

DeWitt looked like an offensive tackle

Benny DeWitt just looks like an offensive tackle. For awhile, the Texas A&M junior from Nacogdoches thought that appearance was as close as he was going to come.

DeWitt came to A&M as a center after earning all-East Texas honors under Coach L. H. Mathews at Nacogdoches. The 6-5, 233-pounder labored two years at the center position as a

reserve, playing none as a sophomore and very little as a red-shirt last year. With Jack Kovar, who started every game at center for three years, there was little hope for DeWitt.

Then came the spring of 1970. A&M's offensive line was revamped, and DeWitt was installed at No. 1 left tackle. The Aggie coaches figured he looked like a tackle, and they would see if he could play like one. He could and did.

"Putting on that Maroon jersey (signifying first team) was one of my biggest thrills," DeWitt said. "I wasn't going to let anyone take it away if I could help it."

Some observers felt that DeWitt wouldn't hold his position long because of the challenge from sophomore Buster Callaway. The spring battle was close, but DeWitt just kept getting better. By the time the season opener with Wichita State rolled around, there was no

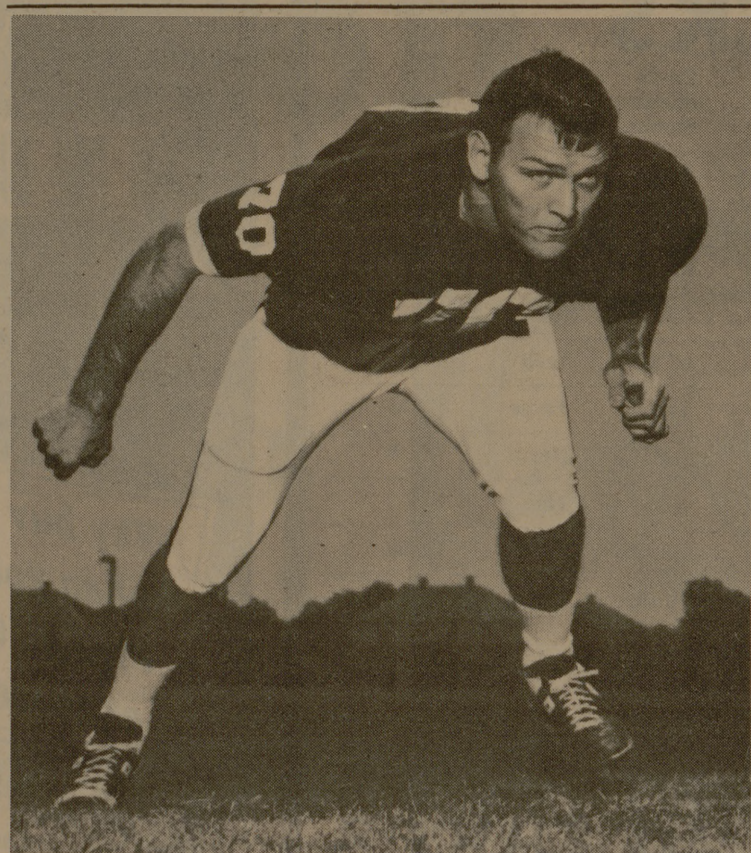
doubt who would start. DeWitt started the first game and earned one of the highest offensive grades in the 41-14 win. He has started all three games now.

His progress continued in A&M's win over LSU and he played a key role as a pass protection blocker for Lex James against both LSU and Ohio State.

DeWitt has surprising speed for his size with a clocking of 4.9 in the 40-yard dash. He also has the leadership qualities that are particularly valuable to a young A&M team. He was captain of his high school teams in both football and basketball and is a first lieutenant in the A&M Corps of Cadets.

He is majoring in poultry science and plans to take an Army commission upon graduation.

But, first, DeWitt has a lot of gridiron combat ahead of him. The Aggies are discovering in this big tackle that looks are not deceiving.



Benny DeWitt

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Michigan scouting report . . .

Wolverine defense stingy

By VICTOR MOORE

Saturday, the Aggies will once again be put to the test on the gridiron. This time the opponent will be Michigan, currently rated ninth in the nation, and the only team to defeat number one Ohio State in OSU's last 20 games.

The Wolverines will once again be led by Don Moorhead, who engineered Michigan to an 8-3 season last year and a trip to the Rose Bowl.

In the backfield, Michigan has an outstanding one-two punch in 6'2", 195 pound Glenn Doughty and 5'10", 200 pound Billy Taylor. Last year, as sophomores they accounted for more than 1500 yards rushing, in only five games each. Taylor gained 807 yards and Doughty 733.

Due to graduation, weak spots in the offense are at both guards,

fullback and tight end, where All-American Jim Mandich played. The rest of the Michigan offense is intact, including All-Big Ten Tackle Dan Dierdorf.

The defense was also hurt by graduation. Though losing three deep backs, the defense has a lot of experience centering around All-Big Ten Linebacker Marty Huff, who will be calling the defensive plays to a well trained and experienced unit.

This outfit allowed an average of only eleven points per game and ranked second in overall defense in 1969.

Michigan (2-0), after sluggish victories over Arizona and Washington, is up to its old defensive tricks again. In their last two games, the Wolverines have allowed only a total of 104 yards rushing and 324 yards passing.

They have recovered one fumble and picked off seven stray passes.

The offensive team has not jelled yet. They seem to move the ball well between the twenties, but cannot take it any further. In their last two victories, the Wolverines capitalized on the mistakes of their opponents, but not until the late stages of the game. They have rushed for 401 yards and passed for 235 yards, in the first two games.

Michigan's field goal kicker, Dana Coin, ranges inside the 45 yard line.

Michigan is not a team to be taken lightly, with 33 returning lettermen, 18 on offense, 15 on defense. The defense has done an outstanding job in its first two games in keeping with last year's pace. It has allowed an average of only six points a game and

prevented a touchdown from being scored, as all the points were scored via field goals.

The offense on the other hand, has been sluggish in its first two appearances. While rolling up impressive yardage against traditionally weak teams, the Wolverines have scored only four touchdowns, settling for three field goals.

The Moorhead led Wolverines stick to the ground as much as possible, using power sweeps, pitch outs, and going up the middle. The passing attack has not been going well for Moorhead (18-47-1), so look for a running attack.

Expect a good game between A&M and Michigan, in what could be a very close game more decided by the toe than the touchdown.

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