

Football coaching staff has talent and background

Experience and enthusiasm are the trademarks of the A&M football coaching staff working with Emory Bellard this year, and

those two traits paid off with the fine list of recruits signed to scholarships. Bellard and his assistants

showed their knowledge and organization during spring training, with the drills showing a great deal of planning and timing.

As overall coordinators of the offensive and defensive units, Bellard has two former University of Houston assistants who have worked together since joining the Cougar staff on the same day in 1965.

Ben Hurt will serve as offensive coordinator, in addition to his duties with the offensive line. Hurt served seven years as a high school coach before going to Houston, where he coached the defensive line.

Melvin Robertson is the defensive coordinator and secondary coach. He was a high school coach 14 years before being hired by the Cougars. At Houston, he was assistant head coach and defensive coordinator.

Naturally, Bellard will coach the offensive backs. Hurt has two other coaches working with him on offense, R. C. Slocum and Dan LaGrasta. Slocum coached at Lake Charles High for two years before moving into the college ranks at Kansas State for two seasons. LaGrasta was Bellard's assistant at Breckenridge and San Angelo Central from 1955-66. When Bellard moved to the University of Texas in 1967, LaGrasta took over the head job.

Robertson has two assistants who are holdovers from the 1971 A&M coaching staff and one who was a high school coach last year. Dee Powell, a former Aggie football player, begins his eighth season on the A&M coaching staff. He headed the defense for six of those years, and will coach the defensive line this year. Following his graduation in 1957, he worked for Bear Bryant at Ala-

bama during spring training before serving five years in the Air Force. After that, he returned to the Crimson Tide staff for two years before coming back to A&M.

John Paul Young begins his third year as linebacker coach for the Aggies. He coached one year at his alma mater, the University of Texas at El Paso, before going to Jacksonville High for three years. He served as an assistant at Southern Methodist University for two years and Oklahoma State for one year before joining the A&M staff.

The other defensive coach is Swede Lee, who will work with the defensive ends. Lee began his career at Amarillo High in 1958. He was head coach at Comanche in 1959 and was an assistant at Texarkana for two years and head coach for three seasons. After a year as head coach at Galveston Ball, he was an assistant at the University of Oklahoma for a year. He was out of coaching for a year, then went to Pampa in 1968, where he coached the team to its first district title in 21 years.

A trio of coaches will work with the freshman squad. The head freshman coach is Paul Register, who coached Hurst-Bell to a pair of 9-1 seasons before coming to A&M. He began coaching at Galveston Ball before moving to Spring Branch, where he got the head job in 1965. From there, he went to Hurst-Bell.

Rex Norris will be the man line coach for A&M, joined the staff in June. An assistant coach at Turner High for six years was line coach and defensive coordinator when he left to become an assistant at Junior College in Corsicana.

Donnie Wigginton, the horn quarterback last year, coached the freshman backs. He tied the University of Texas scoring record with 14 touchdowns set by Sester in 1970.

Although the staff has a wide background, without its associations in playing and coaching days, 11 men who hope to make a Southwest Conference member in 1972. For instance, Bellard had LaGrasta as an assistant in the high school for 12 years and coached Wigginton at Texas for four years.

Hurt and Robertson together seven years at Houston while Powell and Young been together two years at A&M.

Hurt coached Swede Lee at Orange High, and Lee coached Wigginton at Branch.

Register's 1968 Branch team lost to Belton and San Angelo Central team 21-0 in state finals.

Norris played two years at San Angelo College with Bumgardner, A&M's athletic counselor for athletes.

Ags in the pro

Leonard Forey, David Hoot, Doug Neill, Lee Hitt, Robertson and R. J. Englert are the newest additions to an outstanding group of former A&M athletes now competing in professional football.

Forey is an offensive lineman with the Cleveland Browns; a safety for the Houston Oilers, Neill is working as running back for the Chicago Bears, Robertson is trying to earn a job as a punter for the England Patriots, and Lee Hitt is a cornerback with the Green Bay Packers.

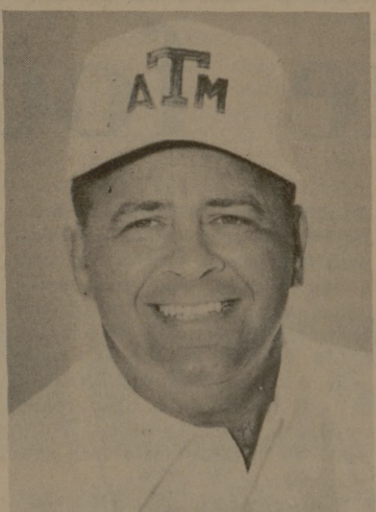
This fivesome brings to 18 the number of Aggies in the National Football League.

Englert, who was named to the second team All-American unit as a centerfielder last spring, is in the San Francisco 49ers organization. He currently is playing for a minor league team in Decatur, Illinois.

