Five starters return to Aggie offensive interior

Roaches, Osborne, Walkers and Bean add to promising top team

otball season without a single aver in the interior offensive line who had even one game of varsity xperience at that position. The Ages are in much better shape in 974 as all five starters return along ith three of the top reserves.

ad

At the end of spring training, the ckles were junior Dennis Smelser (6-4, 260) and junior Glenn Bujnoch (6-5, 237), the guards were junior ruce Welch (6-4, 257) and sophoore Billy Lemons (6-5, 270) and ne center was Ricky Seeker (6-3, (41), the only senior in the line. Welch and Seeker earned second eam All-Southwest Conference onors last year and are prime candates for postseason honors in 1974. In fact, all five starters in the terior line could contend for All-WC berths, and Seeker is a strong l-America candidate.

The interior line averages 6-4, arthis quintet played a major part in A&M breaking all school records rtotal offense and rushing offense. There is also a great deal more opth than last year as the No. 2

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Last year Texas A&M opened the interior line made great strides in over full time at split end. Both the spring. At the tackles are soph Dennis Swilley (6-4, 239) and soph George Burger (6-4, 246), the guards are Henry Tracy (6-2, 228), a junior and soph Craig Glendenning (6-3, 233). The No. 2 center is soph Rocco Wiest (6-4, 219).

> The offensive interior is coached by offensive coordinator Ben Hurt and Dan LaGrasta. Both were extremely pleased at the progress made by this unit in spring training.

> With experience, size, quickness and depth, the interior line should be among Texas A&M's strong

Receivers

In split end Carl Roaches and tight end Richard Osborne, A&M has two of the premiere receivers in the Southwest Conference. Though 53, so it has plenty of size. Last only juniors, both have two years of starting experience behind them.

As freshmen, the Mutt and Jeff duo alternated at split end. Last year the 6-5 Osborne was moved to tight end while the 5-6 Roaches took

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started every game.

In two years, Roaches has already etched his name deep in A&M and SWC record books. A 9.4 sprinter in high school at Houston Smiley, oaches holds the SWC record for kickoff return yards in one game and the A&M records for career kickoff

return yardage, and single game kickoff and punt return yardage. Osborne has been the leading receiver for the past two years and has a total of 60 receptions for 845 yards and two touchdowns. This year he could break the school record of 91 career reception by Barney Harris, and this despite playing on a team

which is not pass-oriented. The No. 2 tight end is junior David Greeno (6-0, 193) while soph Mike Floyd (5-10, 165) is the backup

Backs

If the A&M backs improve upon their 1973 performances, the Aggies might as well throw the record book out the window. And since there is not a senior among the bunch, improvement can be expected.

At the end of spring training, the backfield lined up with sophomore David Walker at quarterback,

Barker succeeds Smith

Richard Barker has been named to succeed retiring Omar Smith as head tennis coach at Texas A&M, effective September 1.

A&M Athletic Director Emory Bellard announced the appointment of Barker who has been Smith's assistant since 1971.

Barker grew up in San Saba, Tex., where he was an all-round athlete. He made all-district in football and basketball, won two state singles titles in tennis, pitched for the baseball team and ran the 440 in

He was recruited by Smith to play tennis at A&M and in his junior year he teamed with Luis Rojas to win the Southwest Conference doubles championship. He also reached the singles finals that year. He and Ricky Williams reached the doubles finals when he was a sophomore and he and Rojas were doubles finalists when he was a senior

He stayed on at A&M to earn a Master's degree and then coached tennis one year at Corpus Christi King High and two years at San Angelo Central before returning to A&M as Smith's assistant.

He is an instructor in the Health and Physical Education department l, a post ne ing the summers he is the tennis professional at Briarcrest Country Club in Bryan.

He was married to his high school sweetheart, the former Kay Angerstein of San Saba, in 1964. They have one son, Darrin, who will be nine on

juniors Bubba Bean and Skip Walker at the halfbacks, and junior showing. Sams alternated with the Bucky Sams at the fullback with junior Ronnie Hubby able to play all three running back positions and considered No. 1 as well.

Bean rushed for 711 yards as a sophomore, the third best oneseason total in A&M history. Skip Walker was not far behind with 618

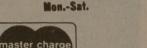
departed Alvin Bowers and averaged 5.6 per carry while scoring four times. Skip led the team in scoring with eight TDs while Bean added four. The totals for the trio were 1600 yards for a fine 6.2 average and

16 touchdowns. Senior Jerry Honore emerged in

The quarterback situation is solid with sophomore David Shipman and junior Mike Jay behind David Walker. David started the last six five. Walker had an outstanding spring and clearly established him-

the spring as the No. 2 fullback with self as the man to lead the Aggies in junior Jim Hartman as No. 2 at left 1974. Shipman is fully recovered 1974. Shipman is fully recovered from a knee operation and came on strong at the end of spring.

Though Bellard would like to see a little more depth at the running back spots, the No. 1 unit is very games while Jay started the first solid and should continue their 1973 pace which saw the team set records for total offense and rushing.



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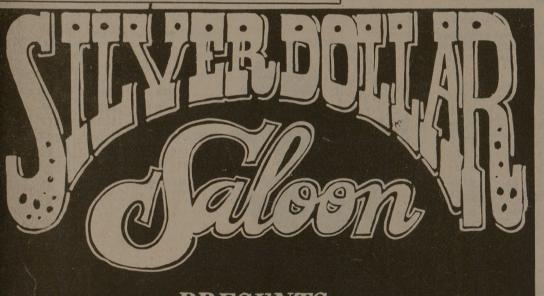


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