

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1963

Changes In Backfield Counted On For '63



CENTER RAY KUBALA
... Aggies' all-everything prospect for 1963

A stronger, more experienced line, a re-arranged backfield and a simplified offense are what Head Coach Hank Foldberg is counting on to improve on last season's 3-7 record for A&M football.

Southwest Conference experts predict a middle-of-the-field finish for the Cadets this season—something comparable to last year's tie for fourth and fifth among the eight teams. But most of them also agree A&M is the best bet for a dark horse that could sneak up on the established league giants.

REGARDLESS OF rankings and records, when the season ends in December A&M opponents are sure to have bad memories of the Aggies forward wall. The menacing, seven-man front will be led by 249-pound Ray Kubala, the Cadets All-everything prospect for 1963.

The 6-4 center and middle line-backer from West Point he was supposed to be an under-study to All-SWC center Jerry Hopkins last season and ended up being honored as the Ags' outstanding lineman.

A senior, Kubala will captain the Farmers this season.

SERVING AS alternate captain will be 6-2, 220-pound Ronnie Carpenter, to whom Foldberg looks for much-needed improvement at end. The senior from Marshall owns two varsity letters and is counted among A&M's four all-star candidates.

Besides Kubala and Carpenter,

there will be 18 lettermen returning; 12 of them juniors. The rest of the team will be made up of green, but promising, youngsters.

The two captains are only part of the reason for optimism about the line. Melvin Simmons, who made second team All-SWC last year as a sophomore tackle, has been switched to guard.

The 6-1, 210-pounder from Odesa will lead a guard corps consisting of lettermen Ronnie Moore, 6-1, 215 pounds from Brownwood, Yancy Bounds, 6-0, 205 from Cart-hage; and Squadman Mike Swan 6-1, 206 of Athens.

THE BIG question-mark in the line is the tackle slot. Here the Ags lack experienced depth. With Simmons moved next to the center, 6-4, 220-pound James Craig of Jasper and 6-1, 2-6-pound Ray Gene Hinze will be the only lettermen tackles.

But a pair of lads named Ward were "pleasant surprises" during spring training. The coaches expect Waylon, a 6-3, 220-pounder from Mount Pleasant and Bill, 6-3, 210-pounder from Austin, to end their tackle worries.

Added strength at the tackle may come from sophs Larry Florence, 6-4, 230 of Abernathy and Don West, 6-2, 210 of Corpus Christi.

LAST YEAR'S SORESPOT, the end position, should pull its load this time around. Carpenter is the only senior but experience at the other flanker spot will come from John Brotherton, 6-2, 208-pounder from Mineola, who has proved an able blocker and receiver.

Backing them up will be Richard Whatley, a 6-3, 195-pound Port Lavaca sophomore and James Drennan, 6-4, 196-pound junior letterman from Hooks.

Joe Wellborn, a 6-1, 210-pound soph looks now to be Kubala's chief support at center. The Houston lad will also get competition from junior Donnie Martell and soph Gary Williams.

Barring possible injuries, A&M's 1963 line should be as good as any-

thing the SWC can offer this year. BUT IT TAKES four more men to round out the team and this year's backfield will make or break the Aggies.

At this stage the fullback slot looks to be no problem. Low-running, hard-hitting Jerry Rogers, a 5-11, 207-pounder from Corpus Christi, is back after missing all but three games last season with a bad knee.

Backing up Rogers will be Ken McLean, moved from end at the last of spring training; Mike Kohlman, who turned in impressive play last year as a sub; and Jerry Kachtik, a standout sophomore during spring drills. McLean is 5-11 and weighs 195, Kohlman is 5-11 at 205 and Kachtik is 6-1, 195 pounds and still growing.

Graced with experience and ample speed, the big halfback deficit is size. Five lettermen will be battling it out for the two starting positions.

LEADING THE RACE for half-back at the end of spring training were seniors Travis Reagan, 5-7, 171-pounder from Wichita Falls and George Hargett, 5-9, 170-pounder from Linden. Both own two varsity letters.

Right on their heels were lettermen Mike Pitman, 5-11, 159 of Dallas and Henry Boxley, 5-11, 180 from Bryan. As a soph last season, little Pitman had developed into a

standout performer on defense by the middle of the year.