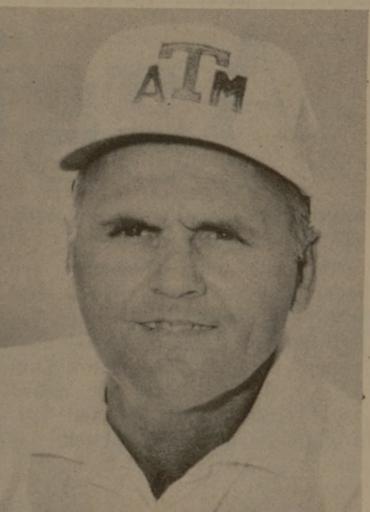
Other A&M pro football players include Charlie Krueger, San Francisco 49ers; Lee Roy Caffey and Mike Clark, Dallas Cowboys; Dave Elmendorf, Los Angeles Rams; Larry Stegert, St. Louis Cardinals; Ross Brubacher, Chicago Bears; Edd Hargett, New Orleans Saints; Bill Hobbs, New England Patriots; Steve O'Neal, New York Jets; Tommy Maxwell, Oakland Raiders; Mo Moorman, Kansas City Chiefs; Grady Allen, Atlanta Falcons, and Jack Pardee, Washington Redskins. In addition, Billy Bob Barnett, former basketball and football star for A&M, is playing in the Canadian Football League. Barnett has one year for the Chicago Bears.

The only Aggie playing in major league baseball is Dave Hitt of the Baltimore Orioles, although A&M can boast of several minor league players. Billy Hodge is in the San Diego Padres organization. Doug Rau and Bob Long are playing for farm teams of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Cliff Davis is with a Houston Astros farm club, and Camili is playing for a Cleveland Indians minor league team.

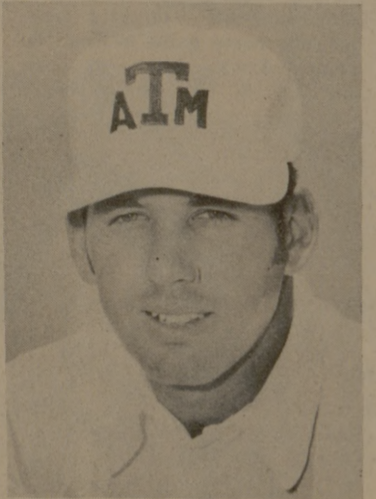
In golf, A&M graduates Bobby Nichols and Ralph Johnson are on the professional tour. Billy Martindale, the golf coach at Southern Methodist University, is a former touring pro and an Aggie graduate.



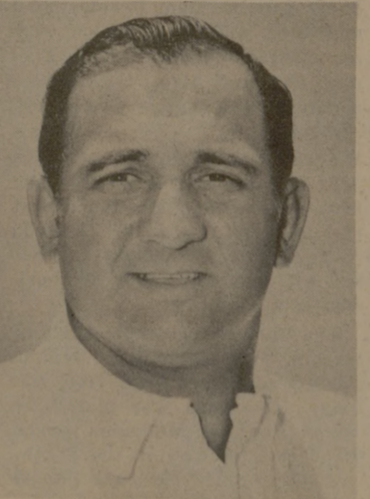
Ben Hurt



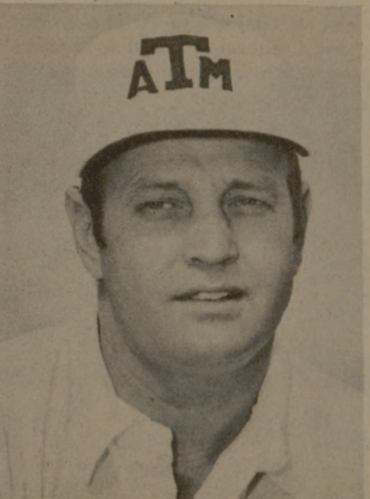
Melvin Robertson



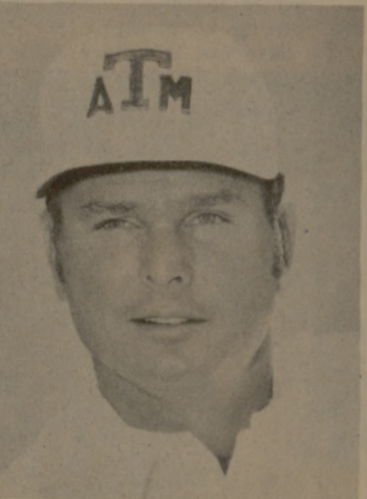
R. C. Slocum



Dan LaGrasta



Dee Powell



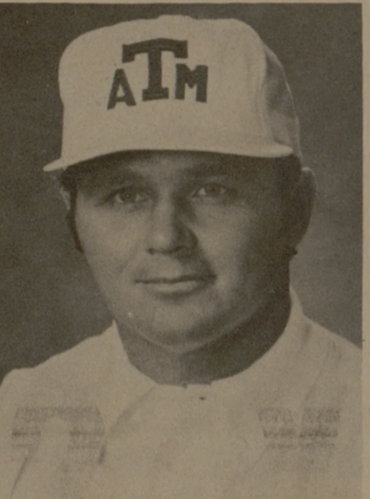
John Paul Young



Swede Lee



Paul Register



Rex Norris



Donnie Wigginton

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