

Sheffield Begins Second Career With Aggies

Texas A&M senior cornerback Corky Sheffield is a rarity. He was recruited twice.

The 5-10, 180-pounder from Duncanville came to A&M in 1968 after a distinguished high school career as a running back and defensive back. He lettered as a sophomore in 1969, then dropped out of football.

"Football just wasn't interesting anymore. I felt I'd be happier not playing," Sheffield re-

members. Then he heard coach Emory Ballard speak at a Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce meeting in January. "I was really fired up," Sheffield said. "I liked the coach and I liked the new system. So I asked coach Ballard if I could come back out, and he said to come ahead."

It didn't take Sheffield long to establish himself as the No. 1 left cornerback in the spring, and

he'll start at that position when the Aggies open the season against Wichita State Sept. 9. Sheffield is also unusual in that of the 16 senior starters, he is the only one who has never played against the Shockers.

When the Aggies take the field, Sheffield thinks some people are going to be surprised at the Aggie secondary. Sheffield doesn't believe the talk that the defensive backfield will be A&M's weak

point. "I think we'll have a good secondary. After the first two scrimmages, the coaches said that the secondary was the strongest part of the defense."

Sheffield doesn't leave any doubt where the credit belongs—to coach Melvin Robertson. "I've learned more from coach Robertson than any other in my career. He is so enthusiastic and a great teacher. He can really get his ideas across."

Getting across to others is important to Sheffield because he plans a career in radio-television broadcasting. During his hiatus from football, he worked in the A&M sports information office and as sports director for the campus television station.

Ballard characterizes Sheffield as a "fighter." "He's not very big, but he's quick and he'll really get after you," Ballard said. Sheffield's return meant a lot

to the Aggies because three of the four 1971 starters graduated, and the other—safety Brad Dusek—moved to fullback. He and right cornerback Robert Murski played as sophomores while safeties Dwight LaBauve and Larry Ellis played some last year as sophomores. "LaBauve has really improved," Sheffield says.

Sheffield is married, and his wife's name is Carol. Sheffield is one who came back.



Corky Sheffield

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