Other lettermen in the scramble are 6-0, 173-pound Tommy Meeks of Bryan and 6-1, 187-pound Jim Willenborg, moved from quarterback during spring drills.

Top soph material at halfback will come in the forms of 6-2, 188-pound Bubber Collins from San Antonio and 5-11, 185-pound Jim Stabler from Dallas.

THE OTHER big backfield problem for the '63 Aggies is the all-important quarterback slot. Jim Linnstaedter, A&M's leading ball-carrier as a junior last year, was shifted from halfback during spring training.

As it looks now, the 5-11, 165-pound two-year letterman from Brenham will be the starting field general. He is backed by 6-4, 194-pound Jim Keller from Terrell; 5-11, 182-pound Danny McIlhany from South Houston; and 6-3, 190-pound transfer Bill Uzzell from Eagle Lake.

A&M's success in the forthcoming campaign will largely depend on the halfbacks making up for their lack of size and performance at quarterback.

The Farmers lacked offensive punch last season and Foldberg hopes a more simplified attack, bolstered by the increased line strength, will provide it.

THE LEADING SCORER last year was place-kicker Mike Clark, who'll be starting his first season with the Philadelphia Eagles this fall. His absence shouldn't be noticed, however, with sophomore specialist Bob Lee from San Antonio on the roster.

While they were low on the list of ground and air gainers in the league last season, the Aggies finished among the top three defensive squads. They probably would have been out in front if leaks in the pass-defense had been plugged.

This year's defense should be better—or at least equal to—the stingy unit of 1962.

AFTER 3-7 RECORD LAST YEAR Coaches Start Soph Season

A&M's football coaching staff will begin its sophomore season this year.

Head Coach and Athletic Director Hank Foldberg and his assistants turned in a 3-7 record in 1962 and the team ended up in a tie for fourth in the Southwest Conference.

Foldberg came to A&M early in the spring of 1962 after a successful playing career here and at West Point, and a two-year coaching stint at the University of Wichita. With him he brought assistants Leonard Brown, Dick Johnson, Jack O'Brien, Craig Randall, Neil Schmidt and Joel Wahlberg.

Retained on the staff from the Myers era was Elmer Smith, who has been on the Aggie staff since 1954.

Following is a brief capsule on each of the Aggie coaches:

Foldberg was twice an All-American end with Army's great teams of the mid-forties and further distinguished as "coach of the year" of the Missouri Valley Conference in 1960.

He was born in Dallas and graduated from Sunset High School. Following graduation he entered in football, basketball and baseball at A&M before accepting an appointment to West Point.

Leaving the Academy in 1948, Foldberg played professional football with the Brooklyn Dodgers and Chicago Hornets of the old American Football League. He began coaching in 1950 at Purdue, and in 1951 came back to A&M as an assistant to Ray George.

The following year he went to the University of Florida, where he served as an assistant for eight years before accepting the Wichita post in 1960.

Brown, a 1947 graduate of the University of Missouri, joined Foldberg at Wichita in 1960 and then followed him to A&M.

For the Tigers of Missouri Brown lettered three times, making the All-Big Six team as a quarterback his senior year, when the Tigers captured the Cotton Bowl game.

Coaching posts have taken Brown to Multon, Mo., high school, Jackson High School in Miami, Fla., Panama City, Fla., high

school, and Lamar Tech in Beaumont.

Before joining the Wichita staff he was head coach and athletic director of West Palm Beach, Fla., high school and recorded a 28-13-1 record.

Johnson, only 24, graduated from the University of Wichita in 1961 after winning three letters as a quarterback under Foldberg. He was named to the All-Missouri Valley Conference team in 1960.

As a collegian Johnson set Wichita passing records with 34 completions of 62 tries as a senior while leading the team in rushing with 370 yards, in passing with

551 yards and scored 44 points, tops in the conference.

Randall, also a youngster at only 29, is a 1956 graduate of Colgate University, where he played under Coach Hal Lahar and was a standout lacrosse player.

After finishing college Randall coached both football and lacrosse at Colgate, and later at West Point.

He is a native of Locust Valley, N. Y.

Although a Pennsylvania native, O'Brien has made a name for himself in football in Florida. He was a standout end at the University

of Florida in 1950-53, where he captained the team and made All-Southeastern Conference in 1953.

