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**Shipman, Walker, Jay**

**Three players battle for quarterback slot**

MIKE BRUTON  
Sports Editor

Will the real starting Texas Aggie quarterback please stand up? To tell the truth, nobody really knows who'll take the first snap from center this season.

The quarterback situation after spring training at Aggieland was pleasingly unique. David Shipman, Mike Jay and David Walker all showed well in the spring sessions, so well that Head Coach Emory Bellard declined to name the No. 1 signal-caller for the upcoming season.

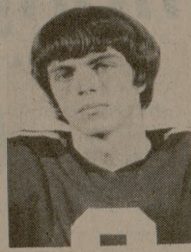
In the spring game Shipman captained five scoring drives, Walker two and Jay three. Shipman was most impressive with 92 yards rushing and 183 yards via the airways, hitting on eight of 13 passes. But Walker and Jay looked sharp enough to impede any quarterback personnel decision by Bellard.

Recently acquired Offensive Coordinator Tom Wilson, who coaches the quarterbacks, described the situation as an "open battle." "On the depth chart Shipman will be No. 1, but that doesn't mean anything," Wilson explained. "Which ever one does best in the fall will start."

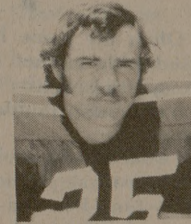
Ironically, Shipman is the only member of the trio that hasn't started a game for the Aggies at quarterback. The Odessa product sustained a knee injury early in his career at A&M that resulted in surgery and a slow recovery. But coming into spring training, Shipman had lost 18 pounds and weighed in at a sound 200 pounds.

"He (Shipman) hasn't been well in his career, but he was this spring. He improved and took charge. We were very pleased with his at-

David Walker



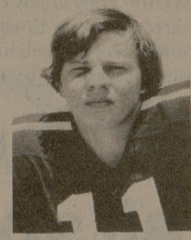
David Shipman



Offensive Coordinator Tom Wilson



Mike Jay



itude," Wilson said. The Aggie coach also said Shipman developed much needed quickness by losing the excess weight.

And quick he was. He ran over, through and around defenders in the Maroon-White contest, with decisiveness and confidence. Shipman used his six foot, one inch frame to the maximum, running strong, executing crisply and passing accurately. And most important, he never flinched when he was hit on his once-injured leg.

Jay, who started the first five games of the 1973 season, is the quickest of the three and is equipped with a slingshot arm. If you've ever watched him at practice it's easy to tell he once played for the Quantico Marines. He doesn't know the meaning of the word, "quit."

"The competitor among the whole bunch is Jay," commented Wilson. "He wants to play more than anyone else I've ever been around."

This past season against SMU when the Aggie offense was having its problems, Jay stepped in and put some snap into the players for a couple of series before returning the helm to starter Walker. Jay is that kind of athlete, a fighter.

Walker, who was hampered by nagging ailments all spring, started half of the 1973 season and last season. He's had his high points and low ones, but his overall play bears no serious blemishes.

He is perhaps the best passer of the three. In two seasons he has had only 12 passes intercepted, while completing 77 for 1,092 yards and three touchdowns. Although not

widely known for his running talents, he has scored six touchdowns on the ground.

