

# Players pleased with Bellard, Wishbone

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles about the A&M football program done by a team of Journalism 204 students and submitted to The Battalion for publication.)

By GREG NORDYKE

The coming of Emory Bellard to A&M in December was an event looked upon to end the football drought which has plagued College Station for several years. Dwight LaBauve, who will be a junior defensive back next fall, said, "Everybody thinks we're going to win, we don't just guess anymore."

Is there really a change in the Aggies, or is it just the new man at the helm?

Tommy Burke, a senior tight end, said, "Our attitude is 100 per cent better toward football and toward the coaches. Everybody feels we have a chance to

win and has worked harder because of it.

"The coaches are full of enthusiasm — you can't help but catch some of it."

What brought on this change at a school which has had only one winning season in the past several years? In a recent interview, four of the players were asked.

Their opinion was that two main things changed the attitude of the entire team. The first was the change in the coaching staff and the other was the invention of the new head coach brought with him—the Wishbone T.

"The change in the coaching staff was important—they are proven winners," Burke said. "All they talk about is winning."

The coaches have the respect of the players. Bellard has opened up communication with team members.

One of the ways this was done

was to set up a council consisting of athletes elected by the players themselves. The council has the job of airing the team's, or an individual's, complaints to Bellard. The council also sets the dress codes for the team. This set up two-way communication between the coaches and the team.

Bellard has done several other things to show respect for the players. Re-installing pool and ping pong tables in the dorm is an example.

One of the most impressive things Bellard has accomplished has been the recruiting of high school talent. Going after quality, he has brought some of the nation's top players to A&M.

Robert Murski, a cornerback from Houston, credits most of this to the personality of Bellard. "He is a super individual — very impressive. He's not a high-pressure salesman; he just tells it like it is."

Burke added that the change of the coaching staff as a whole has much to do with it. "Everyone wants to play for a winner, and

these men have reputations for winning."

Murski said of the offense, "The Wishbone has fired all of us up, and we have the man who invented it. He wouldn't use it if he didn't think we had the men to handle it."

"The guys like the Wishbone and it ought to work. We have the men to adapt to it, and we have confidence in it."

Mark Green, a junior, added his thoughts. "The defense is keeping up with the Wishbone, yet it is hard to defense because there is always an adjustment that can be made. I feel we'll be passing off of it quite a bit."

LaBauve explained, "Last year, we had three plays. This year, we'll have three plays we can run 100 different ways."

Great coaches — great type of offense. These are the things which have given the players a new look at college football. These are the bases for their new attitudes.

"Where in the past we tried to beat a team physically, now we're going to try mentally and phys-

ically," Green said. "For once I don't dread spring training. It's not just a drudge."

What is the hope for next year? As Burke said, "We've been to the bottom; we can't go anywhere but up."

Next: A look at some of the assistant coaches.

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## Offense gets most attention in second spring scrimmage

Offense continued in the spotlight as the Texas Aggies ran through their second scrimmage of spring workouts Saturday afternoon.

The No. 1 offensive unit rolled up 343 yards in 46 tries for an average of nearly eight yards a play. The first unit scored on six of nine possessions.

The No. 1 defense held its own against the second offensive unit, allowing only one touchdown in 11 possessions and 195 yards in total offense.

"I would say we're still making progress," coach Emory Bellard said. "Overall I was pleased with the way the team looked today."

Don Dean, a sophomore-to-be from Little Cypress, quarterbacked the first unit and ran 13 yards for one score. Junior Mark Green scored three times and ran for 104 yards in 13 carries. Sophomore John Bounds had one score and 78 yards in 14 carries. Fullback Brad Dusek ran seven times for 68 yards before going to the sidelines with a minor shoulder injury.

Dean also threw a 65-yard touchdown pass to tight end Homer May. Tim Trimmier guided the No. 2 offense and hit on 7 of 12 passes for 79 yards and one touchdown, a 7-yarder to tight end Doug Jordan.

Linebacker Dennis Carruth returned an intercepted pass 73 yards for a touchdown to put the No. 1 defense on the scoreboard. Linebacker Kent Finley recovered a fumble and intercepted a pass for the first defense.

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