Four athletes selected into Texas A&M Hall of Fame

Four outstanding athletes have been elected to the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame. The 1976 inductees, who will be inducted during the A&M - Kansas State game, Oct. 18 are Asbury B. "Bugs" Morris '23, Z. Wilson "Willie" Bartlett '29, Bobby Joe Conrad '58 and John Beasley '66.

Bobby Joe Conrad

Wilson Bartlett

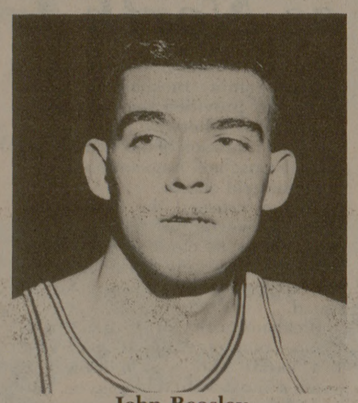
Morris was an all-Southwest Conference shortstop in 1923. In that same season he hit over .400 and was team captain. He lettered in baseball in 1921 - 22 - 23. He was a member of A&M's 1921 SWC champion football team and earned football letters in 1920 - 21- 22.

He joined the coaching staff of Abilene Christian College in 1924 and coached until 1955 when he became Athletic Director. He served as A.D. until 1969 when he retired. He currently serves Abilene Christian as Athletic Director Emeritus.

Bartlett was a member of the 1927 football team which won the Southwest Conference. He was an all - SWC football center and a football captain in 1926 - 27 - 28, while lettering in track in 1927 - 28 -29.

Conrad was a member of A&M's 1957 Southwest Conference championship team. He lettered in football in 1955 - 56 - 57 and played in the 1958 All Star Game, finishing second in the voting for the MVP award. He played in the National Football League for 11 years with the Chicago Bears and St. Louis Cardinals before finishing his career with a one year stint with the Dallas Cowboys. He was the all-NFL flanker in 1963, leading the league in pass receptions. He played in the 1963 Pro Bowl and was the Cardinal MVP in 1962 and 1965. He never missed a game in 11 years with the Cardinals.

Beasley played on A&M's 1964 SWC championship basketball team. In 1966 he averaged 30.6 points per game, an A&M record that still stands. He lettered in basketball in 1964 -65 - 66 and was captain in 1966. He was all-SWC in 1965 and 1966. He currently holds ten A&M records and three Southwest Conference records: Most points in a season (668 in 1965 - 66); most points in a conference season (429 in 1965 - 66); most season career points (1,594 in 1964 - 66); and conference career points (1,007). His 429 points in the SWC in 1965 - 66 still stands as the most points in a SWC season. In 1975 he was elected to the all-SWC 60 year team and to the all-time A&M team.



John Beasley

Asbury Morris

Wilson, LaGrasta optimistic

Offensive line looks solid

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Staff

What do a reformed mountain climber, a future minister, a refugee from the Ozarks and a traveling plow salesman have in common?

This unlikely quartet comprises four-fifths of the Texas A&M starting offensive line this fall. Right tackle Frank Myers used to climb mountains in his spare time, until a fall prior to the 1975 season almost cost him a year's eligibility. Offensive line Coach Dan LaGrasta now has strict orders for Myers to keep his feet on level ground.

Massive left tackle Billy Lemons is the potential preacher, quite a contrast to the violence he has been accustomed to in the area known as the 'pit.' Dennis Swilley, who switched from tackle to left guard during the spring, hails from Little Rock, Ark., a fact which serves to irritate him even more when his thoughts give way to those painful memories of the 31-6 trouncing the Aggies received at the hands of Arkansas.

Left guard Craig Glendenning has perhaps the most unusual occupation of all the Aggie gridders. He travels about the country obtaining old farm plows which he then sells to antique shops or other dealers.

These four, along with center Mark Dennard, form the forward wall of an offense which Offensive Co-ordinator Tom Wilson feels could be amongst the nation's best.

"We liked what we saw in the spring," said Wilson, now in his second year at A&M since transferring from Texas Tech. "They all have maturity and playing experience. We feel our offensive line should be one of the more positive points of our offense. They're a solid group."

Leomons, 6-5, 260 lbs., is the largest of the A&M linemen. The personable Pampa native has had weight problems in the past, but LaGrasta says Lemons is winning the battle.

"Billy showed a great change of attitude during spring training," LaGrasta said. "Of course, this is his last go round (Lemons is a senior). He was in great physical condition. He'll be coming back knowing he's our starting left tackle and that someone is going to have to beat him out of it."

Glendenning, as with Lemons, was not a starter last season but still saw plenty of action.

