

Coaching football is life of assistants Robertson and Hurt

(Editor's note: This is the second 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 BRAD ELLIS

When football gets in your blood and you find you like all the people around you, you may be headed for a career as a football coach.

Melvin Robertson has been an

assistant football coach at A&M for three months. He joined Emory Bellard's staff after 21 years of high school and college coaching experience. He says he likes being at A&M and is impressed by the great pride the former students have in the school. He rates Bellard as one of the top five football coaches in the country and is happy to be working under him. Robertson comes to A&M from the University of Houston.

Ben Hurt comes to A&M from UH, also. Hurt is on the offensive staff and shares everyone's confidence in the Wishbone T—the triple option offense. He describes it as the best offense in football today. Its significance is evident in the University of Texas' football record since Bellard persuaded Darrell Royal to adopt it.

They tied the first game they used it in, lost the second, and then won 30 games in a row, capturing the conference title

four times and the No. 1 spot in the nation, Hurt explained.

Two years ago, A&M's offensive line often seemed like a sieve, letting the opposing defense stream through to smash the quarterback while he was looking for a pass receiver. Hurt said the triple option offense, once it becomes established with the Aggie team, should cause opposing defenses to tend to line up for the option play, leaving the Aggies good opportunities to surprise

their opponents with other plays. Until then, the Wishbone T should be successful enough by itself.

All of the various offensive and defensive tactics the Aggies will use next fall are explained in the 100-page notebook each coach has and each player must learn. The notebook contains the philosophy behind how the team will play the game. As Robertson said, it takes an intelligent player to have a working knowledge of all that information. It's not like the old

days, he said. Perhaps he was being somewhat prophetic about the coming season, too.

The Aggies play football against several powerhouse teams, Hurt said, and it helps in several ways. It is profitable to play very strong teams, and it boosts the recruiting effort.

Young players like to play on big teams. It helps a national ranking to beat Nebraska or LSU. And of course it keeps prospective the kind of team is playing. Next: Corky Sheffield to football.

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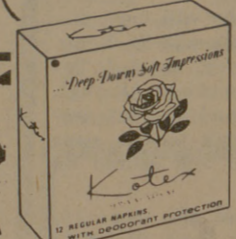
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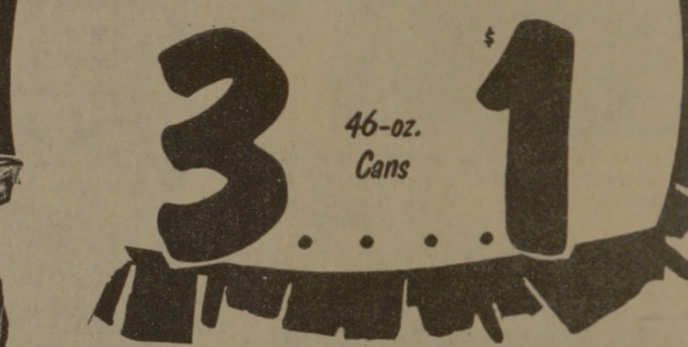
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