

1969 Aggie Schedule No Easy Road

LSU

If the Aggies are out to settle old scores this season, Old Score No. 1 should be the clawing Tigers of Louisiana State University, a Southeastern Conference titan that has mastered the Farmers in nine straight seasons. Although the Ags have had the Tigers by the tail in all but one of them, losing usually by no more than a touchdown, A&M has only managed a 7-7 tie in 1966.

And things look just as tough this year when A&M opens its season with LSU Sept. 20 before thousands of those screaming Tiger fans in Baton Rouge.

The 1969 LSU team will be like all the others of the last decade or so—a potential SEC champion, capable of ranking in the Top Ten of the nation, and certainly a potential bowl team.

Back from a 7-3 season and a 31-27 victory over Florida State in Atlanta's inaugural Peach Bowl are three key offensive stars and six from a formidable defensive unit.

Scrambling quarterback Mike Hillman will be a standout in an otherwise untested backfield and center Godred Zaunbracher should lead an equally inexperienced offensive line.

Coach Charley McClendon's defensive team should be very good with 17 lettermen back and only one sophomore starting. Middle linebacker George Bevan, 190, may win national recognition.

NEBRASKA

The Ags will likely find that yardage in Lincoln, Neb., comes at a premium when they travel there Sept. 27 to meet the traditional stone wall defense of the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

If the Huskers develop more offensive consistency to match, coach Bob Devaney should have no trouble posting his eighth straight winning record this campaign.

Key to the offense may be how well 6-7 quarterback Frank Pat-

rick rebounds from a disappointing junior season. Joe Orduna, 677 yards in 186 carries, is among the class runners in the league. Tight-end Jim McFarland has been tabbed by the pro scouts as one of the best in the nation.

The Huskers' rough defense with nine veterans returning will be led by Ken Geddes (6-2, 215) an all-Big Eight Conference linebacker last year.

The last time A&M played Nebraska was in 1955 when the Ags trounced the Huskers 27-0.

ARMY

It will be like Armageddon when two Armies, apparently equally matched, wage war on a frosty gridiron Oct. 4 in West Point, N. Y.

The cadets of Texas A&M will meet for the first time the cadets of the U. S. Military Academy and from all reports it seems to be a toss-up as to who will be the victor.

Like the Aggies, Army will enter the 1969 fray without a tested quarterback. Senior Roger LeDoux who started the first two games in '67 was battling for the job with juniors Bernie Wall and Bob Mohn in spring practice.

Of last year's 34 lettermen, only 16 are coming back. Old Army has never counted heavily on sophomores but this year they may have to play them as much as the Aggies as coach Tom Cahill optimistically hopes to approach last year's 7-3 mark.

Players to watch are power backs Lynn Moore and Hank Andrzejczak on offense and end Bill Price and middle guard Joe Neuman on defense.

TEXAS TECH

It was Texas Tech that dashed Aggie dreams for a repeat conference championship last year with a hard-fought 21-16 victory in Kyle Field and they will be A&M's first SWC opponent again this season.

But there will be new faces on both sides when the two square off in Lubbock Oct. 11. Tech coach T. J. King has pursued a general rebuilding program after losing seven starters on offense and five on defense.

An exception will be veteran quarterback Joe Matulich who will engineer the Raiders' new pro-type offense. The two-year letterman is back after a season of 73 completions in 152 passes for 864 yards and 9 touchdowns.

Under Matulich's hand, Tech was the only team to whip Texas last year, but they stumbled in the stretch after winning four of their first five conference games.

End Richard Campbell, safety Larry Alford, end Bruce Dowdy and linebacker Dennis Lane head the returning defensive contingent. But the Raiders will need considerable help from newcomers like end Johnny Odom and running back Danny Hardaway to become a serious contender.

TCU

An older and wiser team of Horned Frogs from TCU will greet the Aggies Oct. 18 in Fort Worth. And they will remember the 27-7 shellacking they took at the hands of the Ags last year.

The offensive line will be one of the Southwest's best with guard James Ray (228) and center John Ruthstrom (230) both up for SWC honors.

TCU's defense looks solid—veterans end to end in a line that averages 210 lbs. Watch end Terry Shackelford and linebacker James Vanderslice to be standouts.

The wart that annually plagues the Frog attack is the quarterback slot and this year is no exception. Last year's ball-handler Ted Fay this season is trying to stop touchdowns by playing safety on defense.

Vying for the signal caller position are junior letterman Busty Underwood (205) and two sophomores, Steve Judy (180)

and Larry Brogdon (205).

Fred Taylor, in his second season as head coach, is expecting a better showing than the 3-7 campaign in 1968.

