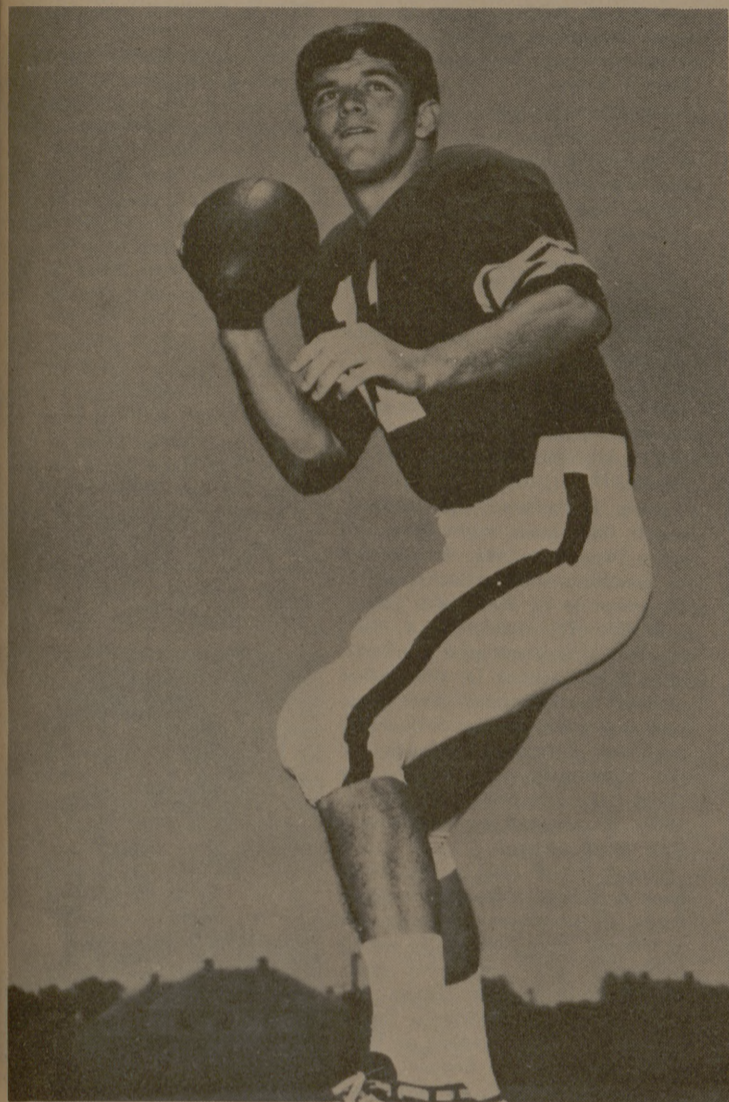


COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1969

'Green' Aggies Look Ahead To LSU



NEW AGGIE QUARTERBACK

Jimmie Sheffield, a 6-0, 180-pounder from Houston Waltrip, will carry a large part of the Aggies' load on the gridiron in 1969. The junior letterman will take over for departed Edd Hargett at the crucial man-under slot as the Aggies prime themselves for the season opener Sept. 20 with the Louisiana State University Tigers in Baton Rouge.

BY RICHARD CAMPBELL
Battalion Sports Editor

What can you say about a 3-7 season?

With high hopes the 1968 Aggies went into combat only to emerge with a crippled and frustrated crew. Untimely injuries and costly fumbles led to the downfall of the 1967 Southwest Conference champs.

The 1969-70 squad may not go into the first encounter with Louisiana State with the same experience and poise that last year's team did but they are a collection of some of the best sophomores around. Fortunately, there will be a fine nucleus of seniors to provide the leadership in those tough games ahead.

It is a known fact that a sophomore-laden football team usually does not win a conference championship because they lack the unseen qualities that make a champ, mainly, poise and coolness under pressure. But this year's Aggie fortunes ride on sophomore shoulders that are very strong physically and could carry the load just far enough to bypass the unseen qualities.

Coach Gene Stallings, now beginning his fifth season at the Cadet helm, will have to regroup his forces quickly because the Aggies face no breathers on their schedule which features but three home contests.

The major hurdle ahead for the Aggies seems to loom at the all-important quarterback slot where there are no proven hands.

The top candidate following the spring game was junior letterman Jimmy Sheffield, a 6-0, 180-pounder from Houston Waltrip. He has all the necessary tools to become a great quarterback and Stallings says that "we think he can do the job for us."

Stallings feels the Aggies will

have more depth on this club than on any previous team since he took over. He qualifies it by adding, "It will be young, untested depth but at least we don't have anyone who is second team at four or five different positions this year."

The backfield seems to be the biggest plus of the offensive attack in 1969. With Larry Stegent, a senior tailback with two letters, the ball carrying will definitely be in good hands. Should the 6-1, 195-pounder find the going a little rough, then the chore would fall into the able hands of sophomore Steve Burks, a runner of whom Stallings has said, "We won't lose much by putting Burks in there."

The fullback will be Marc Black, a red-shirt soph from New Mexico Military Institute where he gained All-America fame. The 6-2, 207 pounder was the leading ground gainer in the spring game and runs with authority. He will be backed up by sophomores Doug Robbins and Doug Neill.

