

Will Wishbone Make or Break?

Aggies To Battle Shockers In Opener

By BILL HENRY
Battalion Sports Editor

To be or not to be is the question facing Coach Emory Bellard and the Texas Aggies.

Are the Aggies to be a good football team this fall or are they to be also-rans as they have in the past?

The beginning of the answer will occur in Wichita, Kansas Saturday night when the Aggies invade Cessna Stadium to take on the much improved Wichita State Shockers in front of a sellout crowd of 31,000 at 7:30 p.m.

A&M has the makings, no doubt

about that. There are eight senior starters returning on both offense and defense including three of four people in the backfield.

The defensive line and linebackers are completely intact from last year as is the offensive line, excluding the split end.

Will the Wishbone T offense that Bellard designed at the University of Texas be able to carry the team to post-season recognition.

"We have got the makings of a good football team this year," said Bellard. "We have a lot of experience to fall back on and lots of talent."

This talent has been at A&M since 1969 but it seems this abundance has not overflowed the

Will the Wishbone work? Everyone connected with it feels it will but only true game experience will give an answer. Pictured in the style of the Wishbone on this page are the main cogs — the ones who must carry the football to paydirt, hopefully.

Can the Aggies win starting freshmen? Two will definitely start. Those two are Bubba Bean, high school All-America who broke Steve Worster's high school record from a class AA school, Kirbyville, and Richard Osborne, named Outstanding High School Athlete in Texas as well as All-America, from class AAAA State Champion San Antonio Lee.

"They're the best we've got and we're gonna play them," Bellard conveys.

The offensive line, who is the real key to the Wishbone success, is an outstanding one.

Starting at center will be Skip Kuehn, 6-0, 233; at left guard will be Todd Christopher, 6-2, 237; at right guard will be Buster Callaway, 6-3, 258; at left tackle will be Mike Park, 6-4, 225; at right tackle will be Ralph Sacra, 6-5, 238 and at tight end will be Homer May, 6-3, 237.

This line is completely intact from last year and is considered fantastic in sporting circles.

In the backfield will be Lex James, 6-0, 192 at quarterback for his third year; Mark Green, 6-3, 216 at left halfback for his second year; Brad Dusek, 6-2, 212 at fullback after starting at safety

last season and halfback the year before and freshman Bean, 6-0, 198, who has a chance to make or break the Bellard Wishbone.

On the experience dominated defensive line are: at left end, Max Bird, 6-0, 223; at left tackle, Bill Wiebold, 6-3, 228; at right tackle, Boice Best, 6-1, 233 and at right end, Don Long, 6-3, 237. Long, a sophomore, did not start last year for the varsity but beat out the man who did, James Dubcak.

At linebackers are the same ones from last year. At middle linebacker is Grady Hoermann, 6-0, 220; at strong linebacker is Dennis Carruth, 5-11, 209 and at weak linebacker is Kent Finley,

has a super strong leg. Punting will be starting right cornerback Murski.

Saturday night will answer many questions for new Aggie Head Coach Bellard. The outlook is that all questions will be answered with smiles.

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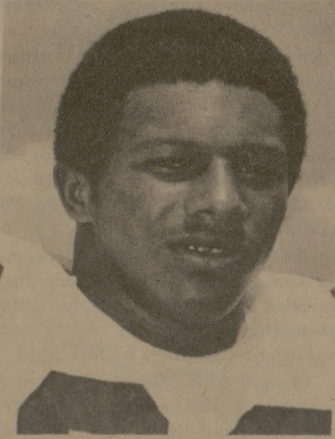
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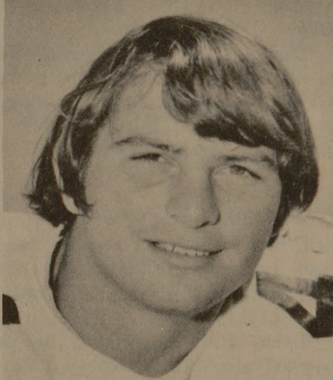


Bubba Bean

cup of success for previous head mentor Gene Stallings.

There can be no comparison between the regime of Stallings' to that of Bellard's. Not only do the Aggies respect, listen and understand Bellard, they love the man. It seems like a luxury to be coached by a man with so much football knowledge and understanding. There is truly a team spirit here this season that was lacking last year.

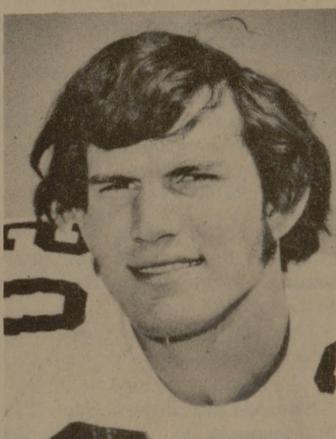
As one football scribe said, "this year the Aggies do not have to make excuses about busted lips, black eyes and bugged up elbows when they are being interviewed."



Brad Dusek



Lex James



Mark Green

6-0, 209. Carruth did not start each game last year as he was injured but he did start in 1970.

Now the only other question mark looming in the future success of this year's edition of the Aggies — the defensive secondary. None of these people started for A&M last fall.

At left cornerback is Corky Sheffield, 5-10, 180; at left safety is Dwight LaBaue, 6-1, 188; at right safety is Larry Ellis, 5-11, 172 and at right cornerback is Robert Murski, 6-0, 189. Sheffield did start as a sophomore in 1969 but decided to leave after that season to go into retirement; only because of Coach Bellard did Corky put the pads back on. Murski played split end.

The place kicking game is set with returning starter Pat McDermott and Roberto Payan, who

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