

An Interview

Stallings Views Football Outlook For Battalion

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an interview with Texas A&M head football coach Gene Stallings concerning the Aggies' outlook in football after three days of spring training.

By GERALD GARCIA
Battalion Sports Editor

BATTALION—After three days of drills, what do you think of the attitude and condition of the players?

STALLINGS—I thought their conditioning was excellent when they reported for practice the first day. All of the boys were in fine shape. Of course this is a credit to the youngsters. They want to play football and they knew that if they were to get any benefit out of spring training they needed to be in shape from the start.

BATTALION—How does this team compare with last year's at the same stage?

STALLINGS—You just can't really tell. The returning boys have shown great improvement over last year, but last year, if we had not had so many injuries, we could have had a good ball club. That is the key — injuries! If everybody stays sound, this group could surprise a lot of people.

BATTALION—How about some promising sophomores?

STALLINGS—We've got several — many who could make the squad — but I do not want to single out any individual until we have a good scrimmage and everybody is tested.

BATTALION—From looking at the roster, it looks like the Aggies will be two-deep in very position. Does this mean that brighter days are ahead for A&M?

STALLINGS—This again goes back to the injury situation. If we stay healthy, we can be real good. But of course we also lost some good ball players and we will have to go at some positions with inexperienced players. Remember we lost Ken McLean, Jerry Kachtik, John Nilson, Tom Murrah, Joe Wellborn, Charles LaGrange, Eddie McKaughn, and Jim Kauffman. These boys played a lot of football for us last year and we will have to replace them, but I think that we have the material.

BATTALION—What do you think will be our strong points?

STALLINGS—Competition! This year more boys are fighting for each position and this gives a boy more of an initiative to work harder. This will also mean that we have more to pick from.

BATTALION—What about weaknesses?

STALLINGS—Inexperience! We will need to fill the gaps left by the departing players. But still, I would much rather have a good, young team with ability than an old, experienced team with no ability. This way we can work with young boys and have them ready to play after they get a little experience.

BATTALION—What do you consider harder to play offense or defense?

STALLINGS—You have to be a good football player to play either but you have to be a better one to play offense. You can be good, mean and play good defense, but you have to be good, mean and skillful to play offense. A ball carrier needs to have moves to carry the ball. To play on the line, you have to be able to block. Blocking is hard to do.



AGGIE COACH DISCUSSES FOOTBALL ... Gene Stallings comments on spring training.

Spring Scrimmage Drill Slated For Wednesday

Texas A&M head football coach Gene Stallings set Wednesday and Saturday as tentative dates for the first scrimmages for the Aggie football team.

A&M, which is currently holding spring training, has had four days of workouts. They worked out Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week and Tuesday.

"We will try to have a controlled scrimmage Wednesday afternoon in Kyle Field," Stallings said. "It will not be very long. We will work on fundamentals the first hour of practice and the second hour we will have the scrimmage."

Stallings said steady improvement has been the theme of the early workouts.

The Aggies also plan to work out Thursday this week, besides the Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday drills. This will be the pattern the Aggies will follow until the completion of spring drills.

After the four drills, Stallings said he believed the Aggies had improved a little each day.

"The returning boys are the ones who have shown great improvement over last year," he declared. "They're setting a fine pattern for the younger players. I don't want to single out any individuals until after we've engaged in a good scrimmage."

The Aggies have 36 days in which to complete 20 days of workouts. The traditional Maroon and White game held annually on the last day of practice will not be held this year.

Only A&M students and faculty with identification cards and persons with passes are allowed in the practice area behind Kyle Field.

Football Recruits Stallings Announces 49 Players Signed

Coach Gene Stallings today released a list of 49 football recruits signed by the Texas Aggies for next fall.

The 49 players, by positions, include six ends, 14 tackles, 11 guards, three centers, four quarterbacks and 11 running backs.

The players are:

Ends—Jimmy Dale Adams, 6-3, 185, Houston Waltrip; Robert James Kirchner, 6-1, 195, Port Arthur; Wayne King, 6-2, 220, Houston Reagan; Robert Richard Pinson, 6-0, 205, Forney; Ronald Lee Rudloff, 6-1, 190, Bellville; Robert Anthony Young, 6-2, 185, San Antonio MacArthur.