BAYLOR

After playing half the season on the road, A&M will return to Kyle Field Oct. 25 to host an enraged pack of Baylor Bears, at least that's what the Baptist's new head coach, red-haired Bill Bealls, hopes.

Beall, coming from the LSU coaching staff to replace fired John Bridgers, has already changed the Waco school's Bear emblem from a "Snoozin' Sam" to a "Hungry Bear," depicting him as a fightin' fierce animal.

Beall hopes to do something about the fact that the school has not won a SWC championship in the last 44 years and is banking on experience to turn the trick.

Indeed, the Bears could be the surprise team of the league, returning 10 of 11 starters from both the offensive and defensive platoons.

Impressive credentials are carried by offensive tackle Richard Stevens (235), perhaps the best in the league and tailback Gene Rogers (185), who set several school rushing records in 1968.

The Bears, however, may find themselves in much the same plight the Aggies were in last season if injuries to key players reveal the team's lack of depth.

ARKANSAS

True to their name, the SWC co-champion Arkansas Razorbacks are after the whole shooting match this year, and, also again, the Aggies may find themselves on the wrong end of the scoreboard when the dust settles in Little Rock Nov. 1.

If the Porkers don't have a right to be hoggish, they certainly have the talent and the experience as coach Frank Broyles expects

37 lettermen back from last year's squad which was denied a perfect record by a 10-point loss to the Texas Longhorns.

Junior quarterback Bill Montgomery, who pulverized all school records in passing as a soph, leads the Sugar Bowl champs in quest of improving their sixth-place national ranking.

Back also is Chuck Dicus junior flanker who broke many Arkansas records on the receiving end of Montgomery's throws, and tailback Bill Burnett and fullback Bruce Maxwell.

Defensively, eight starters return from the Sugar Bowl roster headed by monster man Jerry Moore and tackle Rick Kersey.

SMU

If A&M can get by Montgomery, all that's left to worry about is Chuck Hixson, a galloping SMU Mustang that can not only out-pass the Arkansas quarterback but most of the other signal-callers in the nation as well.

Hixson threw 468 times last year, completing 265 for 3,103 yards and 21 touchdowns to lead all others. And he will be around all this year and all next year too.

But missing from the Mustang's line-up and very difficult to replace is the other half of the touchdown team, dazzling Jerry Levias, perhaps the most exciting player in SWC football.

Besides finding someone for Hixson to throw to, coach Hayden Fry must also find a couple of proven runners. Bicky Lesser (195) moves well, but the best one of all seems to be Gordon Gilder (175) an all-SWC freshman with 4.6 average yards per carry.

Defense is no problem with the return of guard Rufus Cormier, top lineman of the Bluebonnet Bowl, and Bruce Portillo at linebacker, as well as eight other veterans.

Chances of improving on last year's 8-3 record by picking up victories outside the conference appear dim on a schedule which calls for Air Force, Georgia Tech and Michigan State.

RICE

Perennial cellar-dweller Rice may not stay there long this season if everything jells and certainly won't give the Ags a breather, regardless, when the pair tangle in Houston Nov. 15.

A&M always seems to have trouble beating Rice, doing it usually by the slimmest of margins, by one point in 1965 and 1966, and then by 10 in 1968.

For Bo Hagan, in his third year as head coach of the Owls, plans call for blending the experience of 30 returning lettermen to the talent of a number of budding sophomores.

The first black quarterback in SWC history will lead the club is sophomore Stahle Vincent. Rice will have the league's swiftest player in Dale Bernauer who is making the transition from sprint relay anchorman to possibly an end or halfback.

Future All-Americans may be senior split end Larry Davis or junior defensive guard Roger Roitsch. Davis already holds all the Rice receiving records and Roitsch has "the tools for greatness," as Hagan says.

With the return of some veterans out for last season with injuries and the discovery of a sophomore sensation or two, Rice may make a turnaround from the desolate 0-9-1 record in 1968.

TEXAS

The season-maker is in Kyle Field this year and the Orangemen of Texas University will have some strong reasons for making the season go their way Nov. 27.

Back is James Street, the do-all quarterback that replaced un-

Super Bill Bradley the third game of the '68 season and led the Longhorns to a No. 3 ranking in the nation.

Also returned are such familiar names as fullback Steve Worster and halfback Ted Koy, two-thirds of Texas' vaunted running attack. Of course, the other third and the hardest to replace is missing in All-America halfback Chris Gilbert who in his senior year gained 1,132 yards.

Coming back too are 30-odd lettermen, many of them veterans in the offensive line.

The Longhorn weakness is its defense, especially its defensive secondary where Bradley was super there, as was Ron Ehrig. Also missed will be Corby Robertson, defensive signal caller, and tackle Lloyd Wainwright.

Texas, picked to share a piece of the title or take it all from Arkansas in a nationally-televised game Nov. 6, must rely on its multi-faceted offense to get it that far.

