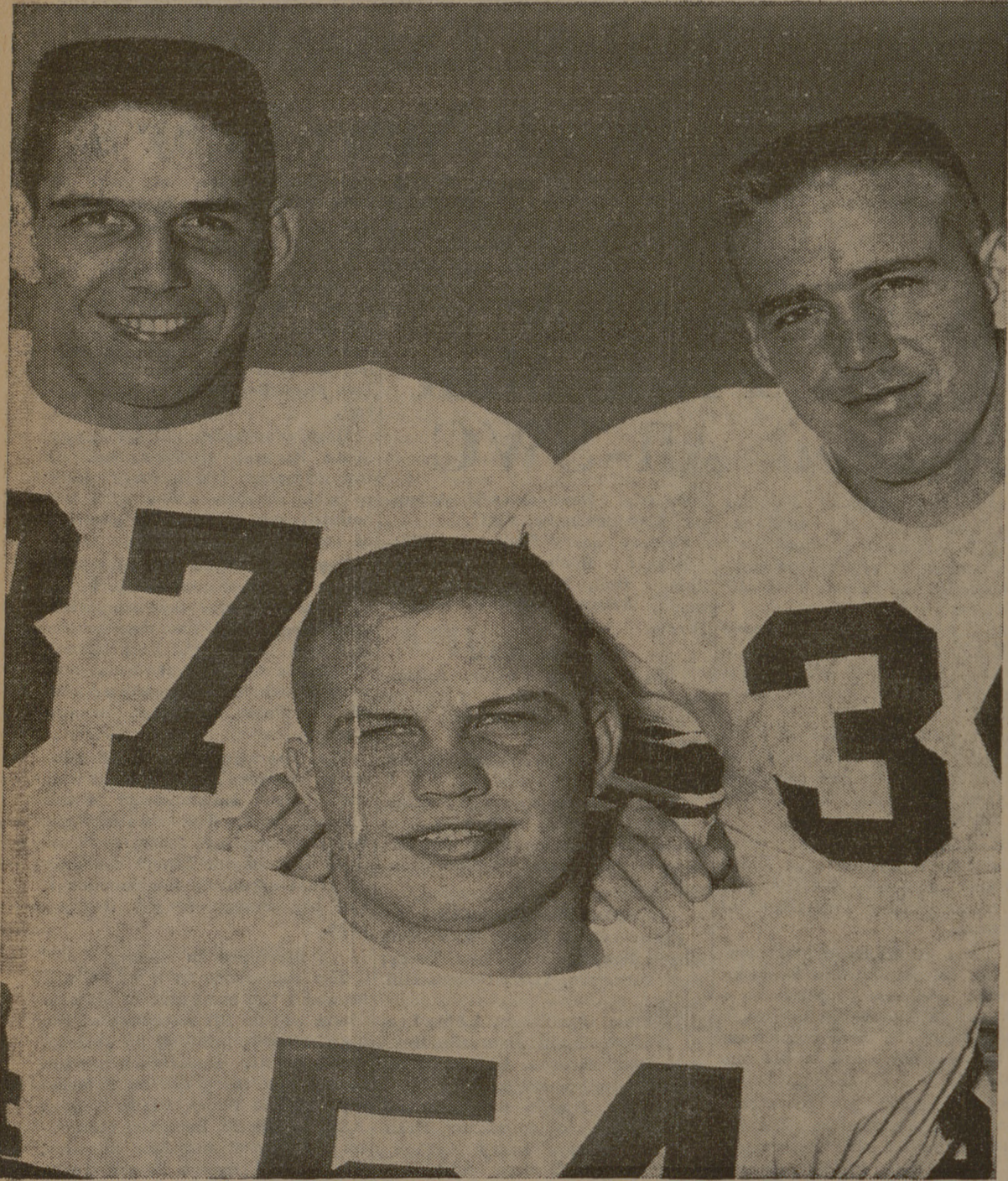


Ag Gridders Rate 'Darkhorse' Position



Junior Grid Workhorses
... (from left) Byer, Hopkins, Caffey

The sports writers say so and A&M Coach Jim Myers does not deny it.

The Texas Aggies will be an improved football team this season—one that rates the "dark horse" billing in the always topsy-turvy Southwest Conference race.

A club buoyed by a heavy return of veterans and a sprinkling of eager sophomores, an improved offense and the expectation of the same good defense which highlighted Aggie play in 1960 are reasons for optimism.

A&M will not be picked by many to win the SWC title. However, the Aggies could prove game spoilers on any given Saturday and loom at least a fourth or fifth place finisher in the eight-team league.

Taking into consideration the Aggies' fine spring training which Myers describes as "the best" in his four years as athletic director and head coach, the evaluation by the sports writers and the fact that experience usually lends to better performances, the 1961 Aggies should be ready to "come to play."

