Ham Show; Santiago Olvera, Jr., Champion Ham Showman; and Swede Hanson, Buyer of Champion Ham.

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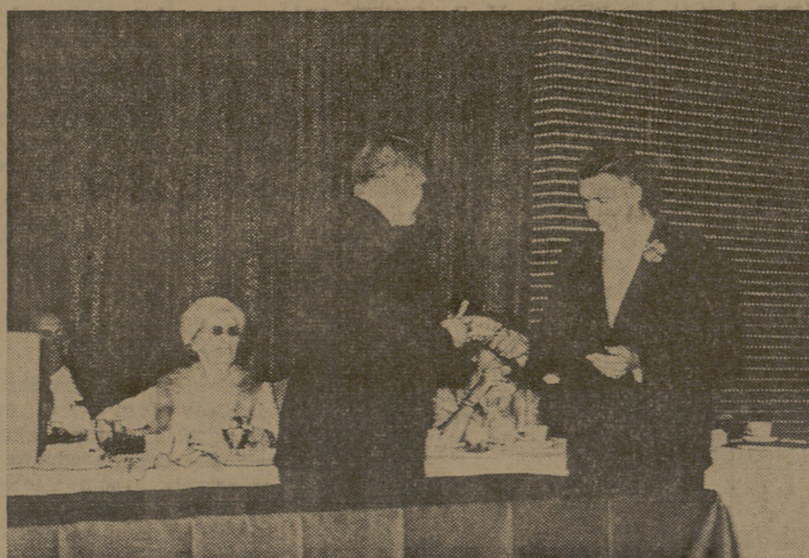
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