

Research Shows Big Grid Changes

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was researched, compiled and written by A&M's department of information in the summer of 1945.)

First record found of football as a competitive sport at the Texas A&M College is in The Battalion, student publication, for Oct. 15, 1893, which carried plans for combining the "two teams of last year" (1892) into one.

The Battalion for Nov. 1, 1893, has an account of a meeting held Oct. 27, 1893, of "those interested in football" to organize "teams" for the ensuing year.

Quoting, "It was decided that 26 members should compose the regular team under the name of 'The A&M C FBT,' and that two sub-teams should be created from this one, for the purpose of having enthusiastic games regularly as to put themselves in readiness for any challenge they may receive from neighboring towns and colleges. When the two teams have perfected themselves, the best 13 men from among the 26 will be selected by the captains, and it will be this team that shall answer challenges from foreign teams..." However, the Bryan Eagle of Nov. 15, 1896, refers to three football teams at the College, each seeking games.

THE BATTALION for January, 1894, says, "Football at the A&M C is surely the coming game, judging from indications of the present. Two years ago, comparatively no interest was manifested in the 'scrappy' game at all. Only last week was the game fully introduced into the College and (it) has met with marked approval throughout, not to say that football has no faults." We regret that this issue of The Battalion did not carry the results of the "introduction" of "last week."

In the first few years that football was played, both between corps organizations and with outside teams, the playing season began and closed later than at present, as on Jan. 10, 1895, the Bryan Eagle states "the team (1894) was still practicing and hunting games." Contests then were not staged with about a week interval as at present. Sometimes a month would go by between games, then there are some instances of three games being played in one week.

IF THE elevens of 1892, 1893 or 1895 played against outside teams, no record has been found of it. Records back of 1902 are scanty as all student newspapers and magazines were destroyed in the 1912 fire loss of the old Main Building. The Longhorn, student annual, was published regularly

beginning with the 1903 class and while these annuals have been replaced, they do not carry results of games prior to 1902.

A&M evidently would play its "sub-teams" in some order against outside opponents as different lineups and different captains are shown in the same year. In some games, at least, players were selected to give a certain weight average.

The Bryan Weekly of Nov. 22, 1894, carries the lineup to play against Galveston High School and says, "this is not the heaviest team the College can put forth (150-pound average) but is arranged to conform to Galveston weights." Again for the 1896 Galveston game, the Bryan papers refer to attaining a 169-pound average.

PRIOR TO 1905 the letter awarded team members was a "C" for College. In that year this was changed to a "T" for Texas. Early teams were called the "Farmers." When this was changed to Aggies is not clear.

Several of the earlier important games were played in Bryan as there was a grandstand at the Bryan Fair Park, while contests played at A&M were played on the drill field and spectators stood or sat in carriages around the field. For expenses of the visiting team a hat was passed among the spectators.

The present athletic plant dates from 1906 as the Longhorn student annual of that year has the following: "An athletic field has been completed this year, which is beyond doubt the best athletic field in the State. The fence encloses 250,000 square feet, and a bleachers with seating capacity of five hundred has been erected." College authorities had bought the grandstand in the Bryan park, hauled the lumber out to the College, and made the bleachers.

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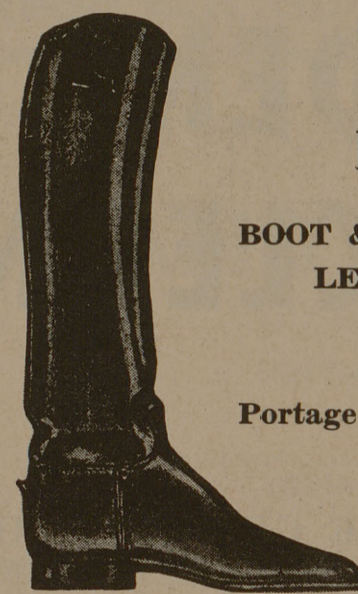
If personal example can serve as a measuring stick for field leadership, defensive end Grady Allen will be a great one for the Texas Aggies in 1967.

Slow of foot and handicapped by continual injuries, Allen just grits his teeth, bows his neck and stays put at his defensive end post.

The veteran senior from Nacogdoches probably has required more tape than any Aggie gridders in history but as long as he can move he shows up at practice. They'll have to carry him off the field to get him out of the lineup and, even then, it might be a struggle.



