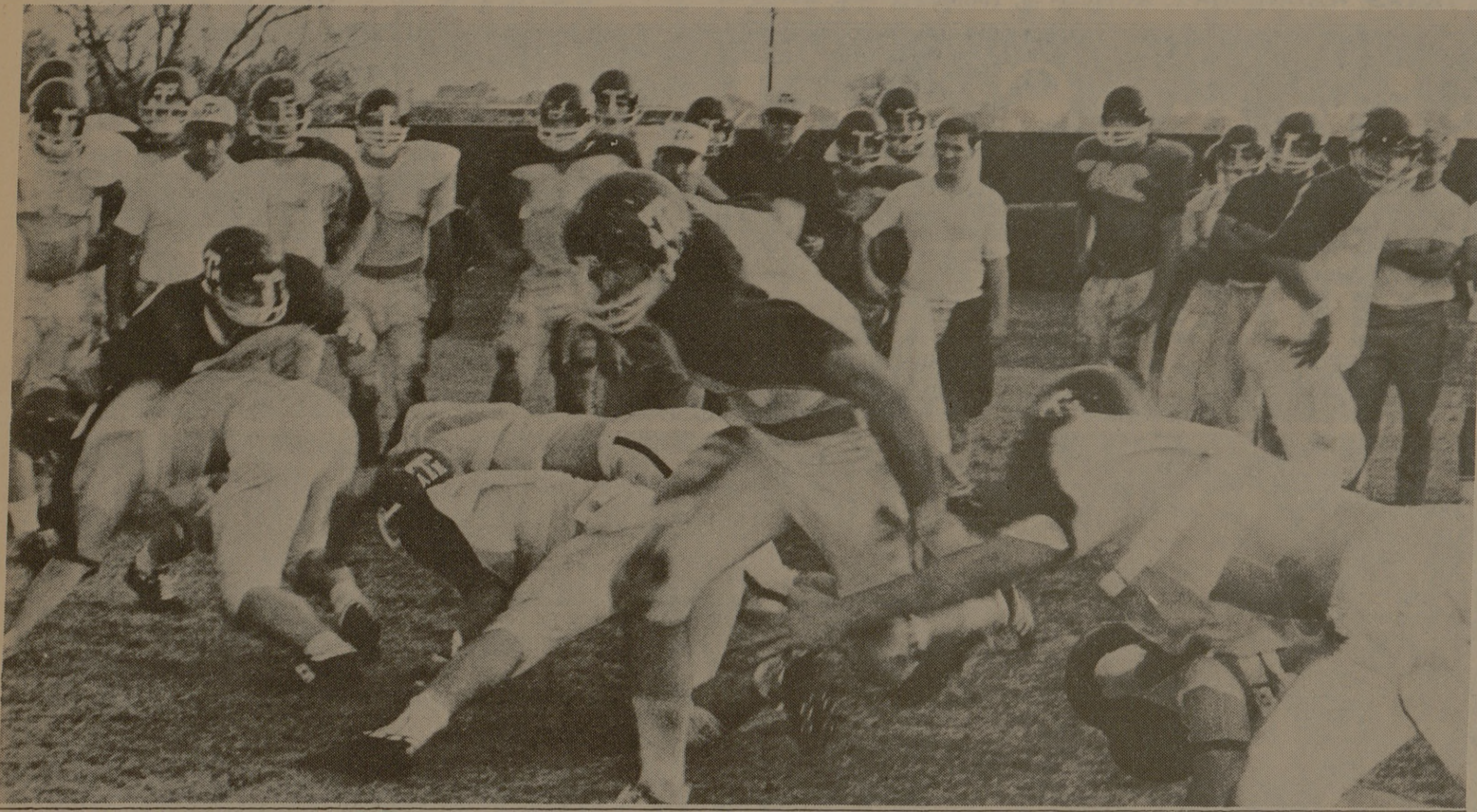


# Color 1969 Aggies Green Because Of Inexperience



## If Sophs Mature, Aggies Back Again

The Texas Aggies felt the sting of injuries to key personnel during the 1968 football campaign and tailspinned from their "Cinderella" championship year to the depths of a 3-7 season.

They gave up the throne of the Southwest Conference after only a year there and found the '68 season particularly frustrating because they dropped six games by 29 points, an average of only five per contest.

Now, a year later, Coach Gene Stallings and his staff look toward a new season with a young, inexperienced squad, one that will be liberally dotted with sophomores during the 1969 campaign.

There will definitely be more equal depth in 1969, though the quality may not be as high. At the close of spring training, Stallings said that 16 to 18 sophomores might be among the 1969 playing personnel and added "that might be a conservative estimate." Of the 87 players in uniform for the final spring intrasquad game, 64 were sophomores.

The Aggies count 23 returning lettermen on their roster but seven of them missed spring practice while recuperating from operations. The 25 lettermen who departed via graduation will leave gaping holes in key positions.

