

69 Cadets Answer Grid Practice Call

Sixty-nine well-conditioned gridgers answered Coach Gene Stallings whistle Wednesday, signifying the opening of fall drills for the "Make Something Happen" Aggie football team.

Included in the group were 28 lettermen, all but two of them in fine physical condition.

Only Ronnie Lindsey, junior fullback from Hallettsville, and Ed Breeding, junior end from Jacksboro, remained on the ailing list.

Lindsey, a 200 pound letterman expected to see much service at fullback this fall, was nursing a broken toe which he received during a summer workout at his home town Hallettsville. Lindsey was running on the high school track and snapped a bone on the middle toe of his right foot. He's expected to be back in action soon.

Breeding, a 6-4 210 pound letterman, was held out of opening contact drills to give his ankle a little more rest. He broke it during spring training and Stallings did not want to take any chances with it on opening day. He should be ready for A&M's Sept. 18 date with LSU.

Stallings said Wednesday he was real pleased with the team's physical condition. The new mentor had instructed his players to workout during the summer, and set a 6:18 mile run standard as a prerequisite to earning football gear this fall.

All 69 players passed the test, with all but nine running under the six minute mark. Harry Ledbetter paced the team with a 5:14, six finished under 5:20 and 38 under the team average of 5:40.

Stallings said the Cadet's physical condition had a great effect on the practice schedule, allowing more time for team work.

The Aggies go in shorts at 9 a.m. daily, followed by a 5 p.m. session in full pads. Stallings hopes to have the team ready for a scrimmage Saturday afternoon to give his quarterbacks a little more experience under game conditions.

The quarterback fight shaping up between letterman Eddie McCaughan and sophomore redshirt Harry Ledbetter should be one of the most interesting contests of fall drills, Stallings believes.

Lindsey's absence from Wednesday's workout necessitated two position changes. Dan Schneider, 198 pound sophomore from Trafford, Pa., was shifted from strong side back to fullback, and Lawson Howard, 188 pound junior letterman from West, moved from split end to strong side back.

In another move, Stallings returned Joe Weiss, 210 pound letterman from Pflugerville, to fullback. He had been tried at strong side back and center during spring training.

The Aggies continue two-a-day workouts this week, and last spring's procedure will be continued for admittance to the sessions. Students and faculty members will be admitted with activity cards while other persons must obtain written permission from Stallings to attend the drills.

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THE BATTALION

Ticket Sales Rise For Aggie Games

Coach Gene Stallings' football battlecry is "Make Something Happen" and Texas A&M fans are responding at the ticket window.

A&M athletic business manager Pat Dial has announced that ticket sales are "better than 25 per cent ahead of two years ago when the Aggies also had four home games."

Wednesday all tickets at A&M became available on a first-come, first-served basis with no limit on the number purchased. Tickets for games at Georgia Tech and Arkansas are \$5.50 each while single tickets for all other Aggie games, both at home and away are \$5 each.

SWC Practice Opens

DALLAS — Southwest Conference football teams returned to the practice field Wednesday, with an increasing awareness that they may have to be the best in the country to win their own league championship.

At least, it has been thus for the past two seasons. Texas was a consensus national champion in 1963, while Arkansas gained national championship recognition last New Year's Day by virtue of a Cotton Bowl conquest of Nebraska. Both the Football Writers Association and

Helms Foundation accorded Arkansas this acclaim after it had given the league successive undefeated, untied champions.

Repeat national championships had been achieved by Southwest Conference teams once previously, in 1938 and 1939 when TCU and Texas A&M put such recognition back-to-back.

Sovereigns of the Southwest for six successive campaigns, Texas and Arkansas generally are expected to continue their domination, but the margin from top to bottom may be the thinnest in a half-century of campaigning.

All eight contenders are working morning and afternoon workouts through the first two weeks of drills. Nearly 600 candidates answered the opening call.

One-hundred eighty-eight lettermen returned to the eight squads, including eighty-six starters. The number of returnees is greater than last year in each respect, mainly because several squads virtually converted to two-platoon football last fall.

The substitution list has been liberalized even more for 1965,

with the emphasis on offense due to be comparable to that of the early 50's, when conference games produced two touchdowns more on the average than the contests of recent seasons.

The Conference has its first new head coach in four seasons, with Gene Stallings succeeding Hank Foldberg at Texas A&M. Stallings returns to his alma mater after nine years of apprenticeship under Bear Bryant, who directed the Aggies to a Conference championship in 1956, Stallings' senior season.

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Jerry Levias Controversy Ignited By UCLA's Failure To Heed Letter Of Intent

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF Associated Press Sports Writer

That disagreeable happening at Hershey, Pa., when UCLA coach Tommy Prothro tried to talk to Jerry Levias, the Beaumont Negro schoolboy football star, about passing up Southern Methodist would never have happened had UCLA subscribed to the inter-conference letter of intent.

Levias had signed a letter of intent with Southern Methodist and that protected SMU from all the other members of the inter-conference setup. But the Athletic Association of Western Universities, of which UCLA is a member, has not come into the agreement.

Therefore, UCLA could legally recruit Levias without forfeiting any of the athlete's eligibility. That's what would have happened — two year's eligibility would have been taken away from Levias — had he gone to another school that was in the agreement.

The AAUW is the only major conference other than the Ivy League not subscribing to the inter-conference letter of intent.

The Ivy League apparently never will and it is no matter. That conference is not concerned with high-powered recruiting and does not go after anybody else's athletes anyway.

The AAUW is thinking about joining; said a year ago it probably would eventually come in.

It is to be recalled that Chuck Curtis, assistant coach at SMU, went to the Big 33 game with the announced intention of protecting the school's interest in Levias. When Prothro tried to talk to Levias, Curtis said he gave the man a shove and brought the athlete to Dallas. Levias said he was going to SMU and that was that.

So Prothro says he will file a complaint with the NCAA. Just what it will contain is unclear. The NCAA doesn't have a rule against one coach shoving another and it does not forbid a

member school from hanging onto the athletes it has recruited.

The inter-conference letter of intent was the brain child of Dr. J. William Davis, Texas Tech's member of the Southwest Conference faculty committee. He wanted to cut out wild recruiting, thus reducing the enmity between colleges and helping the athlete. The boy could sign a letter of intent with the knowledge that he wouldn't have to fight off coaches and scouts from the other colleges and could spend his time on school work.

The inter-conference letter of intent has been sensationally successful. There has not been a single major complaint. There have been some disagreements, to be sure, in the recruiting of athletes, but the conferences in which they occurred settled the matters without fuss or flurry. No one has had to appeal to the organization as a whole.

Most of the independents are in the agreement but such schools as Army, Navy, Air Force Academy and Miami are not. Why the service academies do not subscribe can be understood. Why Miami isn't in is unknown but Miami hasn't caused any controversies anyway.

Army, Navy and Air Force have an agreement that they will abide by the letter of intent so far as they can. However, Army, Navy and Air Force get their students by appointment. In other words, a boy has to get an appointment to go to the service academies.

If a boy gets an appointment to West Point or Navy or Air Force he has to be taken even if he has signed a letter of intent at some college.

But even if Army, Navy or Air Force took a boy by recruiting him and getting him an appointment, they still would not be violating a rule since they are not members of the inter-conference letter of intent.

But there's no reason for the Association of Western Universities not to be a member. It would remove the last barrier to complete understanding on recruiting in the nation.