

# Pros like Sheffield's high kicks

Jimmy Sheffield has done a lot of various things in football since coming to Texas A&M but it is as a punting specialist that professional scouts are watching him intently this season.

One of four seniors on the 1970 Aggie squad, Sheffield now has punted 58 times in 10 games and has a 39.1 average.

Back on the press tour prior to the season a writer asked Coach Gene Stallings what was the secret behind A&M's string of

excellent punters (Phil Scoggin, Steve O'Neal, Jimmy Sheffield) and the Aggie coach said: "Elmer Smith, our punting coach!"

Smith, a veteran coach of many, many football wars, kinda shakes off the compliment, saying: "I just tell 'em to keep their toe down, their eyes on the ball and practice a lot."

Evidently that pays off but he also gets them somehow to keep the football in the air a long time

to give the coverage time to get down the field.

The A&M theory of punting is not for great distance, but for height. "What we want," says Stallings, "is about a 40 yard punt that will be fair caught and no return."

Ironically, Sheffield's longest punt this year was a 56-yard boot against Baylor. But, it was low and the Bears set up a return and scored.

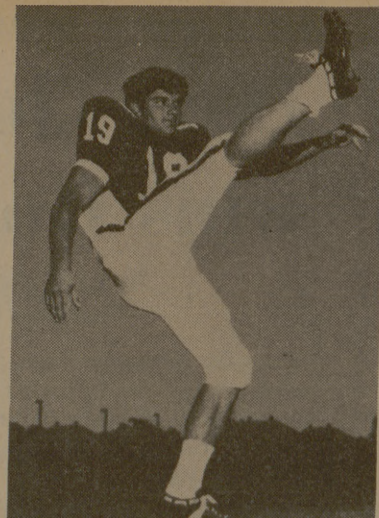
Sheffield hasn't always been a

punting specialist. He was a great high school quarterback at Houston Waltrip. He sat out his freshman season of football at A&M while working to get scholastically eligible.

As a sophomore, he was pressed into service as a half-back when Larry Stegent was hurt and he responded with 162 yards on 32 carries. His long run was 63 against TCU and he scored on a 20-yard run against Texas Tech.

As a junior he shared quarterbacking duties with Rocky Self. He had minus yardage rushing. He completed 16 of 36 passes for 119 yards. He also did all the punting, booting 69 for a 39.8 average.

He and safety Dave Elmendorf are the top pro prospects on the young Aggie squad this season. He's the type of punter that could make it big in the play-for-pay league, booting 'em high so that the foes can't return 'em.



Jimmy Sheffield

## Tech likes sun if not cotton

EL PASO, Tex. (AP) — Tech will be the host team in the Paso's Dec. 19 Sun Bowl football game, if Tech doesn't win the Southwest Conference title and go to the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

The Sun Bowl selection committee chairman, Rich McCarty and Tech Athletic Director, J. King, said in a joint announcement Tuesday that Tech's Big Raiders were accepting the Sun Bowl invitation pending the conference outcome.

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