

Aggies have Bryant-oriented staff

A new offensive coach and a promotion for a defensive mentor bring two new looks to the coaching ranks for Gene Stallings' 11-man staff, out to overcome the memories of a 2-9 season Sept. 11 when the Aggies host Wichita State on Kyle Field.

Charles H. (Pug) Gabrel, who joined the A&M staff in the spring, will be in charge of the offensive line. Gabrel comes to Aggieland from Oklahoma State where he was the offensive coordinator for one of the top and coming major college football programs.

Gabrel replaces Bud Moore,

who headed the offense for the past five seasons. Offensive line coach Charlie Bradshaw also resigned after completing his first season at A&M. Bradshaw now is at Vanderbilt.

Harvey Aschenbeck, a defensive tackle on the 1967 Southwest Conference champion A&M squad, will be starting his first season as coach of the defensive line. Last year Aschenbeck was a full-time varsity assistant after serving the 1969 season as a student assistant.

Head coach Gene Stallings will begin his seventh season in charge of the Aggies this fall

and will be out to reverse a trend that saw A&M football at its lowest last season. A&M has a 22-39-1 record during Stallings' tenure, including a 7-4 Southwest Conference title in 1967.

Stallings earned three varsity letters at Aggieland under Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant and was tri-captain of the unbeaten 1956 team. He later joined Bryant as an assistant coach at the University of Alabama.

Returning for his seventeenth season on the staff is assistant head coach Elmer Smith. Smith, a member of the Arkansas Hall of Fame because of his athletic

proceeds, joined the A&M coaching staff for the first time under Bryant in 1964.

As with the majority of the staff, the name of Bryant has influenced defensive coach Des Powell, quarterback coach Jack Hurlbut and receiving coach Bobby Marks, who also learned some of their football from the Bear.

Powell, now in his fifth season, was a center and guard along with Marks, who was an All-Southwest Conference end, in the Bryant era. Both finished a year after Stallings. That year, 1967, Stallings coached the Aggie Fish.

Powell later coached under Bryant at Alabama and Hurlbut, who now is starting his sixth year on the staff, was a quarterback on the 1962, 1963 and 1964 Crimson Tide squads that took home bowl victories.

Hurlbut coached one year as a defensive backfield coach, since he also worked in the defensive secondary as a player under Bryant. He has been a quarterback coach since that first season. His most noticeable graduate is Edd Hargett, who spearheaded the 1967 champions and is now one of the top signal callers for the New Orleans Saints of the National Football League.

Marks joined the Aggie staff in 1969 after a very successful stay as head mentor of the Houston Sam Houston football program. But he didn't just leave the Sam Houston program behind. Marks, who scouts in the Gulf Coast area, has brought in some of his former high school players, including quarterback Lex James, fullback Doug Neill and receivers, Thomas Burke and Bobby Hughes.

Lance Van Zandt and John Paul Young, who both have coached under Stallings for one season return to coordinate the defensive secondary and linebackers respectively.

Van Zandt previously coached at New Mexico Highlands and West Texas State before coming to A&M and Young, who was an outstanding linebacker at the University of Texas at El Paso for four years, was an assistant coach at Oklahoma State prior to coming to A&M. He also coached as an assistant under Hayden Fry at Southern Methodist University.



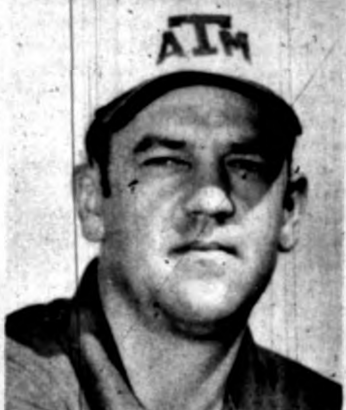
Elmer Smith



Des Powell



John Paul Young



Lance Van Zandt



Jim Keller



Bobby Marks



Jack Hurlbut



Harvey Aschenbeck



Barney Welch



Pug Gabrel

'Learning how not to lose'

(Continued from page 1) with Charles Billingsley and Gary Smith. Herring suffered a broken leg in spring practice but is expected to be available in the fall.