"He has always been a hard worker, he's one of our hardest working linemen," LaGrasta said. "He's never lacking for effort and we're expecting a super performance by Craig." Glendenning, a 6-3, 242 lb. senior, will be earning his fourth varsity letter this fall.

Dennard took over at the pivot when starting center Henry Tracy was injured in the latter part of last year. Tracy's absence was barely noticed. A 6-2, 245 lb. junior, Dennard is expected to provide leadership in the offensive line.

"He's an exceptionally smart football player," Wilson said. Dennard is expected to be one of the top centers in the conference. He's been very dependable."

Swilley is also expected to provide the guidance to cement an attack with many new faces in the lineup. He was shifted to guard as part of a ploy by the A&M coaches to have the quickest lineman at the guard positions, undoubtedly for pulling purposes.

"Dennis is one of our most experienced linemen," LaGrasta said. "He's a super athlete who has made the switch from tackle to guard in real good shape. He's one of the seniors in our lineup and we expect some of that senior leadership from him."

Assistant line Coach Bob Stanley added to Swilley's laurels, saying, "He is capable of being one of the outstanding players in the conference."

Myers was below par for part of the 1975 season due to the fall he suffered during the summer. He had a successful comeback and became heavily relied upon, although only a sophomore. The 6-4, 247 lb. tackle will be relied upon once again to pave the way for Aggie runners.

"Frank is one of our strongest linemen," LaGrasta said. "He came on slow as a sophomore but earned a starting berth. I think he started seven ballgames last year. We expect Frank to be a very strong blocker in our offensive line."

The A&M offensive line laid the groundwork for a record-setting season in 1975. Aggie backs set school marks for most rushing yardage in a season (3,114), average rushing yards per game (283) and total offensive plays (792).

Glamour continuingly eludes offensive linemen, something which Wilson says his starters have learned to take in stride.

"They get self-satisfaction. The play is not going to work unless they block."

The University of Texas has had a reputation for producing fine offensive linemen while Baylor's starting five this fall are being regarded as perhaps the best in the league. However, the Aggies' blocking crew should not be ignored, Stanley said.

"This group has a lot of fight," he said. "If defense is a reaction game, the offense has to be re-reaction — to be a good offense. The crux of the matter is that if you slop around in practice and don't have good workouts, you can't develop that reaction."

Depth should be no problem for A&M as several quality players are waiting in the wings. At tackle will be Cody Risien, George Burger and Ronnie Smith. The versatile Burger could play several positions, LaGrasta said.

Adding support at guard are Curtis Jennings, Billy Herrin and Mark Burger, the younger brother of George. LaGrasta expressed faith in Jennings becoming a fine guard. Herrin, a senior, can relieve either guard position.

Behind Dennard is Kenny Kirk who made the transition from guard to center.

"He had a good spring," LaGrasta said. "He showed promise of becoming a fine center."

Texas A&M had perhaps its best recruiting year, especially in the category of offensive linemen, Joining the Aggie ranks will be Thomas Gregory of Conroe (6-5, 260 lbs.), Zack Guthrie of Tyler (6-6, 265 lbs.), Paul Hagerty of Corpus Christi Carroll (6-4, 255 lbs.), Steve Lewis of Hurst (6-5, 230 lbs.) and Spring Branch's Ed Pustejovsky (6-2, 240 lbs.). Guthrie, Hagerty and Pustejovsky played in the North-South high school all-Star game.

"We have some good, solid freshman prospects coming in," LaGrasta said. "They'll be pushing people for several positions."

Heffner, Ewing win BVJC run

Records fell on all fronts with the field which turned out for the Azos Valley Jogger's Club weekend five-mile open run, with Kyle Heffner and Jim Ewing sharing top honors.

The duo toured the A&M Consolidated High School course in 27:34, cutting nearly half a minute off the old mark.

Molly Allen established a new record for women with a time of 40:59, shaving 37 seconds off the previous standard.

Following Heffner, a member of the Aggie track team, and Ewing across the finish line were Phil Edelen and John Crompton, who were clocked at 29:03. Crompton established the old course record.

Other runners and their times: Keith Spears and Don Kirby, 30:42; Jim Brannon, 31:16; Mike Christiansen, 31:17; Tom Holtzer, 31:37; Dennis Meier, 32:49; Rusty Bush, 33:48; David Allen, 33:48; Tim Parker, 34:21; James Condry, 37:22; Gordon Amcell, 39:24; Ed Reyna and Paul Parish, 39:26; David Reyna, 45:01; Jerry Hebinstreet, 46:34, Marvin Thummin, 47:52; and Lynn Reyna, 48:09.

The club's next outing will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, for its third annual Devil Take the Hindmost Run, in which the last runners on each lap of the Kyle Field track must drop out, eventually resulting in only one person left on the track.

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