

Based on 20 years' experience

Robertson finishes new book on 4-3 defense

By DAVID WALKER
Staff Sports Writer

Last January Melvin Robertson had the title of Assistant Head coach added to his already existing title of defensive coordinator. Today you can add one more, author.

Robertson, who joined the Aggie coaching staff in January 1972, just completed his first book entitled, "Winning With the Aggie 4-3 Defense."

"I just finished it," Robertson said late yesterday. "It's all about foot-

ball, for high school and college coaches. It's based on working with the 4-3 defense for 20 years," Robertson said.

"They asked me to do it when I was at Houston (Robertson coached seven years at the University of Houston before coming to A&M) but I never got to it. My first year up here was so busy that I never got to it but I finally got around to getting it done," he said.

Robertson said that his major function in being assistant head

coach is that he runs the off season program. "I run that program and I don't recruit. I just stay here year round with the players," he said.

While he will gladly talk to you about his book, Robertson's favorite topic is that of next year's Aggie football team.

"We had real good individual performances last year and I think we'll do it again this year," he said. "We'll be just better overall, the whole team will be quicker than last year. The front four will be quicker and bigger than last year also.

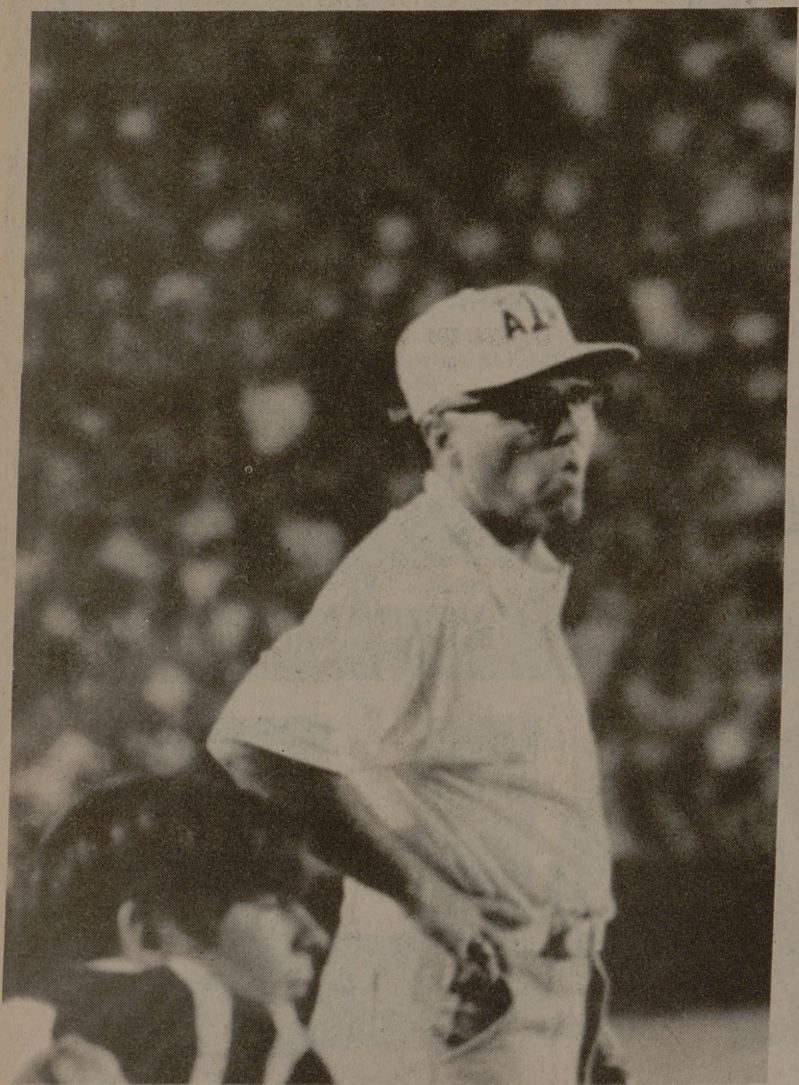
"I'm very confident but I'm also realistic, we know it's there but we've just got to do it. Performance is all that counts, people are going to be picking us high in the polls but we've got to do our job," Robertson said.

"It was there this spring and I'm counting on it being there this fall. The secondary has a chance to be better than last year's but it is going to take a lot of work. You've got to work hard and have a lot of luck but they can do it, it may be the middle of the conference before they completely gel but they can do it and that's what counts," he said.

Robertson said that while the Aggies don't have much depth now it doesn't mean that they won't have any depth at all. "I get tired of hearing about depth, I even get tired of saying it myself. No one ever starts out with depth, you've got to develop it. We'll play everyone in the non-conference games to give them the experience that it takes to have depth," he said. "We did it last year and we'll do it again this year, we just have to suck it up and play everyone. They have to play and get the experience, we just can't line up 40 bodies."

Robertson is widely known as one of the most knowledgeable defensive coaches in the country. He started his career 24 years ago at Stanton High School. After a two-year record of 16-4 he made stops at Sweetwater High, Amarillo High, Odessa High and U of H before joining the A&M staff.

That's plenty of experience, even enough to write a book about.



MELVIN ROBERTSON

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