

College Station, Texas Wednesday, August 2, 1972

Hopes are high for Aggie football

A new coach, a new offensive formation and, hopefully, a new record are the feature characteristics of the 1972 Texas Aggie football team.

Emory Bellard brought the wishbone with him from the University of Texas, and A&M fans hope he will rejuvenate the stricken fortunes of a team packed with quality seniors. Rebuilding both an offensive backfield and a defensive secondary were the two most important goals during spring training, and they seem to have been accomplished.

Mark Green (6-3, 218) is back after dazzling opponents with his running ability during his sophomore year. Lining up at a halfback spot, he will be joined by fullback Brad Dusek (6-2, 212). Dusek played safety last season and fullback his sophomore year.

John Bounds (6-2, 206) was the other halfback during spring training, but breakaway speed is needed, so one of the freshman backs may get a chance here. Bubba Bean, Skip Walker, Tony Blankenship, Carl Roaches, Pat Thomas, Melvin Howard and David Greeno are the prospects

for that position.

Quarterback is still a question mark. After an excellent high school career and a fine freshman season, Lex James is yet to produce. A poor offensive line in 1970 and injuries last year and in spring training have stifled the 6-0, 192 pounder.

Other quarterback hopefuls are sophomore Don Dean, also 6-0 and 192, and junior Tim Trimmer, 6-4 and 203. Dean ran the team in the spring game, and he is expected to battle James for the starting assignment.

To solve the secondary diffi-

culties, Robert Murski, 6-0 and 189, was moved from split end to the position he played as a sophomore, cornerback. Corky Sheffield, a starter two years ago, decided to return to football and nailed down the other corner. Sheffield is 5-10 and 180. The safeties are a pair of second teamers from last year, juniors Dwight LaBauve (6-1 and 188) and Larry Ellis (5-11 and 172).

The front lines are sound both offensively and defensively, and A&M may be able to boast of the best offensive line in the Southwest Conference. And if it lacks

anything in quality, it makes up for that in size.

The front six, all seniors, are tight end Homer May, 6-3 and 237, right tackle Ralph Sacra, 6-5 and 235, right guard Buster Callaway, 6-3 and 258, center Skip Kuehn, 6-0 and 225, left guard Todd Christopher, 6-2 and 237, and left tackle Mike Park, 6-4 and 232. The average is 6-3 and 235 pounds.

Top substitutes are center Robert Gerasimowicz (6-0 and 212), guards Dan Peoples (6-2 and 215) and Rick Seeker (6-3 and 238) and tackle Clifton Thomas (6-4 and 247). Seeker is a sophomore, and the others are seniors.

Defensively, Max Bird (6-0 and 223) and James Dubcak (6-6 and 240) are the ends, and Boice Best (6-1 and 233) and Bill Wiebold (6-3 and 224) are the tackles. All are seniors except Wiebold, who is a junior.

The linebacking corps, a trio of seniors, is composed of middle man Grady Hoermann (6-0 and 217). Hoermann was picked by Texas Football Magazine to be the best linebacker in the Southwest Conference. Best was named the top defensive lineman.

The other linebackers are Dennis Carruth (5-11 and 209) and Kent Finley (6-0 and 209). The top subs here are juniors Rusty Pool (6-1 and 207) and Mike Bruton (6-0 and 209).

Although the wishbone is primarily a running offense, there is expected to be more passing from the formation this year at A&M than has been seen at Texas the past several seasons. The number one split end now is Mike Keese, a 6-1, 181-pound sophomore. Richard Osborne, who may have been the most highly sought after recruit last year, should challenge Keese for his job. Osborne is 6-5 and 214.

The kicking game is in good shape with record holder Pat McDermott being edged by Roberto Payan in the spring. Both are soccer-style booters. McDermott kicked the longest field goal in

A&M history, 53 yards, to beat Baylor last year. Also, he is tied with four others who have kicked a pair of field goals in a single game, and he holds the career record for field goals with 14.

Bill Nutt, who sat out last year, is the top punter, with Murski and Steve Canter also trying for the specialty position. Nutt had a 40.7 average as a Fish two years ago.

The Aggies face a tough schedule, with the first three games—Wichita State, Nebraska and Louisiana State—on the road. The first home game is Sept. 30 against Army. After an open date Oct. 7, the Aggies begin

SWC play against Texas Tech and Texas Christian here Oct. 14 and 21, respectively. A&M is on the road to Waco Oct. 28 to meet Baylor, and they return home Nov. 4 to face highly-respected Arkansas in a day game. Nov. 11, the Aggies play Southern Methodist in Dallas at 2:30, and they host Rice at 1:30 Nov. 18. The Texas game is five days later, Nov. 23, in Austin. The time for the Thanksgiving Day game has not been set, pending the decision by the American Broadcasting Company in regard to nationally televising the traditional battle. If it is televised, it will be a night game.



