

# Bellard and assistants bring winning tradition

With the Christmas holidays came the hiring of Emory Bellard and one of the most promising football staffs in the nation. Nothing but wise choices were made throughout, and nothing but good times can be seen in the future for A&M football. Congratulations are in order for all involved.

When Dr. Jack K. Williams and the Board of Directors announced

that Bellard had been hired, it was one of the smartest moves any university has taken in many years. Bellard was reputed to be the top assistant coach in the country, a man with a bright future.

Top officials of the university said they were after an established head coach, but they changed their minds with all the Charley McClendon rumors. In fact,

Bellard was the first one offered the job.

He brings with him an outstanding background, an excellent staff and his baby, Wishbone offense. All three will be good for football fortunes at Aggieland.

Bellard played football at the University of Texas and Southwest Texas State at San Marcos before graduating and beginning his coaching career in 1949. He started out as an end coach at Alice, then took over as line coach for two years after that.

In 1952, he got his first head coaching job at Ingleside. While at the Class B high school, his teams won two regional championships, compiling a 32-3-0 record. Breckinridge was his next stop in 1955, where his five year stint produced one state title, one state co-championship and two other district crowns.

He went to San Angelo Central High in 1960, where he was head coach for seven seasons. His tenure

at the Class AAAA school included four district titles, one district co-championship and one state championship.

He was linebacker coach for the University of Texas in 1967, then took over as offensive backfield coach for four years. During the summer of 1968, he drew up the new offensive alignment that came to be known as the Wishbone.

Bellard's overall record as a head coach is 136 wins, 37 defeats and four ties. He will work with the offensive backs at A&M.

Because of his reputation and potential, Bellard was able to assemble a fine staff. He kept three members of last year's Aggie staff, lured two top assistants from the University of Houston, brought in three former high school coaches, hired the freshman coach from Kansas State and got Donnie Wigginton to come along as a freshman assistant.

Dee Powell, Pug Gabrel and John Paul Young were rehired from the staff of the 1971 Aggies. Powell will coach the defensive line, Gabrel the defensive ends and Young will handle the linebackers, as he has for the past two seasons.

Ben Hurt and Melvin Robertson gave up positions at the University of Houston to join Bellard. Hurt will be the offensive coordinator, in addition to working with the offensive line. Robertson will be the defensive coordinator and secondary coach. While with the Cougars, he was assistant head coach and defensive coordinator. Hurt and Robertson were hired the same day seven years ago and have impressive recruiting records for Houston.

Dan LaGrasta, from San Angelo Central, Paul Register, from Hurst-Bell, and Robert E. (Swede) Lee, from Pampa, are the three who were high school coaches last season.

LaGrasta assisted Bellard at Breckinridge and San Angelo, taking over the head job at Central in 1967. He will coach the offensive line. Register was at Spring Branch before going to Hurst-Bell. His 1966 Spring

Hadl named NFL Man of the Year

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — John Hadl, quarterback of the San Diego Chargers, has been named the National Football League's "Man of the Year" because of his contributions toward civic affairs.

Hadl, a 10-year veteran, has lived in San Diego since he joined the club as No. 3 draft choice out of Kansas in 1962. He presently is assisting the Pauma Valley Indian Reservation development program and has always been active in boys' club work and other youth activities.

The award, sponsored by Vitalis and coordinated by the Pro Football Hall of Fame, will set up a \$25,000 scholarship fund in Hadl's name for the benefit of students from the San Diego area. In addition, Hadl gets a 1972 luxury car and a trophy.

He will be formally presented with the award during ceremonies at the Pro Bowl game in Los Angeles on Jan. 23.

Branch squad lost in the state finals, 21-14, to Bellard's San Angelo team. Wigginton was the Spring Branch quarterback that year. Register will be the freshman defensive coach. Lee, the freshman offensive line coach, coached at six different high schools and Oklahoma University in his 13-year career.

R. C. Slocum is the former freshman coach at Kansas State. He was there two years, preceded by two years at Lake Charles High. Slocum, 27, played four years at split end and tight end for McNeese State in Lake Charles, La. He will be the receiver coach at A&M. Slocum recruited in Texas for Kansas State.

Wigginton, of course, was the Southwest Conference's Offensive Player of the year. He scored 14 touchdowns to tie Texas' season mark set by Steve Worster in 1970. Anyone who was in Kyle Field Thanksgiving Day will testify that the new freshman offensive backs coach knows the Wishbone.

The impressive group of prospects who were introduced at the A&M-Southern Methodist basketball game Saturday night are evidence that Bellard and his staff have been hard at work recruiting. With the backgrounds and close ties these men have in the high school ranks, the list of signees should be equally as impressive.

Bellard is one of four new head coaches in the conference, including Billy Tohill of Texas Christian, Al Conover of Rice and Grant Teaff of Baylor. With Texas and Houston not finishing their seasons until Bellard's staff was completed and at work recruiting, we are confident that the new Aggie football coaches will be most successful next month in signing top talent to play here.

Thus far, Bellard has received excellent approval from the press and high school and college coaches. With his staff, ability and Wishbone, we are confident that good things are in store for A&M in the football seasons to come.

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J-K-L	Jan. 31 - Feb. 4
M-N-O	Feb. 7-11
P-Q-R	Feb. 14-18
S-T-U-V	Feb. 21-25
W-X-Y-Z	Feb. 28 - Mar. 3

Make-up Week March 6-17

NOTE: Students needing pictures for job-applications or personal use may come ahead of schedule.

CORPS SENIORS: Uniform: Class A Winter - Blouse or Midnight Shirt.

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You should check with our desk if:

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