'GREEN'

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turns to anchor the line from his defensive end post. Also back in the line is Lynn Odom, middle guard. Odom will be joined by brother Van Odom, a soph who will be the left tackle. Jim Piper will be starting his third year at the defensive left end slot and huge soph Wayne Wheat rounds out the line at right tackle.

The linebackers are two seniors, Buster Adami and Mike Caswell, both bruising tacklers. At rover will be spring sensation Andy Tewell, a 6-1, 208 pounder.

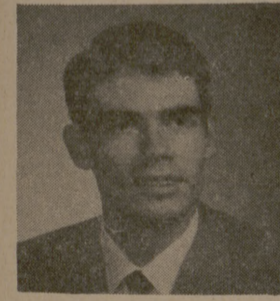
The defensive secondary could be a weak point for the Aggies if the sophomores do not perform as expected. The left halfback will be soph Edwin Ebrum, who had a fine spring. The right half will be David Hoot, another sophomore, while the safety slot has the only proven performer in junior Dave Elmendorf.



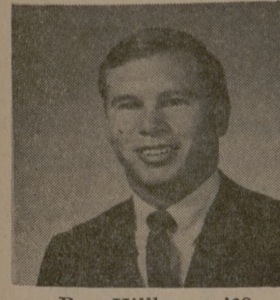
Charles Thomas '64



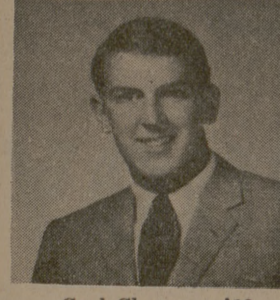
John Ferguson '67



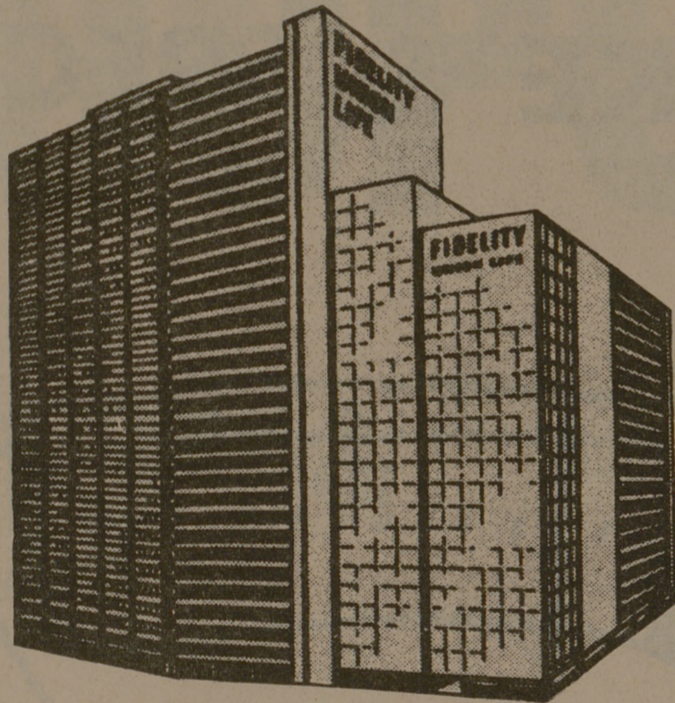
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Ron Hillhouse '69



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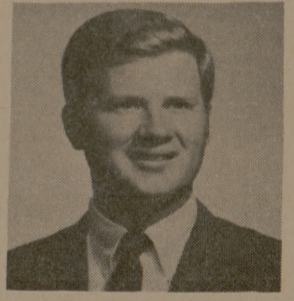
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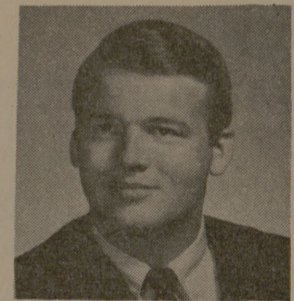
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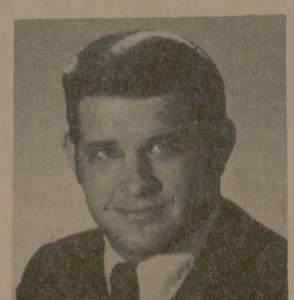
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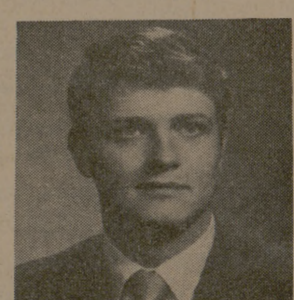
Ronald Botts '66



David Stevens '68



Skipper Kearns '69



Fred Middlebrook '69