Tackles—Richard Lee Adams, 6-2, 200, Houston South Houston; Winston Gail Beam, 6-0, 235, Odessa High; Terry Dean Brewster, 6-3, 200, Jacksboro; Thomas Christopher Chaffee, 6-2, 220, San Antonio MacArthur; Raymond Leslie Dickson, 6-3, 220, Waco High; Ronald Wayne Gooch, 6-0, 200, Bryan; Wm. Howard Husband, 6-3, 220, Houston Sam Houston; Wm. Daniel Owens, 6-1, 210, Carthage; Jack Lee Roberts, 6-0, 215, Alpine; Gary Don Robertson, 6-2, 205, Corsicana; Joseph Woodrow Shaw, 6-3, 218, Brownwood; Michael John Smith, 6-2, 210, Houston Waltrip; John Russell Stallings, 6-1, 190, Midland Lee; Robert Vipon Thomas, 6-2, 212, Liberty.

Guards—Ronald Frederick Cole, 6-0, 200, Paris; Daniel Charles Eckermann, 5-11, 185, Bellville; Roy Lee Fry, 6-3, 215, Tyler Junior College; Wm. Newton Gilliam, 6-1, 195, Del Rio; Gary Frank Gruben, 5-11, 185, Tulia; Charles Wm. Hendricks, 6-3, 230, Baytown; Wm. Henry Kubecka, 6-0, 195, Palacios; Walter Rosing Mohn, 6-2, 195, San Antonio MacArthur; Leonard Ray Odom, 5-11, 185, Corsicana; James Allen Powell, 5-11, 185, Lafayette, La.; Michael Lee Stinson, 6-1, 200, Fort Worth Arlington Heights.

Centers—Wm. Maury Buford, 6-4, 230, Terrell; Oscar Waymond Lightfoot, 6-1, 205, San Antonio MacArthur; James Norman Selvidge, 6-0, 210, Tyler John Tyler.

Quarterbacks—Ben Barnett Harris, 6-2, 185, San Antonio MacArthur; David Wayne Henley, 6-0, 180, Brownwood; Gary Phillip Kaposta, 6-1, 180, Shreveport Jesuit; Robert Stansberry, 6-1, 185, Eden.

Running Backs—Ronald Tim-

othy Adams, 5-11, 175, Houston Waltrip; Richard Ronald Beckett, 6-2, 185, Pharr; Brian Christen, 5-10, 195, Houston Cypress; Ronald Beryl Edwards, 6-1, 180, Plains; Bruce Kempf, 6-1, 190, San Antonio Lee; William Miles Knoll, 185, Bellville; James W. Lockridge, 6-1, 185, Kress; Lynn McBride, 5-1, 165, Mark DeWayne Moseley, 6-4, Livingston; Larry Raymond, 6-2, 195, Houston Thomas; Jack Anthony Ward, 6-0, 195, Crockett.

Cooper Wants To KO Cassius

LONDON (AP)—"I don't make predictions, but I'll go in there and try to end it fast," British heavyweight champion Henry Cooper said Tuesday.

Cooper was talking about his title fight with champion Cassius Clay in London May 21.

"Clay is a fast mover with a long reach. My job will be to try and get inside and catch him with my short left hook," Cooper said.

Cooper, ranked sixth by Ring Magazine, demonstrated the effectiveness of that punch to Clay during their previous fight in London June 18, 1963.

The Briton dumped Clay in the fourth round of that scheduled 10-rounder.

Clay came back and cut Cooper so badly about the eyes in the next round that the referee stopped it and awarded the fight to Clay.

"I've proved that Clay can be put on the floor," Cooper said. "You can reach him. It's up to me now to catch him with a good punch."

Cooper was interviewed in the dressing room of his training gymnasium at the Thomas Beckett Pub on Old Kent Road.

In the large bar behind the Beatle-type group was being a myna bird screeched and cursed in another corner. On the wall was a glass case enclosing red gloves with which Cooper gained the British heavyweight title in 1959.

Cooper said Clay's style does seem to have changed much since he studied films of his recent fight with George Chuvalo. He said to move and jab. Chuvalo does seem to have much success with the jab.

"I have no plan worked out. I'll try and put my best right on his jaw."

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