

College Station, Texas Tuesday, September 1, 1970

Sophs hold key to Aggie hopes

The 1970 Texas Aggie football squad opened workouts Aug. 20 for what is destined to be one of the toughest seasons in the school's history.

The Aggies, who turned out 98 strong to greet Coach Gene Stallings and his 10-man staff, put on the pads for contact work for the first time last Monday.

They had their first scrimmage Wednesday as they prepare for their season-opening date with Wichita State University at Kyle Field Sept. 12 on the newly installed AstroTurf.

The Aggies will be young again this fall, with only five seniors appearing on the roster.

For the first time this fall,

Coach Stallings will have available both units of the 1968 and 1969 recruiting seasons.

A Southwest Conference championship for the Aggies in 1967 buoyed the talent parade a little more in the direction of the Maroon those two years.

That group, now juniors and sophomores on the Aggie varsity, helped Fish Coach Jim Keller inaugurate his coaching days as head man of the Aggie Fish with 5-0 and 4-1 seasons.

A lot of the sophomores who will be getting their first look at varsity competition on the college level will be counted on heavily this fall. Eight of them are listed number one on the Aggies depth chart after spring training drills.

Thirteen juniors are currently number one on the charts, with the only senior being safety Dave Elmendorf.

The Aggies incurred a blow at the opening of fall workouts as their number one right halfback, Clifford Thomas, suffered a shoulder separation last Monday. The injury required surgery and Thomas will be sidelined about two months.

While we're discussing the injury list, linebacker Dennis Caruth, one of the Aggie sophomores, suffered a shoulder dislocation in Wednesday's scrimmage and will be out about two or three weeks.

Sophomore Lex James won the number one quarterback spot during the spring and looked impressive in the first scrimmage, running for 70 yards and passing for 72 more on six of eight attempts.

The Houston Sam Houston sophomore is being crowded by

Junior Joe Mac King from Min-eola, who is currently running second.

Junior squadman Kyle Gary and sophomore Ricky Spencer give added depth at quarterback.

A former quarterback is making his presence felt at another

position this fall, as the Aggies' number one quarterback for most of last season, Rocky Self, has been running at right halfback.

Self was practically unstoppable in Wednesday's scrimmage in which he gained 172 yards on 15 carries and scored on runs of

five, 23 and 60 yards.

Another prospective change could be the moving of Elmendorf to a running back spot. Elmendorf and Self both missed spring practice due to their participation in baseball.

Sophomore Brad Dusek from

Temple also had an impressive spring and wound up as the number one halfback, on the left side. Junior Steve Burks who averaged 5.6 yards a carry while seeing limited duty last fall will pressure Dusek for his position.

See Sophomores Hold Key, Page 4

Football opens busy sports year

With the start of the football season less than two weeks away, another sports year is about to begin.

The outlook is bright in most sports, with Texas A&M expected to field a contender in every major sport except tennis, swimming and football, although they could surprise in those sports.

A look back at last year shows the Aggies with a fifth-place finish in football, a similar place in tennis and a fourth-place show in swimming.

The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Arkansas are heavily favored again in the football race, but the young Aggie team could play a spoiler role if its younger players develop a little quicker than usual.