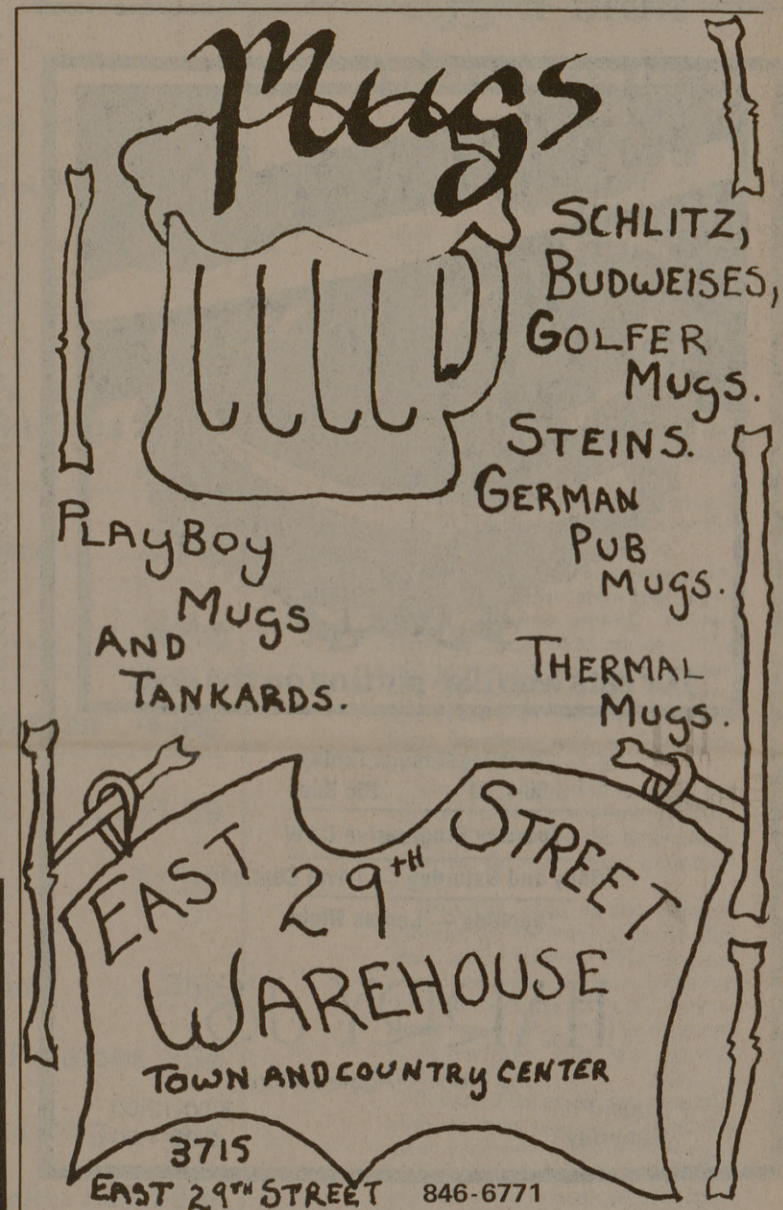
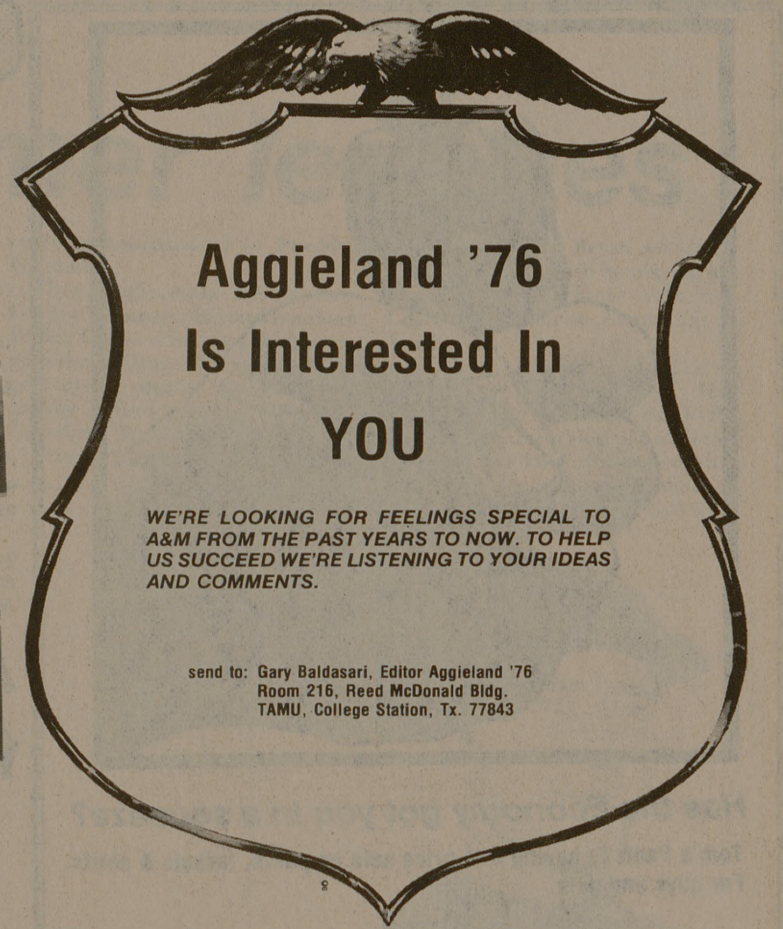
The baby-faced lefthander was severely criticized by many Aggie fans last season after being named UPI Freshman of the Year in 1973. He is a poised athlete, with a good arm and adequate speed and ample talent to quarterback a collegiate football squad.

Wilson said Walker improved this spring despite bothersome injuries. "He (Walker) was a little hampered this spring, because he was injured," Wilson said. "After his shoulder got well, he got his ankle injured, but he hung right in there."

For the first time in years, Texas A&M has solid depth at the quarterback position. This creates a healthy situation in that each man will work harder to be the best, because the stiff competition from his teammates. "At this stage of the game I'd like to see either one of them play," Wilson added.

To make the picture even rosier, there are a couple of incoming field generals that show plenty for the future. Speedster Keith Baker from Dallas Roosevelt was described by Wilson as a "super athlete." "He's (Baker) well put together — a top prospect," Wilson concluded.

Another newcomer who might fit into the Aggie's plans along with the ambidextrous Baker is Carl Grulich from Pearce High School in Richardson. If the Aggies should play any team next season, which plans to use the old "kill the quarterback" game strategy, they'll have quite a few to go through.



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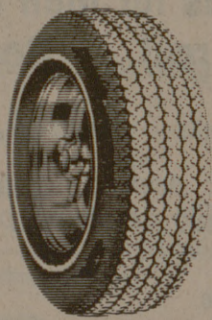
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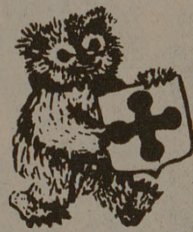
**Ag places in national swim meet**

Bob Leland, coming off a super freshman season at Texas A&M, placed third in the 100-meter breaststroke and fourth in the 200-meter breast at the Mission Viejo International Swim Meet in Los Angeles with a national AAU qualifying time in both events.

Leland, a local product who was a consistent winner for both A&M Consolidated High School and the College Station Swim Club, was timed at 1:08.1 in the 100 and 2:30.0 in the 200.

Additionally, he was a member of 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams which placed seventh and eighth in national qualifying times at the prestigious meet.

The National Long Course Swimming Meet will be held in Kansas City Aug. 19-21.



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