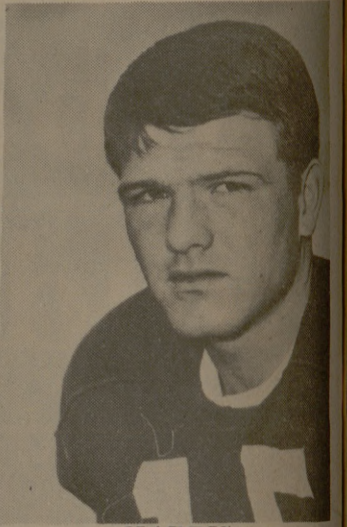
Replacing Edd Hargett at quarterback will be the major hurdle which the team will face before the opener with Louisiana State on Sept. 20. Junior letterman Jimmy Sheffield, a 6-0, 180 pounder, has demonstrated to Stallings the ability to move the team and will probably get the nod at the man-under slot in the fall. Red-shirt Rocky Self will back up Sheffield and has a strong throwing arm.

Of course, there is no problem at the tailback spot where now-injured All-America candidate Larry Stegent takes his high octane running. He sat out the spring to recoup from a shoulder operation but is expected to be in fine shape for the fall grid wars and that will be bad news for A&M's foes.

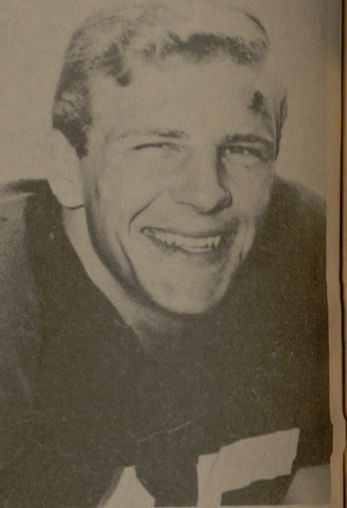
One of the most pleasant surprises of the spring was the emergence of Marc Black at fullback. The 6-2, 207 pounder sophomore has the speed, quickness and power to be a great one.

Two other key problems were the offensive line and defensive secondary. At the end of the spring Stallings felt that the offensive line had been solved "mainly because we found out who can play those positions" and that the secondary has shown good improvement.

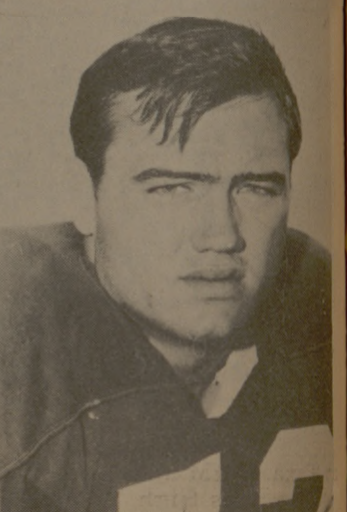
The 1969 season looks like a toss-up for Stallings with a sophomore-laden team. If the inexperienced players can jell and play a consistent style of football, then the young Aggies could surprise.



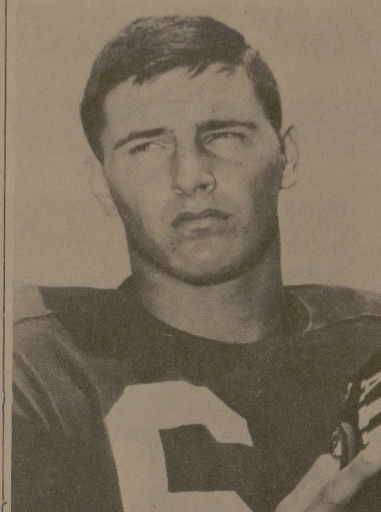
HARRIS



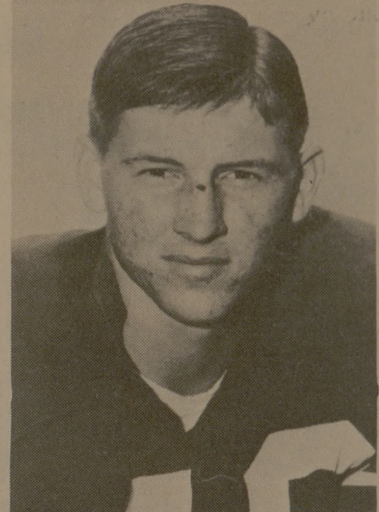
STEGENT



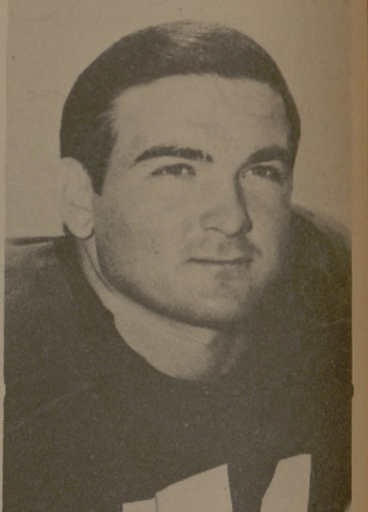
MADDOX



PARKER



TEWELL



CASWELL

## Texas Aggies Stand At Football Games Because They Are On The Side Of Texas A&M (12th man)



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