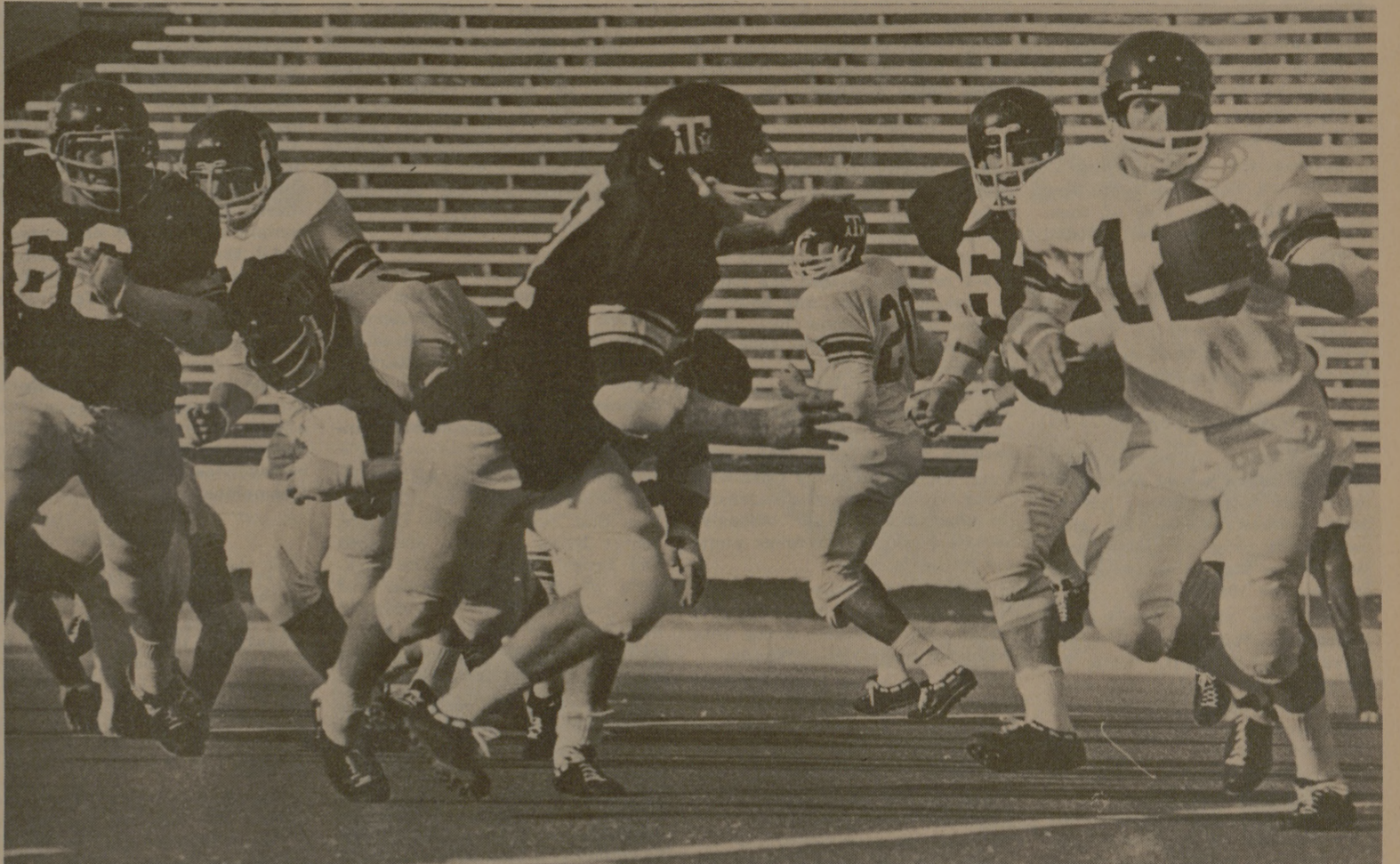
Rice and Southern Methodist University are just about the only favorites in tennis and swimming, having about started a monopoly in those sports. The Owls are the tennis leaders and the Mustangs the swim champ.

In basketball, baseball, track and field and golf, the Aggies are expecting another banner year. Last year saw the Aggies grab a first and three seconds. In most of the cases, each of the teams should be stronger in 1970, with the exception of golf where they lost their two top swingers from last year. It's hard to say at this early date whether they will be able to pick up the slack.

Only a handful of seniors graduated in the other major sports, with the only regular lost to the basketball program being Mike Heitmann.

Baseball only lost four seniors and returns nine of its pitchers from last year. The track team loses only a top weight man and a sprinter from its collection of stars that brought the Aggies their first SWC track title since 1953.

Anyway, 1970 should be a good year for the athletic teams at A&M and it gets started with the Aggie gridders versus Wichita State Sept. 12 on Kyle Field.




Finesse and Pursuit—Offensive finesse and defensive pursuit are at their best as quarterback Joe Mac King (12) runs the option with an unidentified defender in pursuit. King has the option of either keeping the ball or pitching

to a running back as he is hit. The action took place during a scrimmage on the newly installed AstroTurf last week on Kyle Field as the Aggies opened training for the 1970 season. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

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