## **Stallings Bring Ags** To Top Of Heap **Three Years** In

THE BATTALION

College Station, Texas

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In the short span of three Paris High and Paul W. Bryant ment to the penthouse in collegiate football circles.

in the Cotton Bowl classic.

If the rapid success of Staldon't know the man.

head football coach on Dec. 7, one son, John Mark 6. 1964. It was aimed at his football players but it was to be a in the fall of 1957 and then moved guideline that he and his staff also would follow.

Devoted and dedicated to Texas A&M and its athletic program, Bryant when A&M hired him Stallings believes in and practices after the 1964 season, the theory that hard work, attention to details and thoroughness are the foundations upon which success is built.

He. his staff and his players 3-7 season in 1965 and a 4-5-1 campaign they were in the conference title race right up through the final week of action.

After a dismal start in '67 when they lost their first four-three of them by 1, 3 and 4 pointsthen things started happening and letic Director, giving him a dual

seasons, Gene Stallings elevated at Texas A&M. Their pictures the Texas Aggies from the base- adorn a wall in his office today. Stallings, who was 33 last March 2, was born in Paris, Tex., Stalling's slogan of "Make in 1935. A natural leader and all-Something Happen" become a around athlete, he captained footreality in 1967 as he guided Tex- ball, basketball and golf teams

as A&M to the Southwest Con- at Paris High and was tri-captain ference championship and a cli- of Texas A&M's undefeated footmatic 20-16 victory over Alabama ball team in 1956 on which he played end. Following his final varsity

lings seems unbelievable then you game for the Aggies, he was married to the former Ruth Ann "Make Something Happen, is Jack of Paris. They have four the slogan he brought back to his children: daughter Anna Lee 10, alma mater when he returned as Laura Nell 9 and Jacklyn 4, and

He coached the A&M freshmen with Bryant to Alabama where he spent the next seven seasons. He was assistant head coach to

It was quite evident that he had learned his gridiron lesson well because when he was hired by A&M. Bryant, a man not noted for thoughtless praise, said: "He's followed this pattern through a the top young college coaching prospect in America." After Stalmark in 1966, and, in that second lings' Aggies beat Bryant's Crimson Tide in the Cotton Bowl, Bryant added a simple footnote, "I told you so."

With the retirement of Barlow (Bones) Irvin this past winter, Stallings was named A&M's Ath-

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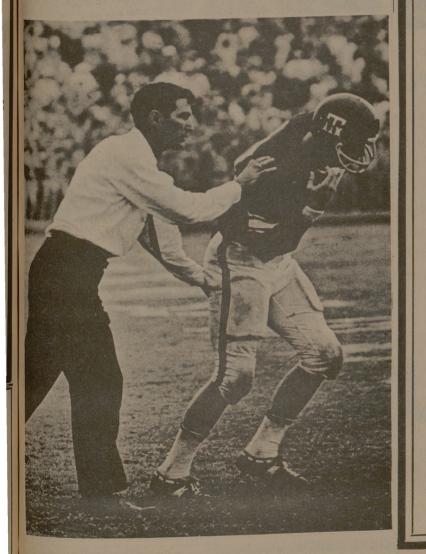
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haven't lost since. They raced to six straight SWC wins tion only to Oklahoma's eight.

teachers, Raymond Berry Sr., at on a good football team."

role to perform The Aggie athletic boss lists to win the undisputed conference three reasons why "it is easy for title and then nailed 'Bama in the me to try to sell a boy on attend-Cotton Bowl. They go ino the ing Texas A&M ... First, it is a 1968 season with a seven-game school that offers an excellent winning streak, second in the na- education and has great tradition ... second, it is a place where one Stallings grew up in Paris Tex., will learn what pride and loyalty wanting to become a coach. He really means . . . and, third, it is a learned the game under two great place where a young man can play



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