

Stallings pleased with team progress

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor

"Texas A&M has an exceptional student body. There aren't many places where a 2-9 team could get the kind of ovation we got at All-University Night. I appreciated it for the players, and I know that they have a great deal of respect for the students here."

In this way, Aggie Coach Gene Stallings praised the A&M school spirit. Speaking at his weekly press conference Tuesday in the Letterman's Lounge, he also expressed good thoughts about the community's support of the team, specifically the programs welcoming the team back to school and the project to fill Kyle Field for the Wichita State game.

"All the publicity by the radio, television stations, and businesses around town really made a dif-

ference in the attitude of the players," Stallings said. "It makes them want to do better when everyone is behind them like that."

He also talked about the Open House at Kyle Field Sunday night, saying that the turnout was pleasing. The coach added that he appreciated the praise he received on his players' politeness with the youngsters.

On the subject of fall drills, Stallings commented that he felt the team had progressed with each practice.

"Usually, when I look at scrimmage films, I find some phase of the game that I'm not pleased with," he said, "but in looking at the films from Saturday night, I like everything I saw."

Stallings singled out tailback Cliff Thomas, guard Leonard Forey, and fullback Doug Neill as grading high in the last scrim-

mage. Injuries, which ruined the Aggies last year, were discussed only briefly, but Stallings pointed out that aggravating injuries, such as sprains and soreness, were hurting his plans for another scrimmage.

"This is the time of year I love," he said, "but I'm frustrated because we need a little more contact work, but I'm reluctant to have a full-scale scrimmage, for fear of getting someone hurt."

He mentioned that if the Wichita game had been yesterday, Mark Green could not have played, due to a sprained foot, and that Lex James might have been able to play, but that he had a badly sprained left thumb. At the present time, Tim Trimmer and Joe Mac King are working behind James and Green at the quarterback slot.

Stallings pointed out that Robert Murski, who is now playing split end after being a cornerback last year, has done an "excellent job" thus far.

"Robert catches the ball well," he said, "but he doesn't run his routes perfectly. Of course, that's much better than having somebody who runs good routes and drops the ball."

He also said that Hugh McElroy would return punts this year, and that he would run back kickoffs, with John Gardner and Ricky Spencer probably deep on kickoffs too.

With 23 seniors on the squad, Stallings was asked about leadership, both on and off the field.

"You need two types of leadership on a football team," he explained, "the rallying kind and the silent kind. I'm proud to say that we have both types on this year's squad."

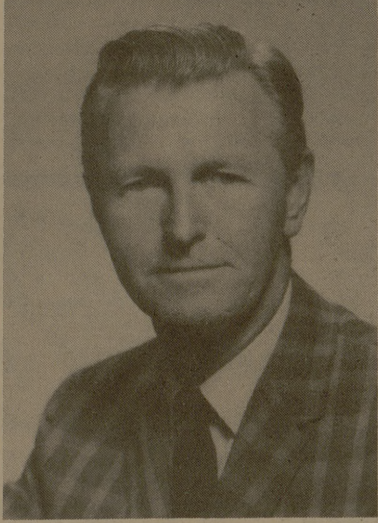
Aggie sports information director to air first in series of television broadcasts

Spec Gammon, in his ninth year as sports information director at Texas A&M, will host the "Spec Gammon Show," premiering this coming Monday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m., on Midwest Video-BCS-TV, Channel 9.

The format for the new series will be films highlighting Aggie games, keeping Aggie fans up to date on happenings behind the scenes. He also will give scouting reports on the Southwest Conference teams and Aggie opponents. Interesting guests also will be interviewed.

Gammon, though a Texan for many years, received his schooling in Oklahoma and acquired his

Bachelors at the University of Oklahoma. He was a quarterback in his school days, and also captained the basketball team. After serving in the Army for three



Spec Gammon

years during World War II, he began his career in the sports departments of several small town newspapers. Shortly thereafter, he became sports editor of the "Odessa American" for 13 years. He joined the athletic department at Texas A&M in July of 1963 in his present capacity as sports publicist.

He was married to the former Arla Rutenbeck of Greeley, Colorado in 1954. They reside in College Station, and have two children; a daughter, Marla, 15, and a son, Greg, 12.

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Talented junior thrives on contact

If opponents want to find a tough lineman on the Aggie team, they'll have a number to choose from. But, which ever one they pick, none will be tougher than Boice Best.

At 6-1 and 230, the junior from Houston Smiley has a rough year of college football behind him, but he seems to thrive on the idea of another season.

"We've had a lot of spirit and enthusiasm so far," he said, "and we're all very much looking forward to this year. We sure do want to win."

A first teamer at this point, Best refuses to be overconfident about starting throughout the year.

"I can't afford to relax during practice," he explained. "I have to work like I'm getting beaten out, because Bud Trammell could very well replace me or James Dubeak (the other starting tackle)."

On a team with few great sophomores, Boice said that Trammell, 6-1 and 255, is quite capable of doing the job well.

"Bud reminds me of Van Odom when he was a sophomore, and that's a tough football player," he explained.

On a very experienced team with 23 seniors, it seems odd that a junior would be a leader, but the experience and quality he has from last year put him in the "veteran" category.

