

Ellis Unique in College Football

Only Senior Letterman on Squad

Larry Ellis of A&M is unique, indeed, among 1973 major college football players.

He is the only senior letterman on his squad. And, he wasn't even recruited in the first place. He was a walk-on volunteer in the spring of his sophomore year here.

Larry had played defensive end and split receiver two seasons at Troup High School and when he decided to come out for football at A&M he thought he'd be a defensive end. But, when the 6-0, 173-pounder saw the size of the other defensive end candidates he quickly changed his mind and went with the defensive secondary group.

He broke into the starting lineup late in the season and played enough to letter as a sophomore. Last year, as a junior, he was a starter all season. He had three interceptions last season, two of them coming in the 10-7 upset of Arkansas.

As the only senior letterman, Ellis naturally feels that he must provide some leadership but he points out that there are seven other lettermen on the defensive

squad and they can and will provide some leadership, even though only sophomores or juniors.

Ellis, at right safety, is the only returning starter in the secondary although cornerback Pat Thomas did play some as a sophomore. "The addition of JC transfer Tim Gray at cornerback and

James Daniels at safety gives us more speed in the secondary this year," Ellis says.

Ellis also thinks the front four and the linebackers will help the secondary. "The key to good pass defense in the secondary is a good pass rush from the people up front. I think our front four have both the size and quickness

to put great pressure on the passer this year."

A&M's defensive coordinator Melvin Wright, who also coaches the secondary, is high on Ellis.

"Larry is a real intelligent man," he says. "He is our quarterback in the secondary, making all the coverage calls and checks. He's an excellent tackler, thinks

extremely well in the heat of action and is a tough youngster. He definitely is one of our team leaders on defense."

Larry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Ellis, Route 2, Jacksonville, Tex. His father is a rancher-farmer.

A physical education major, Larry plans a career in coaching.

Roaches: Aqs Ready to Win Now

About five minutes deep in the third period last Saturday night, with LSU leading A&M, 21-9, QB Mike Jay let loose with a long bomb and little Carl Roaches made a leaping catch just behind defensive back Mike Williams and romped in for a 60-yard touchdown play.

LSU sports information director Paul Manasseh blurted: "If that Roaches played against us every week, he'd be All-World." Manasseh was remembering a year ago, when Roaches, just a freshman then, bolted through the Tigers for a 97-yard kickoff return touchdown. Saturday night Roaches caught 7 passes for 156 yards and was a threat all night.

You'd think he'd be happy afterwards, right? Wrong! "Being proud about losing is a lot of bull. Whether you lose by one or a 100, it all goes in the same column."

Roaches, 5-8 and 161, is extremely quick and fast and he's a tough young man. He's also determined that he's on a team destined to succeed. "We've got the talent here now and we are going to win with it. All that next year stuff is out. Next year is now!"

Roaches came to A&M out of Houston Smiley High School

where he was a football-track standout. He played tailback and safety two years at Smiley. Both years he was all-district, all-state and honorable-mention all-America. His senior year he won the state 100-yard dash championship in Class AAAA.

He had a fabulous freshman season, especially as a kick returner. In addition to the 97-yard kickoff return against LSU, he scored against Baylor on a 61-yard punt return and he scored against Rice on an 84-yard punt return. In the season's opener against Wichita State that year,

he had a 68-yard punt return TD nullified by a penalty.

This year, both Wichita State and LSU concentrated on kick coverage and they didn't let Roaches find daylight. But, it just takes one little mistake, a blink of the eye, and he'll be in the clear and sailing toward the goal.

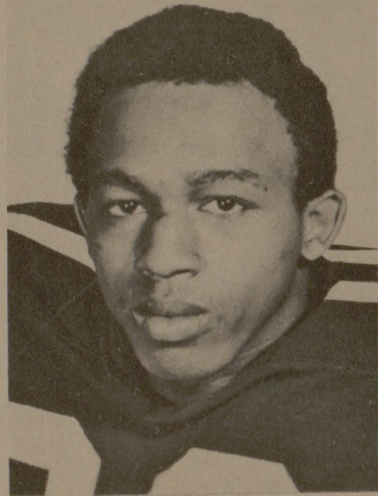
As a freshman, Roaches divided time at split end with fellow-

frosch Richard Osborne. Now Roaches plays split end and Osborne is the tight end. Aggie backers believe they're as good a pass-catching duo as you'll find on any college football team this year.

But for Roaches, the name of the game is winning. He likes to catch passes and return kicks but the only time he's proud at the end of the game is when the Aggies have won.



Larry Ellis



Carl Roaches

Trammell Key Man In Offensive Line

One of the reasons that Texas A&M manhandled Wichita State, 48-0, in its season opener was the blocking of the offensive lines. And one of the key men in that line was big Bud Trammell, senior squadman from Dumas, Tex.

When fullback Alvin Bowers broke for a 77-yard touchdown run in the second quarter, no one was happier than Trammell. "Earlier Bowers made a good run of about 30 yards and they called me for being offside. I might have lined up offside, but I know I didn't move. Then, when he scored, he ran right over my position and I'm glad I helped open a hole for him."

At 6-2 and 265, Trammell is A&M's largest starting offensive lineman. He may be the quickest, too.

Offensive coordinator Ben Hurt says, "Trammell has amazing quickness, especially for his size. He and center Ricky Seeker are our two best blockers right now."

Trammell's quickness may stem from his early football days when he was a junior high fullback, at 185 pounds, in Dumas.

His big concern, something he can't erase from his mind, is to stay healthy this season. "I think I could have a pretty good

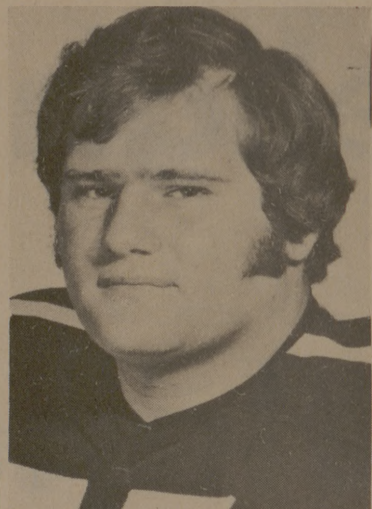
year if I can stay in one piece."

As a sophomore, his college future looked bright. He broke into the starting lineup as a defensive tackle. But, then came a knee injury at Nebraska. He sat out the rest of the year and then last season he admits to having a poor mental outlook and didn't play much. "I guess I felt sorry for myself, trying to come back from the injury. This year I have a changed outlook and I want to have a big year."

The pros have their eyes on the big, quick guy, too, and they would like for him to have a good season.

If he gets an offer, he'd like a shot at pro football. If not, he'll take his Agricultural Education degree and perhaps become a high school teacher.

Until then, he'll try to continue opening holes for Aggie backs to run through.



Bud Trammell

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