



Battalion photos by Kevin Venner



Aggies prepare strategy

Texas A&M head football coach Emory Ballard had his men moving in all directions last week when they began their two-a-day workouts in preparation for their first game against Virginia Tech on September 11, here in College Station.

The tentative starting offense for the Aggies (above left) has Adger Armstrong at left halfback, Darrell Smith at right halfback, George Woodard at fullback and David Shipman in the quarterback position. Here, Shipman prepares to deliver a hand-off to one of his backs, as they build a quick momentum.

The six ugl...oops, handsome gentlemen in the upper right corner are members of the Fight'n Texas Aggie defense. They can be some of the most genteel characters in town, but one member said that they are the toughest and meanest when they have to be. From left to right, they are Stacy Breihan, right end; Jimmy Dean, right tackle; Jesse Hunnicutt, weak linebacker; Robert Jackson, middle linebacker; Edgar Fields, left tackle; and Garry Milligan, tackle.

Ballard said that he cannot name any weaknesses in the Aggie defense, but added that he was not sure at the moment, "how strong our strengths are going to be."

In the lower left photo, Ballard watches punter Lee White as he prepares to kick the ball off the page. Kevin Monk, a linebacker for the Aggies, watches from out of the end zone.



Players not only factor

Managers, trainers work to

By KEVIN VENNER

The unsung heroes are going to receive a song today. Well, at least some recognition.

These men are an important factor in any football team's quest for a

championship, A&M being no exception. However, you most probably won't hear their names echoed through the sound system at Kyle Field this fall.

So, before the Fight'n Aggie football team has a chance to take all the glory, via journalistic sensationalism, let's take a look at the Fight'n Aggie managers and trainers.

The captain of this team is Billy Pickard, who joined the Texas A&M staff as athletic trainer in January, 1965 and enters his fifth season in the dual role of trainer and equipment manager this year.

Pickard was born in San Antonio and was graduated from Central Catholic High in 1952. He then entered A&M where he served as a student trainer.

Following his graduation from A&M, he worked one year as trainer at Port Arthur Jefferson High and served seven and one half years as trainer at Brazosport High in Freeport, Texas.

Pickard is an active member of the Texas Athletic Trainers Association and has held various offices in that organization.

Pickard says that he anticipates a "great year" for the Aggies. And although he told Spec Gammon, sports information director for A&M, Monday, that he does not like to hear a player or anyone talk about their own or someone else's freedom from injury, he did say that the team has been fortunate so far this year. He added that usually as soon as you say "you don't have, you turn up with an injury."

The managers and trainers are working long hours during the 10 days of two-a-day workouts for the football team. Pickard says that his day begins at 5:30 a.m. and ends about 11:30 p.m. He admits that these are long hours, but said, "it's only for 10 days."

The duties of the managers and trainers cover a wide variety of chores. Taking care of the aches and pains of the players and sometimes the coaches is foremost on their list. They have to keep all those bodies functioning properly, especially if we are going to take a championship.

During the two-a-day workouts, which began the 19th for four days of practice without pads and will end this week with the players in full gear, the trainers wrapped many ankles. A couple of them figured that they use four cases (32 rolls/case) per practice. They doubled this figure for the two workouts per day, added that each roll contained 10 or 15 yards of tape and concluded that they use "quite a bit."

But tape is not all that goes into a wrapping session. First, the area to be taped. Then, a lubricant, much like vaseline, is applied to protect the skin from the tape. Next, the gauze is applied to prevent blisters or to protect any injuries already sustained. Pro-wrap precedes the tape in the removal of the tape without pain of taking off all the hair

The smell of Cramer's ointment for muscle soreness fills the air of the training room. Gerald Thompson, who was Wally Groff, the assistant athletic director for business affairs, says one can "get addicted to it."

Other smells often fill the nostrils... some pleasant, some so. A myriad of colors can be served also, within the confines of this fumigated room. The trainers use many sprays, the antiseptic toughening, cooling and deodorizing kind, line the shelves. Pills of these colors. Many of the trainers take four salt tablets and two pills, a calcium-iron vitamin each practice.

One trainer said that some players get shots of vitamins B12...not because it helps physically, he said, but because of the psychological effect.

The managers, among other things, get to supply the team with the Gatorade per practice. The line is to supply 1,000 cups of Gatorade per day (during two-a-day workouts) and use about 2,000 pounds of Gatorade. The trainers also have to deal with some technical equipment such as a medcolator, which electronically stimulates the blood flow, they said, and speeds the healing process.

Not only do the managers and trainers perform important chores, they often have to do the chores, such as cleaning, which one else wants to do, but must be done. They must also help with the morale of injured athletes, who may start feeling sorry for themselves.

This championship team of 10 trainers: seniors, David Woodard and Mike Woodard; juniors, Mitchell and David Evans; sophomores, Gary Lamb, Chris Cuerbello, Tom Dean and Johnson and 7 managers: seniors, Payne; juniors, Terry Kline; sophomores, Gary Wayne; sophomores, Capt and Lane Pittman; freshmen, Jeil Hampton and Mauldin.

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