

'Brain Coach' Role Fits Bumgardner

By RICK BROWN

There are football coaches, track coaches, swimming coaches, baseball coaches and then there is coach Max Bumgardner. He is a brain coach.

Officially titled Academic Counselor for the A&M athletic department, Bumgardner is relatively new at A&M. He came with coach Emory Bellard last year, having been head coach at San Angelo State for 19 years. Bumgardner's position places in his hands responsibility for some .00 athletes anytime they are not in practice. Somehow he manages to do it, and apparently, do it well.

Every athlete approached had nothing but praise for Bumgardner, with linebacker John McCrumbley saying, "He really cares about us. If I have a problem, I can always go to coach Bum."

As "brain coach" Bumgardner oversees the athletic tutorial program designed for all athletes regardless of academic standing. Freshman football players are required to attend two tutorial sessions a week during football

season, the rest of the program being voluntary. All athletes, however, are encouraged to participate, the degree of the encouragement, depending to a great extent on their GPR. Coach "Bum" utilizes as many as 30 paid tutors per semester to assist those athletes needing or requesting help. Using mostly grad students as tutors, he prepares those with undergraduate experience at A&M.

Bumgardner keeps close contact with members of the faculty as well as his athletes. He maintains progress charts on each student and makes sure they attend class as often as possible. He requests information from the faculty regarding poor performance by any athlete in order that they may receive any special help necessary. Bumgardner says "These guys spend up to six hours a day either in practice or discussions with coaches. Some-

times they miss classes due to games or meets. We use the tutorial program to try and compensate for the dedication they have to give to be a good athlete. We don't tell them what courses to take or set up special jock courses. We just try to help them with whatever they want to take." And help them he does. No fewer than 11 students were in for advice on everything from hurt knees to where to stay during the one hour this reporter

was there.

Coach "Bum" is just that, a coach. He loves athletics and he loves his athletes. He said, "We (the coaches) like to think that football or baseball or whatever is uppermost in the minds of our athletes and that athletics comes first. But when it comes right down to it, their education is really number one. And that's what our tutorial program is all about." And that's what coach Bum is all about.



Max Bumgardner

BATT PICKS

GAMES	Guest Picker	Ted Boriskie	Rod Speer	Mike Rice	T. C. Gallucci	Kevin Coffey	Louie Holzem
Boston College at A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M
Iowa State at Arkansas	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa
Baylor at Colorado	Colo.	Colo.	Colo.	Colo.	Colo.	Colo.	Colo.
Houston at Memphis St.	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston
Rice at LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU
Virginia Tech at SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	V. Tech	SMU	SMU	SMU
Texas Tech at Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Tech	Texas	Tech
TCU at Ohio State	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
Oklahoma at So. Cal.	USC	OU	USC	USC	USC	OU	USC
Cardinals vs. Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys
Season Record	17-3	17-3	16-4	15-5	15-5	15-5	12-8
Last Week	7-3	7-3	8-2	5-5	8-2	6-4	5-5
Percentage	.850	.850	.800	.750	.750	.750	.600
Guest Picker:	Mrs. Emory Bellard						
Next Week's Picker:	Randy Gillespie						

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