Four lettermen from last year's backfield—seniors Doug Neill and Marc Black and juniors Brad Dusek and Doug Robbins—are vying for the fullback spot and one of them could end up at another spot in the backfield in the tough competition.

Joey Herr and Hugh McElroy, two seniors who were the team's leading wide receivers with 21 receptions apiece last year, will be the leading candidates for the wingback position although the leading freshman pass catcher Bobby Hughes from Houston Sam Houston and Billy Joe Polasek, who missed last season with an injury, are rated as contenders.

Tight end Homer May led the Aggies in receiving with 26 catches and the 6-2, 225 giant from Lubbock is rated as the pre-season pick for All-Southwest tight end by the Texas Football Magazine.

His five touchdown passes caught last year equalled the number caught by the rest of the team. Yet senior Mitch Robertson finished ahead of May on the Aggie depth charts after spring practice and a battle supreme can be expected there.



Homer May

Robertson is expected to take over the punting chores from Jimmy Sheffield, who now is trying to make it as a punter with the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League. Bill Nutt, a freshman from Brenham, will provide the strongest challenge for Robertson and his 40.7 average includes a 78-yard gem against Rice. Sheffield averaged 40.2 last year. Ed Marsh of Baylor led the conference with a 40.4 average.

The battle for the offensive line is war, as only All-Southwest Conference guard Leonard Forey was holding down his position in the right side of the line and was being pushed by Mike Park, who worked at center last year.

Coach Stallings' shifts in the offensive line has Ralph Sacra, who was shifted to the offense in mid-season, at right tackle and Robert Gerasimowicz, a junior from Dickinson, at center.

Todd Christopher, who started last season as a promising sophomore defensive end and moved to linebacker when the position became saturated with injuries, now is the number one left guard.

Four lettermen are battling for the left tackle spot with Buster Calloway out front at the time, although Ted Smith, Clifton Thomas and Benny DeWitt are in the battle. DeWitt held the post last year but missed spring training due to personal problems. Smith worked at center last year.

In all, 11 lettermen are seeking the interior offensive line positions and add to that junior college transfer center Skip Kuehn and you have war.

Four lettermen are leading the fight for the defensive line with juniors Kent Finley and Max Bird at the ends and senior Van Odoh and junior James Dubcak at the tackles. Boice and Bruce Best both are fighting for defensive line posts as they start their second year of varsity play. Bruce missed spring training due to an operation for a detached retina.

Another war could occur at linebacker where the Aggies have Grady Hoermann, Mike Lord,

Steve Luebbehusen and Dennis Carruth set to battle for two spots. Carruth suffered a broken leg in spring workouts and missed most of last season with an injury but still is rated highly.

Of this foursome only Hoermann avoided a major injury last year. Sophomore Billy Wiebold is expected to cause some noise from there also.

Dave Elmendorf is gone and the Aggies have a hole to fill in the defensive secondary. Lee Hitt, who spent a lot of time on the bench while Elmendorf was around, is a leading candidate for the job, although Clifford Thomas and kickoff specialist Mike Bellar could move in.

David Hoot, who tied for the league lead in interceptions with Elmendorf with six, is the strong safety, although Mike Bunger and Thomas are challenging.

Ed Ebrum returns for his third letter at left cornerback and Bland Smith for his second on the right side, but junior Robert Murski and Chris Johnson, who missed last season with an injury, are in the fight for the two positions.

1971 will be a challenge year for the Texas Aggies. They will be out to break the spell. Only time will tell if the Aggies "Learned how not to lose."



Mike Lord

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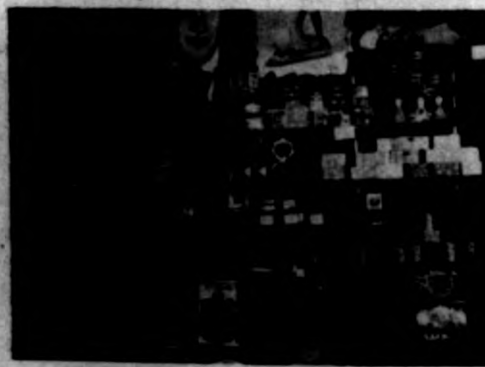
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