

Football opener set for Saturday

(Continued from page 1)

guard, coordinates the A&M line, which otherwise is filled with talented sophomores. Todd Christopher and Max Bird, the ends, and Boice Best, All-SWC lineman for the Fish, make up the rest of the defensive wall.

Linebacker Mike Lord returns to guard the middle and letterman Steve Luebbehusen will start on the left side, while sophomore Kent Finley backs up the right half of the line.

Wichita State's big plus lies in these two regions, since they have a big tough line that has all four lettermen back. Two of them, Keith Morrison and Don Pankrat, have two letters for WSU.

Linebacker John Hoheisel is rated All-American. Glenn Kostal and Steve Moore will also provide depth—both having earned letters at their positions.

The Aggies' defensive backfield probably is the most stable part of the A&M lineup, with All-American candidate Dave El-mendorf at free safety and one-year lettermen David Hoot and Ed Ebrum along side him. Sophomore Robert Murksi will play right cornerback. His credentials include being named to the All-SWC freshman team.

The Shockers also have three returning lettermen in their backfield. The fourth member won a letter on the offense last year.

Sophomore Pat McDermott has been great kicking from placement. His 51-yard field goal in practice Wednesday topped his efforts.

Senior Jimmy Sheffield will punt for the Aggies, with a 39.8 average last year.

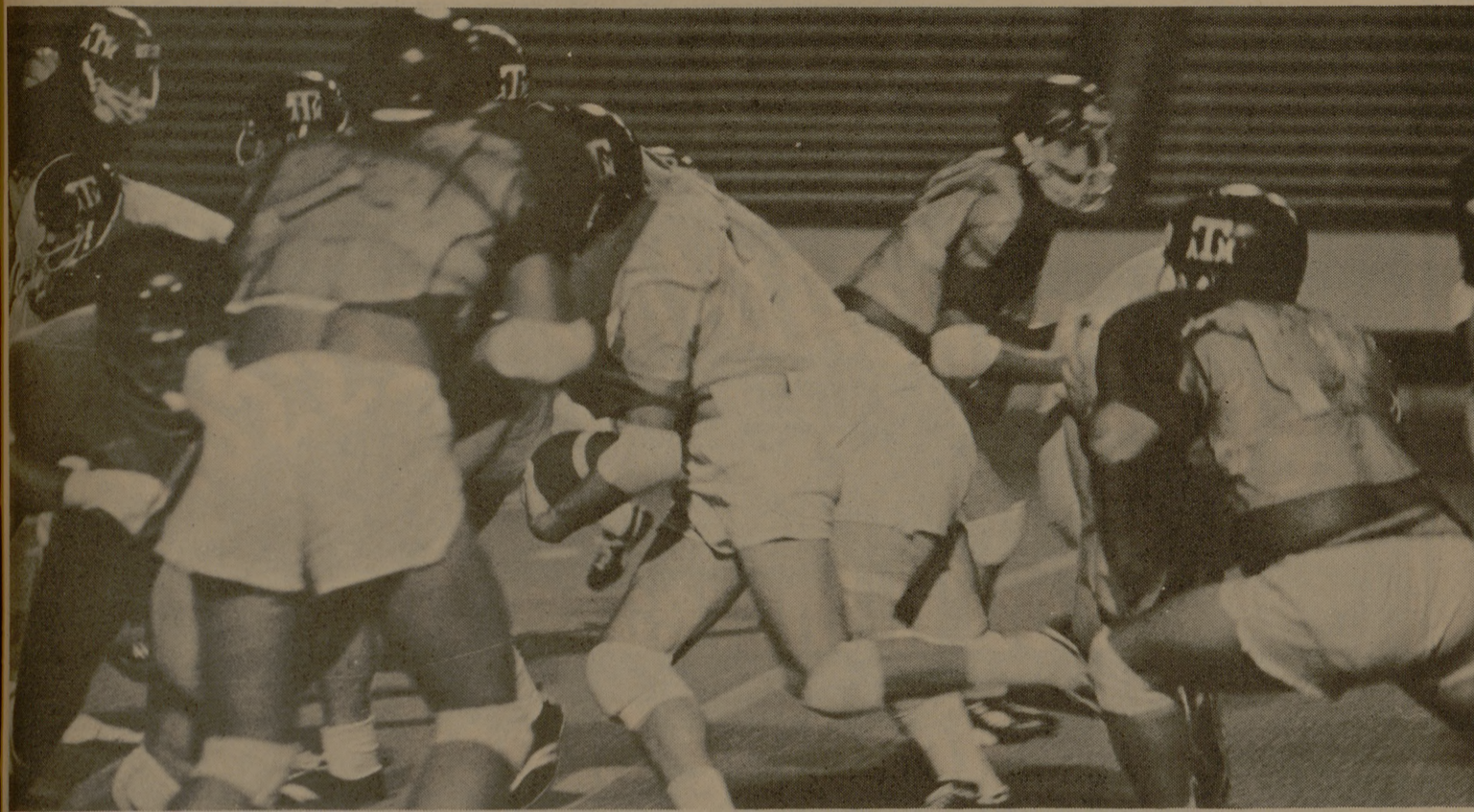
A final look at the Aggies and Shockers shows that both are young. A&M has 18 first-year men listed on their charts of the top two men at each position and the Shockers have 20.

One comparison of these, however, is the Aggies will start nine of theirs, while the Wheat-shockers will have only three first year starters.

The Aggies will have only two seniors in the starting lineup, while Wichita State will have seven.

What it all boils down to is, can the Aggies' young talent out-duel the Shockers' experience?

We should know the answer around 10 p.m. Saturday.



EVERY WHICH way go the Aggies while working under the lights Wednesday night in preparation for their Saturday night's opener with Wichita State. The offense and defense work their various maneuvers in the execution

drills that the Ags had Wednesday night. They had a similar workout under the lights last night. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

Lemm thinking of future quietly

HOUSTON (AP) — Coach Wally Lemm of the Houston Oilers is thinking of the future these days but he would like to forget a few

things he said just a year ago. Lemm, soft-spoken and rarely optimistic, had opened the 1969 final season of the old American

Football League by saying he possibly had the best Oiler team he had ever coached.

For Lemm, that was strong optimism because he had won the league championship in 1961 and the Eastern Division title in 1967.

But 1969 was a frustrating season with many fans howling for changes long before the 6-6-2 finish that was good enough only for a poor second place finish behind the New York Jets in the AFL East.

After the season, Lemm acted quickly after his authority was strengthened by the abrupt departure of General Manager Don Klosterman for Baltimore.

Lemm cleaned house at quarterback, dealing Pete Beathard and all-pro cornerback Miller Farr to the St. Louis Cardinals for the veteran Charley Johnson. Then he traded with the Cleve-

land Browns for Jerry Rhome, a five-year quarterback who had played as backup with four championship teams at Dallas and Cleveland.

"We've got our quarterback," Lemm said of Johnson. "This is one of the biggest steps the Oilers have taken since I've been back. He will give us the outside passing we haven't had since George Blanda left."

Lemm had been a Johnson man since returning to Houston in 1966 after four years as head coach of the Cardinals.

So far in the 1-4 exhibition season that ends Sunday in Philadelphia Lemm has spent more time than usual looking at rookies, and, while doing so, has used Johnson sparingly at times.

Lemm believes Roy Gerela will improve his 19-40 field goal record as a rookie and that the Oiler running game should improve.

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