"It's so much different as a junior," Best explained. "Last

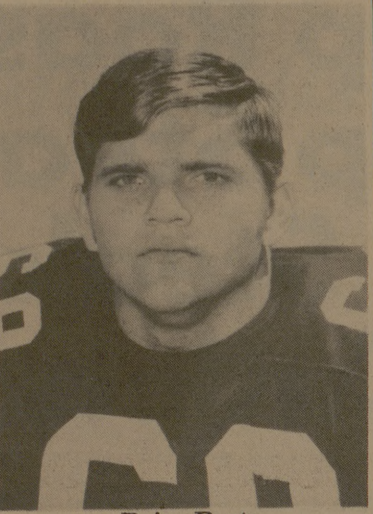
year, when things got tough during practice, I'd sort of 'belly-ache,' but now, I wouldn't think of letting anybody know I'm tired, because I'm expected to show a good example and be a leader. It's been good for me, too."

In discussing the overall defense, Boice said that he expects them to provide a lot of thrills this fall.

"We'll be in there all the way," he promised. "We've got a lot of experience and a number of guys who could break into the lineup."

All these guys will play a lot, even if they don't start. I'm looking forward to a good year, since all of the players who were injured last year are ready to go. It hurt us last year to have so many people miss games, practices, and even some parts of the season with injuries."

If everybody is well, then the Aggies could live up to their desire to have a winning season. In any case, fans can look to Boice Best to provide the excitement and determination that makes football what it is.



Boice Best

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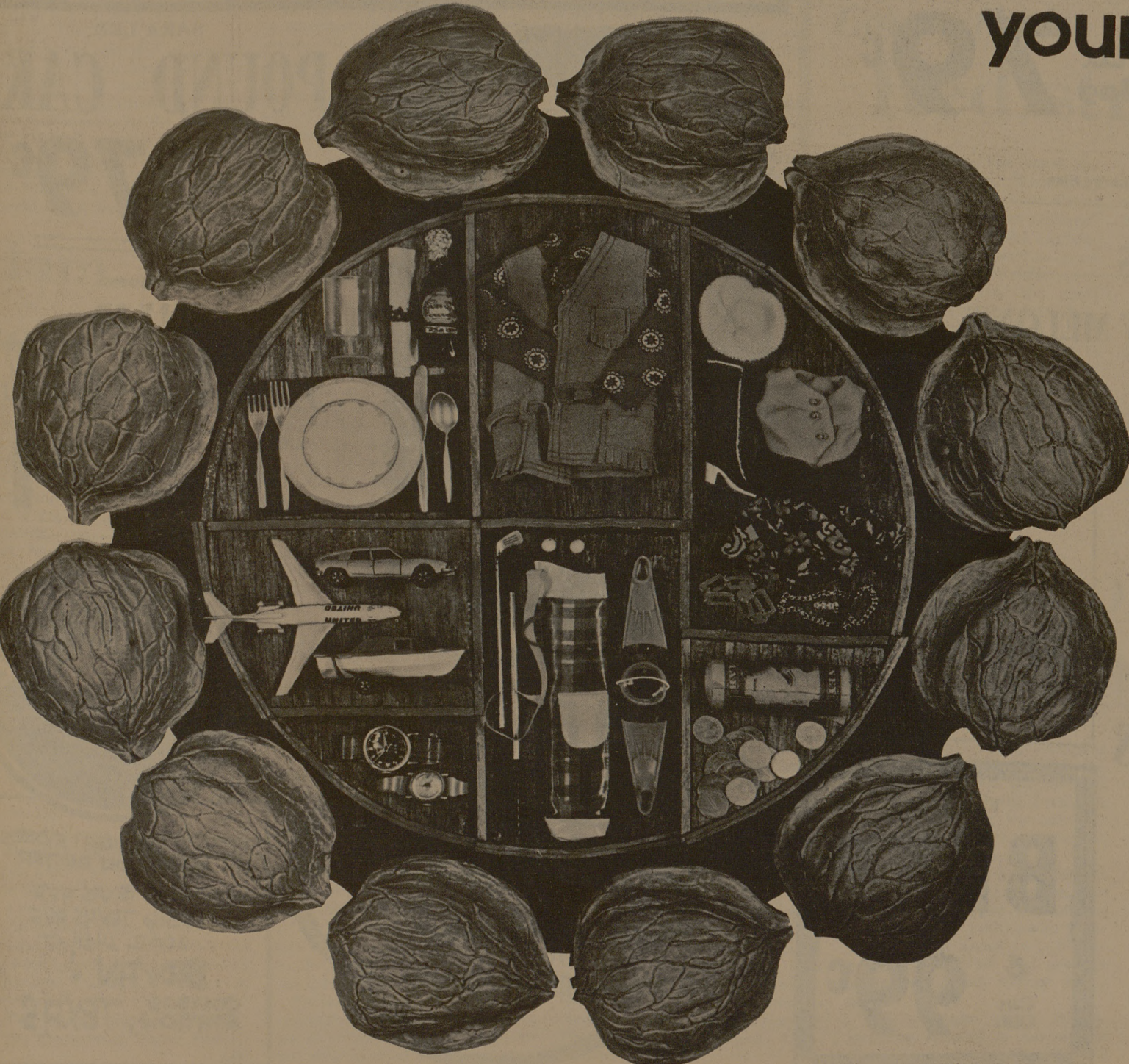


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