KEY PLAY in A&M's 17-9 upset of nationally-ranked Arkansas last year was this touchdown run by Mark Green (20). Green scored twice, on runs of three and 20 yards, to roll over the Razorbacks in Little Rock. Green is back

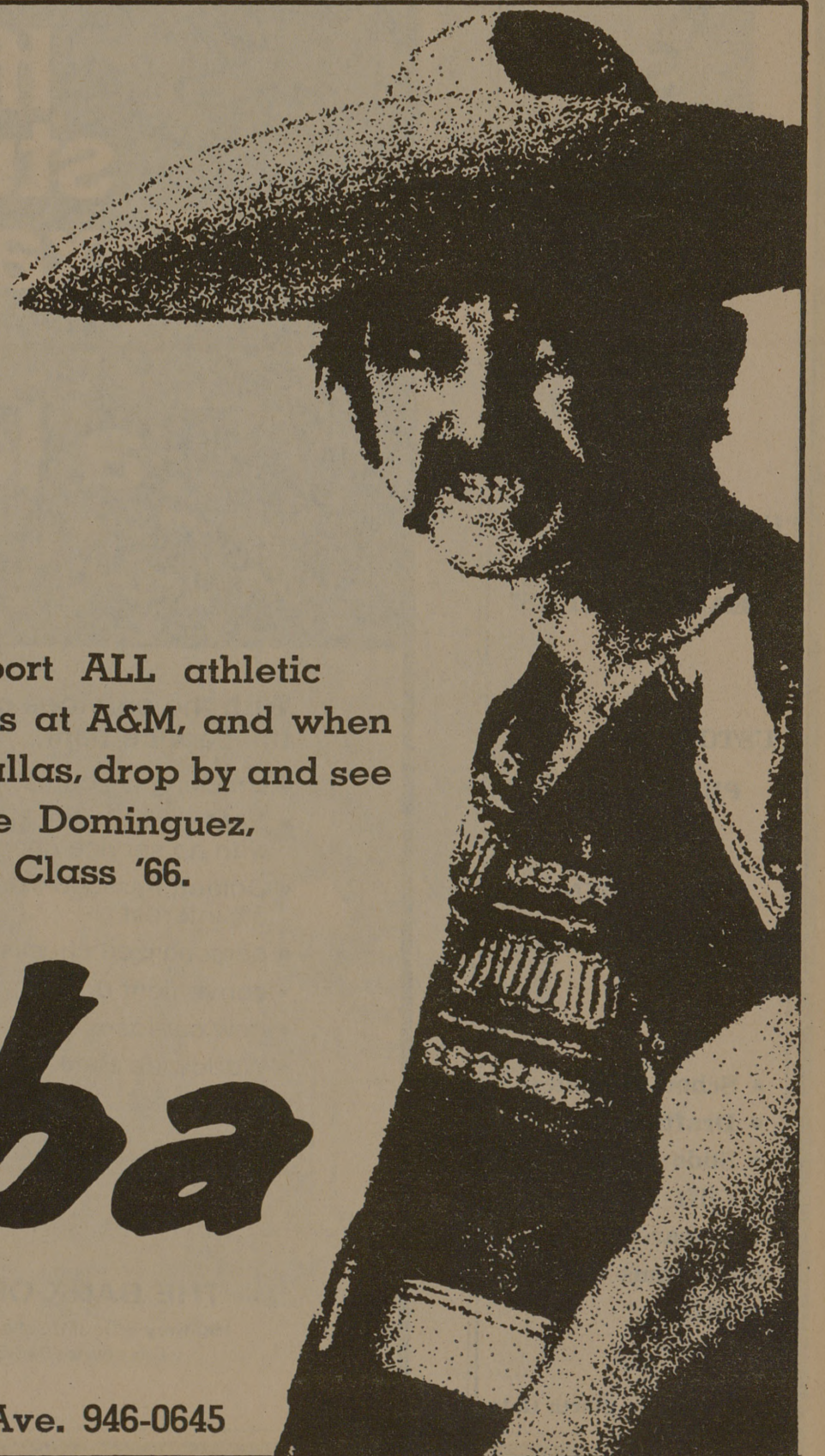
for his junior year, and he is expected to improve on his 1971 marks of 181 carries for 593 yards, seven touchdowns and averages of 3.3 yard per carry and 53.9 per game.



Head Coach Emory Bellard

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