Just how well the Cadets improve on their 1-6-3 record of last year depends on the strength of their opponents, all reportedly improved.

Two of A&M's chief problems of 1960, quarterbacking and passing, should be lessened.

"There's no doubt that quarterback is the key position in our 1961 plans. We just did not have adequate play there last year and will have to have it this season to be improved," Myers said.

It appeared at the end of spring training that letterman Ronnie Brice of Andrews and a talented runner from Brenham, Jim Linnstaedter, would battle it out for the quarterback position.

However, many days of summer study of practice movies have prompted the A&M coaching staff to alter their lineups and make position changes.

As of now the quarterback post belongs to Jim Keller of Terrell. At A&M on a basketball scholarship, the 6-5 former all-state performer was impressive in the spring drills.

Right behind him are John Erickson of Waco, a junior college transfer who made the JC all-American team while at Tarleton

State, and Brice.

Linnstaedter, in order to take better advantage of his running, has been moved to left halfback behind George Hargett of Linden. Both are sophomores and are being described by the coaches as "exciting runners."

Bob Caskey of Gonzales, a 1960 starter, returns to right half, backed by Ronnie Ledbetter of Dalhart and Jim Murphy of El Reno, Okla.

Sam Byer, A&M's leading rusher last year with 381 yards in 105 trips (eight games), is back for his junior year at fullback. The Marlin blaster did not lose a yard all season, and averaged 3.6 yards per carry.

Behind him will be Lee Roy Caffey of Thorndale, defensive specialist at linebacker, and Jerry Rogers, sophomore from Corpus Christi.

Byer missed the last two games of the 1960 campaign, Rice and

Texas, with a leg injury which appears to have completely healed.

Brice, Caskey, Ledbetter, Murphy, Byer and Caffey are all lettermen.

It is the first taste of collegiate football for Keller, an impressive-looking 190-pounder who rode the Aggie basketball bench as a varsity reserve last winter.

The 1960 A&M foes left the playing field singing praises of the Aggie line.

Myers hopes for a repeat this year.

Sparked by Tackles Joe Eilers of Hallettsville and Wayland Simmons of San Antonio, Guards Jim Phillips of Freeport and Wayne Freiling of San Antonio and Center Jerry Hopkins of Mart, the forward wall from tackle to tackle should prove tough.

Myers thinks Eilers will be one of the outstanding linemen in the SWC.

"A good blocker, Joe is always

in the play on defense, too, has fierce determination and played a bad game last year. He should be a real star this year," Myers said.

Eilers came out of the Cadet Corps when a freshman on scholarship, and fought his way to a first team berth after being held out of varsity competition as a sophomore year.

The end slots are questionable. It appears the posts will be well on offense, but there is a question of defense.

Probable starters are Hill of Dallas and Bobby Henson of Plainview.

Spelling the starters in the line are Pat Latham of Bowie, Franklin Fisher of Brenham, Ben Krenek of El Campo, George Hogan of Longview, tackles, Guy Dillon of Cassatt and Keith Huggins of Houston, guards and Ray Kubala of at center.

Consolidated, Bryan Chances Look Slim

A&M Consolidated's Tigers and the Broncos of Bryan's Stephen F. Austin High School are both given little chance of winning district football championships this fall, according to the editors of "Texas Football" magazine.

The scribes have tentatively named Cameron as the team to beat in Consolidated's District 19-AA, while the Austin Maroons are favored to cop the District 13-AAAA bunting.

The play of quarterback Russell

Welch, halfback Cyril Burke and center Charles Roeder is expected to provide the bright points for Consolidated.

Hearne, Rockdale, and Caldwell are also due to be improved and the scribes have forecast a rough year for the Tigers.

In 13-AAAA, Tom Stockton, who is due to start at either fullback or quarterback, is expected to be the brightest star for new Coach Dutch Ohlendorf's Bryan Broncos, after a strong 8-2 team last year.

Only one starter and 12 lettermen will return, however, with juniors and squadmen to spell the difference as the Broncos battle the experienced Maroons and also Temple and Waco for district honors.

EYES ROOKIE HONOR

LOS ANGELES (AP) — At the rate of his first half pace, rookie outfielder Ken Hunt of the Los Angeles Angels stands a chance to break Ted Williams' record of 31 home runs as a rookies in 1939. Hunt had 18 homers at the first All-Star game break with half of the season to go.

A TALL QUARTERBACK MILWAUKEE (AP) — Vince Lombardi, coach of the Western Conference champion Green Bay Packers, believes Val Keekin, rookies quarterback from Mississippi Southern, may be a real find. He weighs 220, is 6-foot-5 and has a strong arm.

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Doug Sanders started as an amateur golfer at the American Legion course in Cedar town, Ga.

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