

David Hoot looks to break Aggie interception mark this season

By BILL HENRY
Assistant Sports Editor

David Hoot, who played in the shadow of Dave Elmendorf for two years, will finally get a chance to show sport fans around the country that he is by no means the "understudy" of Elmendorf. Hoot has already been tabbed as the Southwest Conference's first team strong safety while Elmendorf spent his college days as free safety.

The irony of the Elmendorf-

Hoot battle is that both tied for the conference lead in interceptions with six last season. Working together, they were the most prolific defensive backs in the SWC.

Hoot, the 6-2, 202 lb. senior, will start his third varsity season with A&M only four interceptions away from Elmendorf's all-time Aggie record of twelve.

Aggie opponents will get a different feel of Hoot this season with the addition of ten pounds

to his frame. The jolt will be more powerful than in past seasons with no loss to velocity.

Hoot is one of the select few that have ever been through four Spring Trainings having never been redshirted. This incident occurred because of his graduation from Houston Reagan at mid-term and enrolling that same January at A&M. "I feel that having gone through this first spring training session before my freshman football season did more to

help my football career than any other one thing I've ever done in athletics," Hoot explained.

David went on to take all-SWC freshman honors that next fall on the undefeated Fish squad.

In his prep days in Houston, Hoot took all-district and all-zone honors playing fullback and quarterback at 150 lbs. He also lettered four years in baseball and three in basketball. When contemplating which route to take in

college athletics, the decision was a tough one. Three distressing problems came into conflict with football including his small frame.

First, his brother Don Young played professional baseball with the Chicago Cubs and many baseball teams around the country wanted David. Second, with his great basketball ability, the scholarship avalanche in and gave him the perfect chance for a college education since he could not

bank on the football route at 150 lbs.

He met with Coach Shelby Metcalf, head basketball coach, during a visit on campus and decided at that time that football was his calling and approached Coach Stallings.

This confrontation proved rewarding to both individuals as Stallings was about to lose his entire defensive backfield to graduation. Hoot had his mind set on

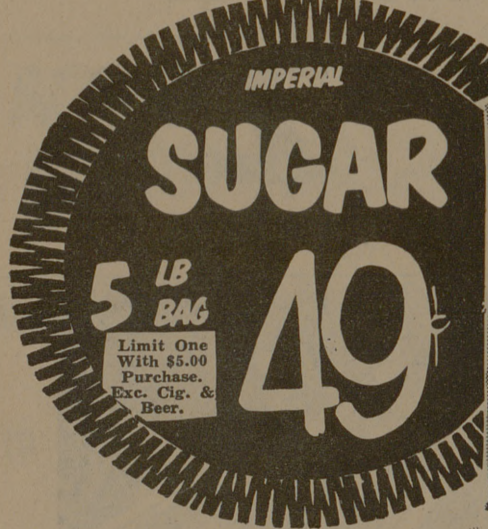
one of those starting slots at the meeting. In most instances a player will be coerced into another position better suited to the college style of play and need of the team.

After three years of college football, David Hoot will play the position he ventured to (strong safety) with only one game in filling in for an injured cornerback due to injuries to his record as "full-time."