The wingback slot will also be in good hands as senior Barney Harris returns after a fine 1968 showing. He finished the season second only to All-American Jerry Levias of Southern Methodist in receiving.

He caught 49 passes last year for 745 yards and had the best single day in the conference with 13 receptions against SMU. Backing Harris will be sophomore Billy Joe Polasek and senior letterman Billy Seely.

This year's offensive line will be younger, quicker and bigger than previous ones with senior Jack Kovar at center to anchor it. Tight end convert Roos Brupbacher, split end Jimmy Adams and weak tackle Carl Gough also bring experience to the trenches.

The latter two missed spring drills and will have a tough time winning back their positions from senior Tom Sooy and junior Allan Hanson.

At the end of the spring game the starters were: Sooy, split end; Hanson, weak tackle; junior Jim Parker, weak guard; Kovar, center; soph Robin Davis, strong guard; soph Andy Philley, strong tackle; and Brupbacher, tight end.

Jimmy Adams, Phil Adams, Joey Herr, and David Odom will battle Sooy for the split end post. Gough, Randy Maddox, Ted Smith, and Jim Bates offer Hanson stiff competition for the weak tackle slot. Leonard Forey, Rusty Stallings, and Rae Albertini will fight for Parker's job. Mike Stinson, Benny DeWitt, and Mike Park back up Kovar.

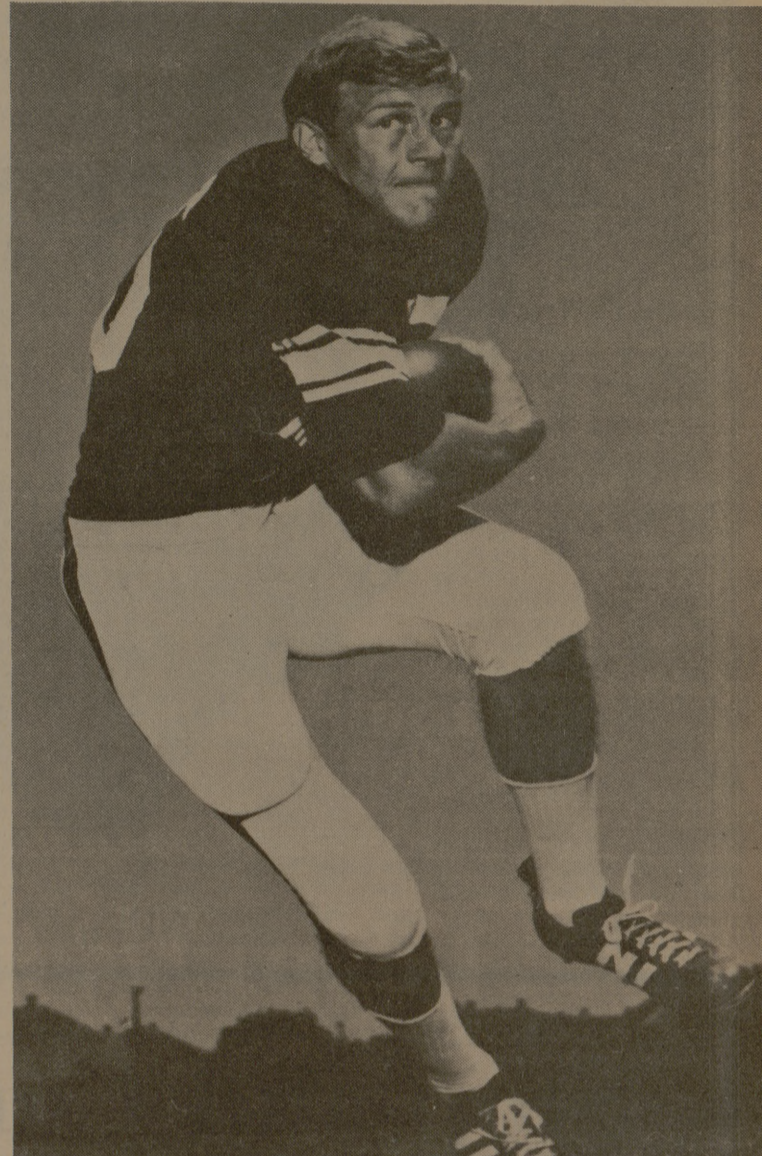
Mike Fields, Tommy Eilers, and Tommy Deaton will challenge Davis. Joe Shaw, John Cunningham, and Charles Crain are competitors behind Philley. Roy Kirkpatrick, Billy Bob Burnett, and Mitch Robertson are behind Brupbacher.

The kicking game for the Aggies seems to be in good hands now that sophomore transfer Mike Bellar is eligible for the fall. He will handle the placement kicking and has boomed field as far as 50-60 yards in practice.

Robertson, a 6-2, 217 pounder, will take care of the punting chores for the Aggies. He will be backed by quarterback Sheffield. Both punted for a 39-yard average in the spring game.

The defensive unit will also be sprinkled freely with sophomores but is expected to be salty with four starters returning. Mike DeNiro, all-SWC as a soph, re-

(See 'Green,' Page 3)



TALENT TO SPARE

Larry Stegent, a senior tailback from Houston St. Thomas, will be a prime All-American candidate when the fall grid wars begin. He was selected as the Sophomore-of-the-Year in 1967 and in two seasons with A&M has compiled 1742 total offense.

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