O'Brien played under Foldberg at Florida and coached at Boone High School in Orlando, Fla., after a pro career with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

In his only other coaching job, at Boone High School, he averaged eight victories per season.

A former Purdue Star, Schmidt comes to A&M with 11 years of coaching experience and an enviable playing background.

In 1951 as a Purdue graduate Schmidt was awarded the Big Ten Medal for combined proficiency in scholarship and athletic and the Gimet Trophy as "the senior athletic judged to be most outstanding" in his four years at Purdue.

The ace halfback also starred in basketball.

Following graduation he served at an Indiana high school before returning to Purdue in 1952 as a freshman assistant.

From there he went to two other high schools before joining Foldberg at Wichita in 1960.

He is a combat veteran of World War II and was awarded a battle star in Okinawa.

The local dean of the staff, Smith came to A&M in 1954 after winning two state titles and compiling a 54-27-2 record at Southern Arkansas State College.

Prior to that he had coached at Centenary in Shreveport, La., and was a professional baseball player.

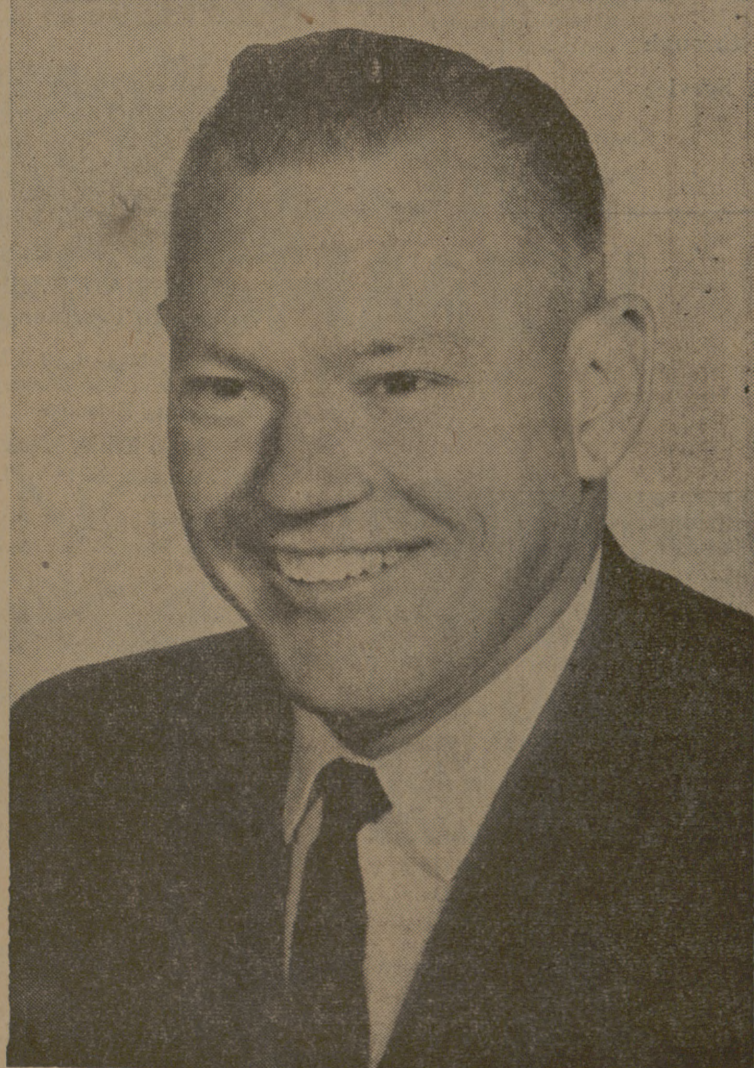
At Hendrix College in Arkansas, where he graduated in 1931, Smith was a four-sport letterman and one of the school's all-time greats.

He was a Navy lieutenant commander in World War II.

Wahlberg, 26, a native Texan has played high school football in Corpus Christi and was recruited by Foldberg from the University of Florida.

At Florida he was the starting center on the school's best team in 29 years in 1957 and won All-Florida honors.