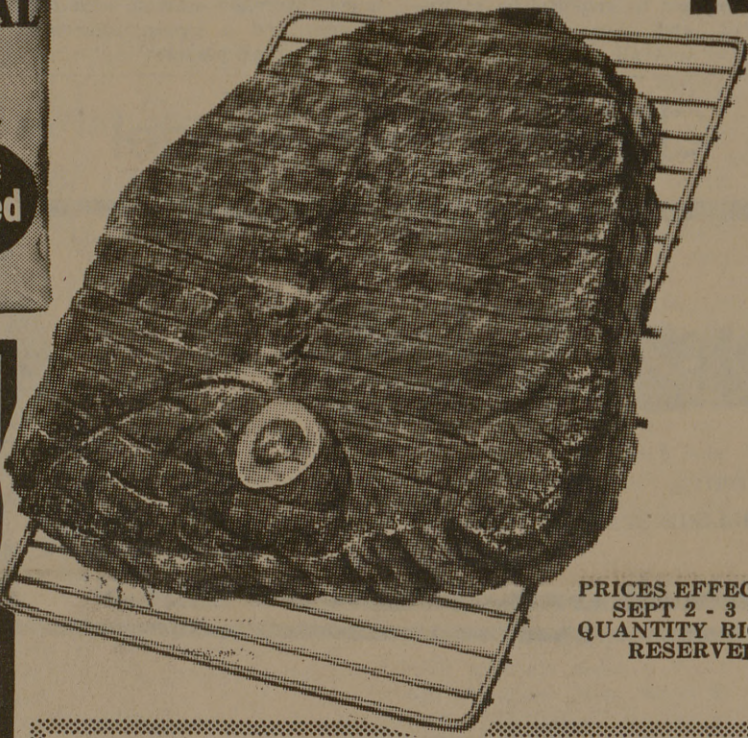


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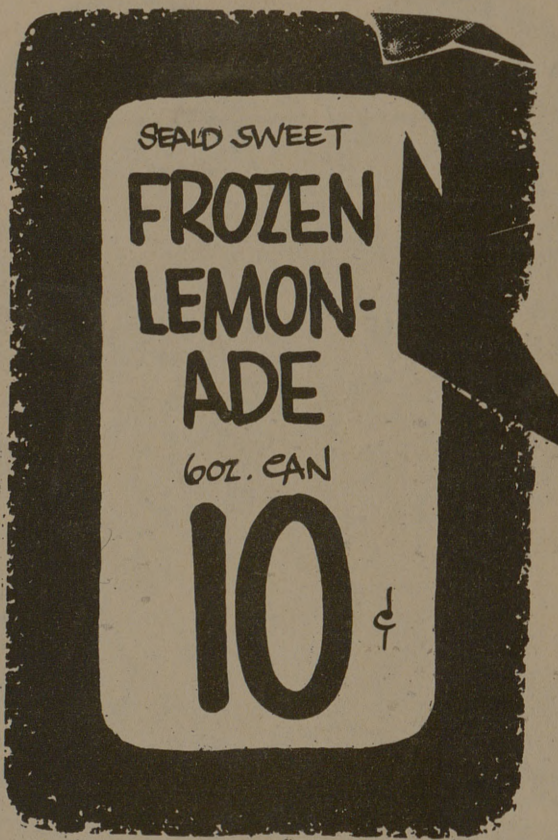
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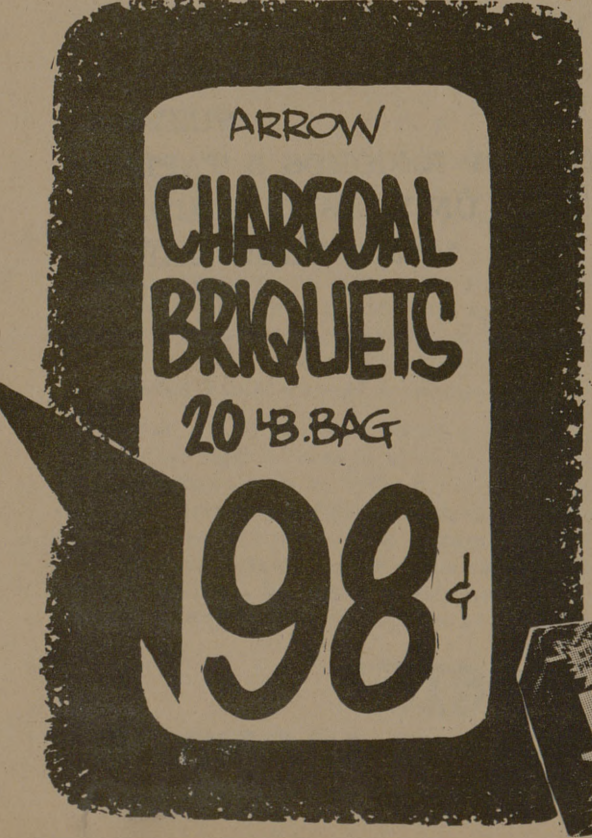
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