

**'Right man'**

**Butler tells of hiring football coach Emory Bellard**

(Editor's note: This is the last 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 KARL WOLFSHOHL  
Gene Stallings is gone and former Longhorn Emory Bellard is now head football coach and athletic director at A&M.

People around Aggieland are asking questions, and Dr. O. D. Butler, former chairman of the Athletic Council has some answers.

What does Butler expect from the new football program? He won't make definite predictions, but his outlook is optimistic.

"There were a large number of prospects for head coach, and I am quite confident that the president, Board of Directors and Athletic Council selected the right man for this position," Butler

said. "Emory Bellard wanted the job. He was allowed to select his own staff, and everyone that he selected accepted without hesitation."

"He has demonstrated excellence at recruiting," the head of the Animal Science Department added.

What about early rumors that Charlie McClendon of LSU or Johnny Majors of Iowa State would be A&M's new coach?

"Well, this position was open to the world," Butler replied. "We had more than 70 people nominated, and the administration did receive an indirect contact from Mr. McClendon, who was interested in the position, but it was not offered to him. Some others were contacted. Of course, there is no question that Johnny Majors was a prospect for the position."

With such a large field of prospects, why was Bellard hired?

"A committee of the Board of Directors, President Jack K. Williams and Dr. Charles Samson, representing the Athletic Council, interviewed Coach Bellard after receiving permission from the University of Texas athletic director," Butler explained. "There was an intention to interview others, but Coach Bellard sold himself to this committee. They were convinced that he had the experience, leadership qualities and dynamics to do the job. He just convinced them that he was

the right man."

Why has A&M had such outstanding individual players in the past and yet has shown a relatively poor win-loss record?

"Obviously I am not an expert on football," Butler said. "One of the thoughts the Athletic Council had was that professional advice should be sought in selecting a new coach. Arrangements were made for former Oklahoma coach Bud Wilkinson to serve in this role. Wilkinson thinks Texas A&M University should be able to

win in the conference and nationally. He thinks nothing should prevent our being competitive on a national level. As far as being able to appraise what happened in the past, I'm not able to do so. All I can say is we felt the resources provided were competitive with other institutions like ours and that we had to expect somewhat more success."

What was the role of the Athletic Council in the firing of Gene Stallings?

"After careful consideration,

the Athletic Council made a recommendation to President Williams that a change be made in the athletic director and head football coach," Butler said. "This recommendation was accepted by the president and confirmed by the Board of Directors. I was chairman of the Athletic Council at that time."

What is the overall role of the Athletic Council at A&M?

"The role is to represent the faculty and the institution in the supervision of the athletic program by dealing directly with the athletic director or working through the president of the university at the president's discretion," he explained. "Under the rules of the Southwest Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, intercollegiate athletics must be supervised by a committee on which faculty members predominate. We are simply complying with the rules of the conference. The council is composed of five faculty members. Dr. Charles Samson is chairman."

What does Butler think about

**A&M hosts Baylor Saturday**

By BILL HENRY  
Assistant Sports Editor  
The show must go.

This is the felling of coaches Omar Smith and Richard Barker knowing now that the Aggie tennis team has no chance for any share of the conference crown this season.

Saturday, the Aggies will take on the Baylor Bears on Varsity Courts beginning at 1:30. With the conference race already decided, it will be a match between the also-rans and after Rice and SMU tangle, every team will be also-rans except the winner.

"Baylor is not very tough and I expect we'll bet them pretty good," Barker said.

Rice eliminated A&M Wednesday in Houston by defeating the squad 5-2 and insured itself of the third consecutive SWC title and the seventh in the last eight years.

"We needed to beat Rice 5-2 to have any hopes of winning the title this year," coach Omar Smith said.

SMU and Rice will now battle it out for the crown officially this Saturday but the chances of the Mustangs winning the title now seems doubtful.

The Mustangs stand three games behind the Owls which means SMU would have to defeat Rice 5-2 to tie and 6-1 to win an outright championship.

"That ain't gonna happen," quipped assistant coach Barker. "I do think SMU is tougher and the match between the two clubs will be a dog fight but no one is going to beat Rice that bad."

The downfall of SMU came in a match with Tech. John Gardner, SMU's top-seeded player, lost his singles match to Tech. Texas also game SMU too tough a battle as the Mustangs sneaked in a 4-3 win. Rice defeated the Longhorns 6-1 in the first conference tilt of the year.

"Rice beat us hands down, there is no question about it," Barker said. "Our freshmen really took it on the nose from the two veterans they were playing against in singles."

"We were real pleased with the way Dan Courson and Tommy Connell played. Connell just went in there and beat his man in straight sets and got off the court."

Connell is undefeated in SWC action this year.

"We had a good chance of winning the match going into doubles competition being behind only 3-2 but Rice's experience just overwhelmed our kids," Barker added.

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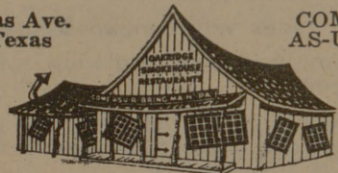
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**James to return**

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tackles Boice Best and Bill Wiebold swapped positions on Texas A&M's defensive front Thursday as the Aggies went through their 14th session of spring football drills.

Best was at right tackle and Wiebold was at left tackle, just trading the spots they had handled.

Defensive line coach Dee Powell said the move was made because Best is more experienced and can handle the middle guard position better when the Aggies put up a five-man front.

"Boice is a double study and is having a great spring," Powell said. "Wiebold, on the other hand, is so banged up he should get a Purple Heart," he added.

It was announced that quarterback Lex James, who pulled a hamstring muscle in the fifth practice session, will return to full duty next Tuesday.

Fullback Brad Dusek has a slight hamstring pull and missed Thursday's action but is expected back in a few days.

**Sports schedule**

- Friday**  
Baseball: Texas Tech, there, doubleheader, 1:00  
Golf: All-America, Houston  
Football: Spring workout, 4 p.m.
- Saturday**  
Baseball: Texas Tech, there, Single game, 2:00  
Track: ACC, Rice track in Abilene  
Football: Scrimmage, 2 p.m.  
Tennis: Baylor, here, 1:30
- Monday**  
Tennis: Southwest Louisiana, here, 1:30
- Tuesday**  
Baseball: Houston, there, doubleheader  
Football: Spring workout, 4 p.m.
- Wednesday**  
Tennis: Texas, here, 1:30  
Football: Spring workout

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