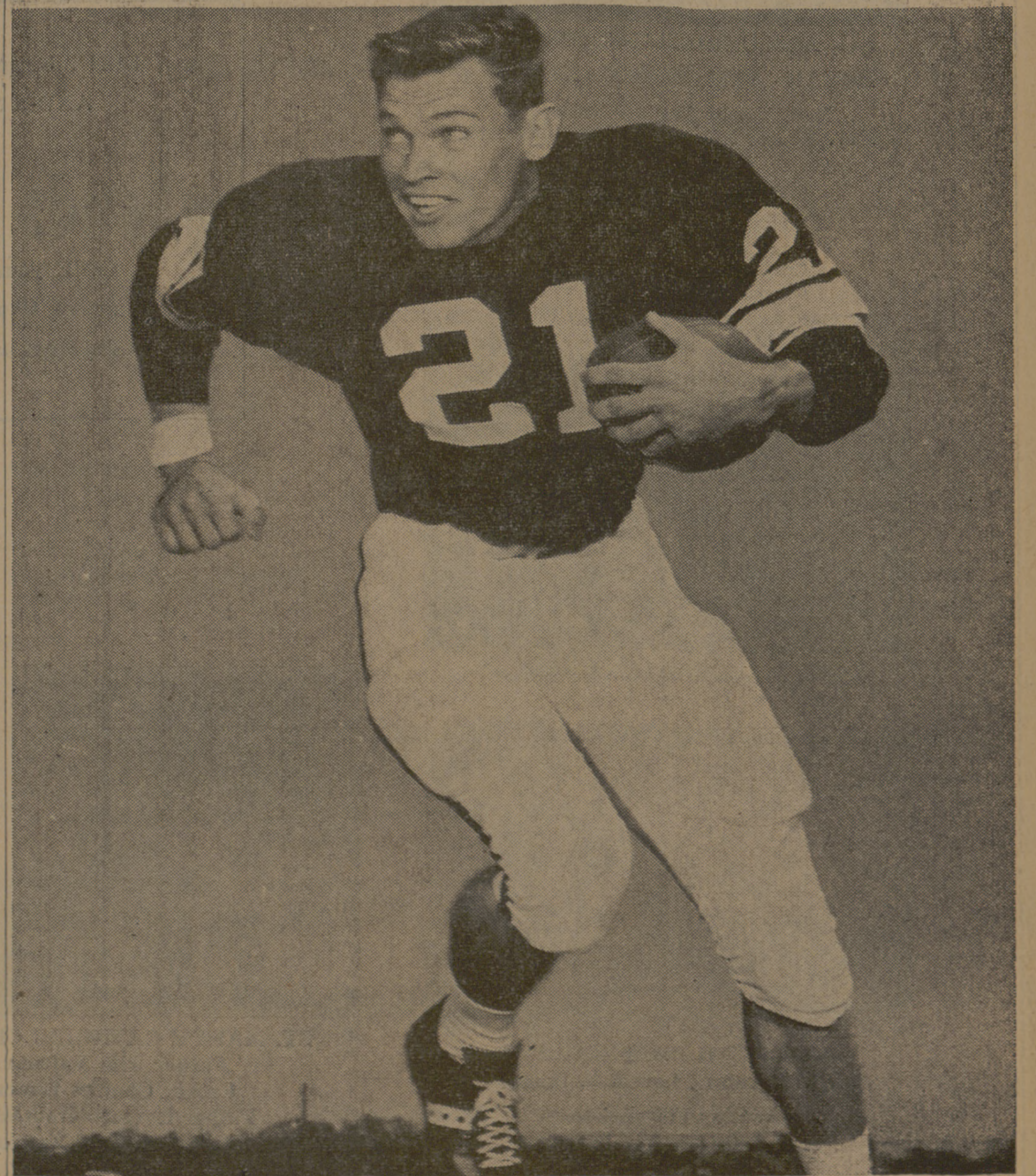
He assisted at Florida in 1958-59 and followed Foldberg to Wichita in 1960. His 1959 Freshman team at Florida was unbeaten.



HANK FOLDBERG
... begins soph season as grid coach

Aggie '63 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Place
Sept. 21	LSU	Baton Rouge
Sept. 28	Ohio State	Columbus
Oct. 5	Texas Tech	Lubbock
Oct. 12	Houston	Here
Oct. 19	TCU	Fort Worth
Oct. 26	Baylor	Here
Nov. 2	Arkansas	Little Rock
Nov. 9	SMU	Here
Nov. 16	Rice	Houston
Nov. 28	Texas	Here



QUARTERBACK JIM LINNSTAEDTER
... may be solution to offensive problems