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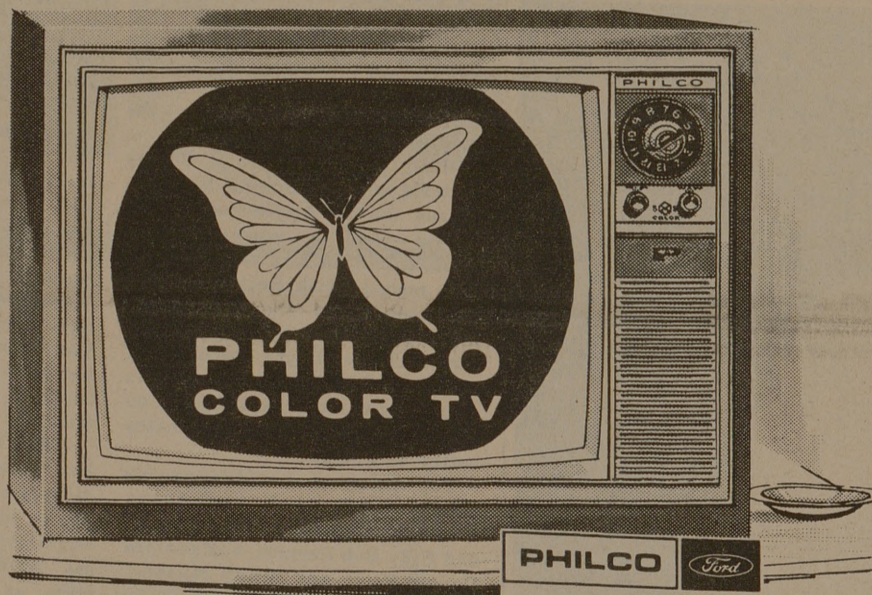
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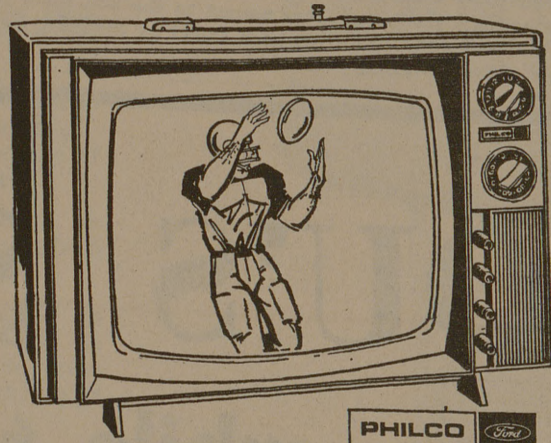
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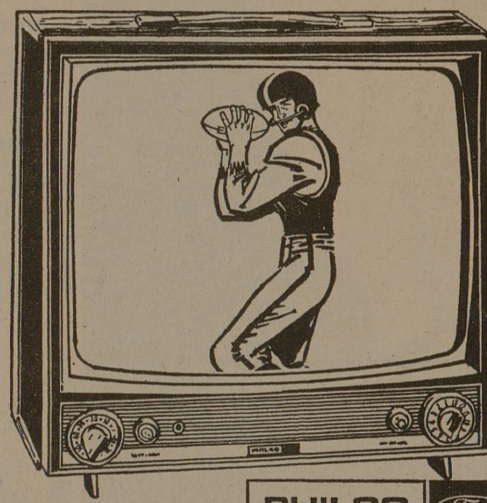
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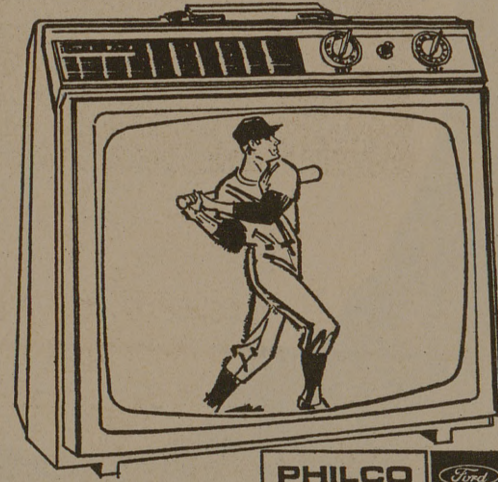
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