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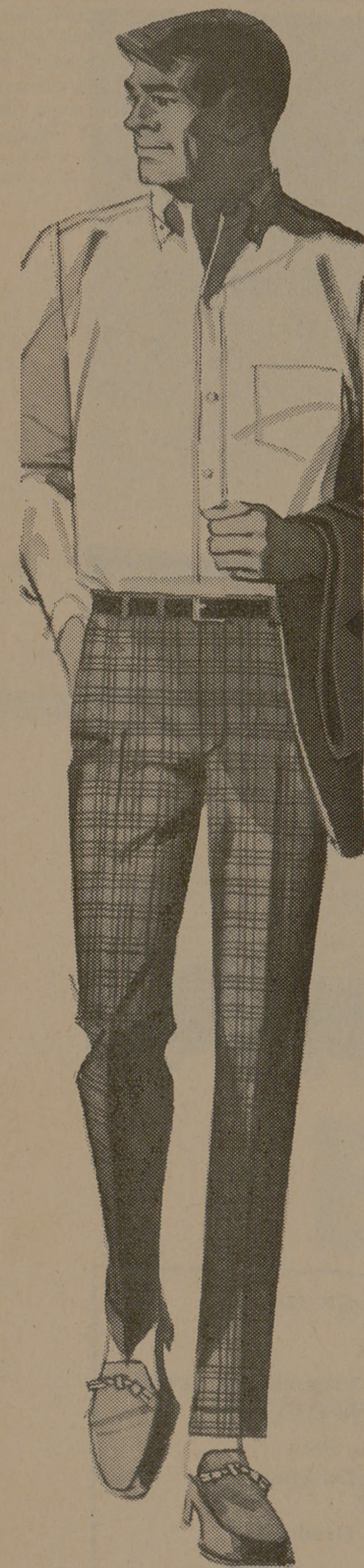
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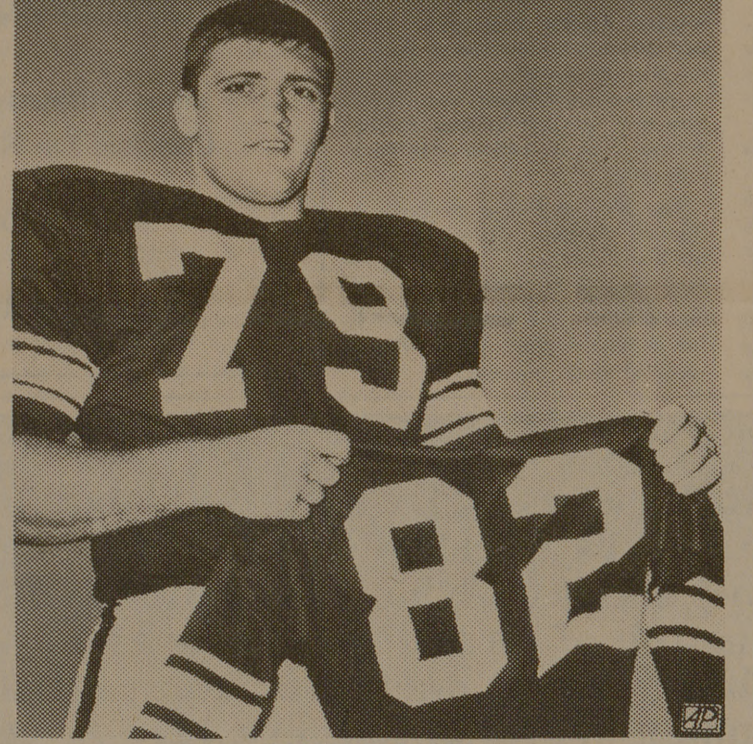
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Sports Aplenty
Football Notes
By GARY SHERER

Clearing off my desk after spending the summer in the Northland. The Southwest Conference began its 53rd year Saturday afternoon as the Aggies dropped a cliff-hanger to Southern Methodist 20-17. The result of that game makes it evident that the SWC is in for a topsy-turvy race this season. As it has been mentioned countless numbers of times by now, the Mustangs were picked to be a last place club this year. One pre-season football magazine, Street & Smith's football yearbook, picked SMU to lose every game. It also picked the Aggies to finish with a 7-3 record. Lets hope that they were just wrong about SMU. From the comment of "we're getting better" from Head Coach Gene Stallings at Tuesday's press conference, it would seem he feels that the verdict is still out on the Aggies.

This weekend all of the nation's major college football teams will be in action. Some of the top contests, in addition to the Aggies Cotton Bowl date with Purdue, will be: SMU at Missouri, Baylor at Syracuse, Oklahoma State at Arkansas, Texas at Southern California, Iowa State at Texas Tech, Rice at Louisiana State, Texas Christian at Iowa, California at Notre Dame, UCLA at Pittsburg and Florida State at Alabama. The game with Purdue this weekend will mark the first time the Aggies have met the Indiana school on the gridiron. This game will mark the Boilermakers' eighth game with SWC opponents in the team's 79 year history. Last year they had a donnybrook with SMU, winning 35-23. Purdue is a member of the Big Ten Conference and the Aggies will be looking to improve on their 1-3 record against Big Ten opponents. The lone win came in a 1959 contest with Michigan State. The Spartans had been the only Big Ten team the Aggies had met prior to the 1963 matchup with Ohio State.

The Aggies next home game will be Oct. 7, with Florida State the competition. The Seminoles have a tough schedule ahead of them this season with their toughest game coming early. They opened their season last Friday night with a thumping from the Houston Cougars at the Astrodome. This weekend they meet Alabama at the Crimson Tide's home ground and the following week they meet Atlantic Coast Conference toughie North Carolina State.



DOUBLE DUTY
Aggie senior lineman Mark Weaver, displays the two jerseys he will be called on to wear this fall. Due to a new rule designed to foil the tackle-eligible play, Weaver will have to wear No. 79 when playing in the interior line, then change to No. 82 when he plays end. (AP Wire-photo)

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Ags Too Cautious Regarding Levias

By JERRY GRISHAM
There's an old saying about too much of a good thing and, according to Coach Gene Stallings at Tuesday's press conference, he is now a firm believer in it. The good thing, according to Stallings, was the caution of the A&M defense Saturday as far as Jerry Levias was concerned. But too much caution kept the Aggies from capitalizing on Pony errors. "We talked too much to the players about Levias," Stallings said, "and when they rushed they were so conscious of him that they would hold back in order to watch him and keep him from scooting around them." And while all eyes were on the little speedster, Mike Livingston and Mike Richardson gained over 100 yards between them. Levias rushed for a total of 11 yards. Stallings singled out Wendell Housley and Steve O'Neal for praise in the game. "At first I didn't think Housley had done very well," he commented, "but when we looked at the film I could see that he had done a lot better than I thought he had."

Housley carried the ball 21 times in the game for a total of 76 yards and an average of 3.6 yards per carry. His longest run was for 10 yards. O'Neal's punting had to be one of the brightest spots in a long afternoon. The track hurdler turned football player punted eight times for a total of 389 yards and an average of 48.6 yards per kick. His longest was a 58 yarder. One of his kicks was killed on the SMU three-yard line and another went out of bounds on the SMU two.

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