

# Emory Bellard's staff has diversity and experience

By JOHN CURYLO  
Battalion Sports Editor

Emory Bellard's football staff at A&M, completed and hard at work recruiting, consists of three holdovers from last year's Aggie staff, two members from the University of Houston staff, last year's Kansas State freshman coach, three who were head high school coaches in Texas last year and one who played for Texas last fall.

In addition, Bellard is making only one change in the athletic department staff. Max Bumgardner will replace Felix Gibson as academic counselor. Gibson has accepted a position in the university's counseling and testing office.

The two coaches coming from Houston are Melvin Robertson, who will be the defensive coordinator and secondary coach at Aggieland, and Ben Hurt, the

new offensive coordinator who will work with the offensive line. Robertson and Hurt joined the Cougar staff the same day in 1965, after extensive experience in the high school coaching ranks in Texas. Robertson was a high school mentor 14 years before taking the Houston job, while Hurt coached prepsters seven seasons prior to joining Robertson on the Cougar staff.

The three holdovers from the

1971 Aggie staff are Dee Powell, who will coach the defensive linemen, John Paul Young, the linebacker coach, and Pug Gabrel, who will work with the defensive ends.

Powell has coached seven years at A&M, six of them as defensive coordinator. He worked for Bear Bryant at Alabama prior to returning to his alma mater. Powell played three seasons of varsity football as a center and

guard before graduating in 1957. Young has coached Aggie linebackers for two years, having played the position at Abilene High and the University of Texas at El Paso. He stayed on as an assistant at UTEP one year after his 1962 graduation. He coached three years at Jacksonville High, two years at Southern Methodist and one season at Oklahoma State.

Gabrel coached the offensive

line his first year at A&M. A halfback at Texas Western in El Paso, Gabrel was among the top rushers in the nation. He spent four years at El Paso Austin High before moving into the college ranks. He has coached at New Mexico State, Southern Methodist, Northwestern Louisiana State and Oklahoma State.

R. C. Slocum, from Kansas State, will coach the offensive ends. Slocum played football at

Stark High in Orange and was an all district end on a state semifinalist team his senior year. The 27-year-old lettered four years at McNeese State in Lake Charles, La., playing both tight end and split end. He still holds season and career school records there for most passes caught and total yardage gained on pass receptions. He coached two seasons at Lake Charles High, then worked as freshman offensive line coach at Kansas State in 1970. He spent the 1971 season as head freshman coach there.

The three coaches direct from Texas high schools are Dan LaGrasta of San Angelo Central, who will work with the varsity offensive line, Robert E. (Swede) Lee of Pampa, who will coach the freshman offensive linemen and Paul E. Register of Hurst-Bell High, who'll handle the freshman defense.

LaGrasta was Bellard's assistant at San Angelo Central when the new A&M head coach compiled his impressive record there from 1960-66. When Bellard went to the University of Texas, LaGrasta took over as the San Angelo head coach.

Lee, a 1958 graduate of the University of Texas, has been the head coach at Pampa four years. Before that, he coached the Amarillo High line one year, was the head coach at Comanche High one year, defensive coordinator at Texarkana, Texas, High two years, head coach and athletic director at Texarkana, Ark., three years, head coach and athletic director at Galveston Ball one year, and was on Jim McKenzie's staff at Oklahoma University one year.

Register began his coaching career on Darrell Tully's staff at Galveston Ball in 1955 and went with Tully to Spring Branch in 1956. He succeeded Tully as head coach in 1965 when Tully became athletic director for the Spring Branch system. In five years as head coach at Spring Branch and two at Hurst-Bell, Register has compiled a 57-16-2 record. His best season was 1966 when Spring Branch was 12-1-1, losing to Bellard's San Angelo team, 21-14, in the state 4A finals.

Donnie Wigginton, who was the Longhorn quarterback last year, will work with the freshman backs. Wigginton, named offensive player of the year in the Southwest Conference, played under Register at Spring Branch.

Bellard, the inventor of the Texas Wishbone in 1968, will handle the varsity offensive backs. This was his specialty at Texas under Darrell Royal.

Among the athletic department personnel retained by Bellard are Marvin Tate, associate athletic director; Wally Groff, business manager; Billy Pickard, trainer; S. M. (Monk) Meeks, equipment manager; Spec Gammon, sports information director; Jim Butler, assistant sports information director; Shelby Metcalf, head basketball coach; Jim Culpepper, assistant basketball coach; Tom Chandler, baseball coach; Charles Thomas, head track coach; Ted Nelson, assistant track coach; Dennis Fosdick, swimming coach; Emil Mamaliga, weight training coach; Omar Smith, tennis coach; and Henry Ransom, golf coach.

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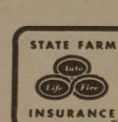
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