

# Hunter happy with Rangers

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Billy Hunter clasped both arms behind his head, leaned back in the swivel chair inside the private office they provide for the visiting team manager at Yankee Stadium and was as happy as he possibly could be considering the circumstances.

His Texas Rangers have been doing relatively well since he took them over two months ago. Naturally, he wished they were on top in the American League West instead of struggling to shake themselves loose from the Kansas City Royals, Chicago White Sox and Minnesota Twins, but they still have a month to do that and he keeps hoping they will.

For the moment, he was at peace

with himself and the rest of the world, thoroughly enjoying the fresh supply of chewing tobacco he had just fished out of a silver-lined package and stuffed in his mouth. He was giving it a good workout.

With Billy Hunter, his immediate family comes first. After that, comes winning ball games, and right after that, comes chewing tobacco. There are very few things in life Hunter loves more than a healthy chew of tobacco.

He chews a package a day and does it practically everywhere, except in his own home at Lutherville, Md. His wife, detests chewing tobacco.

"When we first got married in 1949, I made a deal with my wife," he said. "I could chew all I wanted

at the ballpark and on the road, but not in the house."

Occasionally, Hunter cheats a little.

"If I'm mowing the lawn and get a phone call inside the house, I don't take the tobacco out of my mouth," he said. "That's providing I don't stay on the phone too long. If it's a long call, I gotta get it out."

Hunter first began chewing when he was 16.

"I grew up in western Pennsylvania, which is a big coal mining area, and one of the prerequisites of becoming a ball player in that section of the country was that you had to chew tobacco," he said.

In the 30 years he has been in professional baseball, Hunter re-

members having only a few cents because he was chewing tobacco that occurred one day in his first year out while on a shortstop for Three Rivers in the Canadian-American League.

"I went back for a short period left field and was about to get it," but just as I got the first down my throat," he recalled, "I caught the ball. I still don't know how."

The conversation switched to pennant race and the way the Rangers have been making a run for it since Hunter became manager.

"I've changed a lotta things. I'm gonna change some more. Hunter, who had several managerial offers but had turned them down to remain in Baltimore as a coach.

"One thing I'm not gonna do is Jim Sundberg. He's the catcher in the league. He's everybody out, never has a ball and picks people off his look at the job he's doing. He's his bat. He's right up there. And has the best attitude I've ever seen. The same as Brooks. Need I say anymore?"

Over in the American League East, Hunter would like to see the Orioles win it, but he feels sure the Yankees will. I'm sure as he is. I have a feeling the Red Sox are still to be beaten before it's over.

Should the Rangers make a division, which looks like sure of a long shot now, Hunter Weaver a dinner at the venue.

"Before the All-Star break, I was trying to find a leadoff hitter. Hunter. I happened to talk about it and he suggested I try Hargrove. I did, and since the grove has been leading off, he's close to .500. I haven't had time to thank Earl personally, but I suggest you know he's noticed the statistics."



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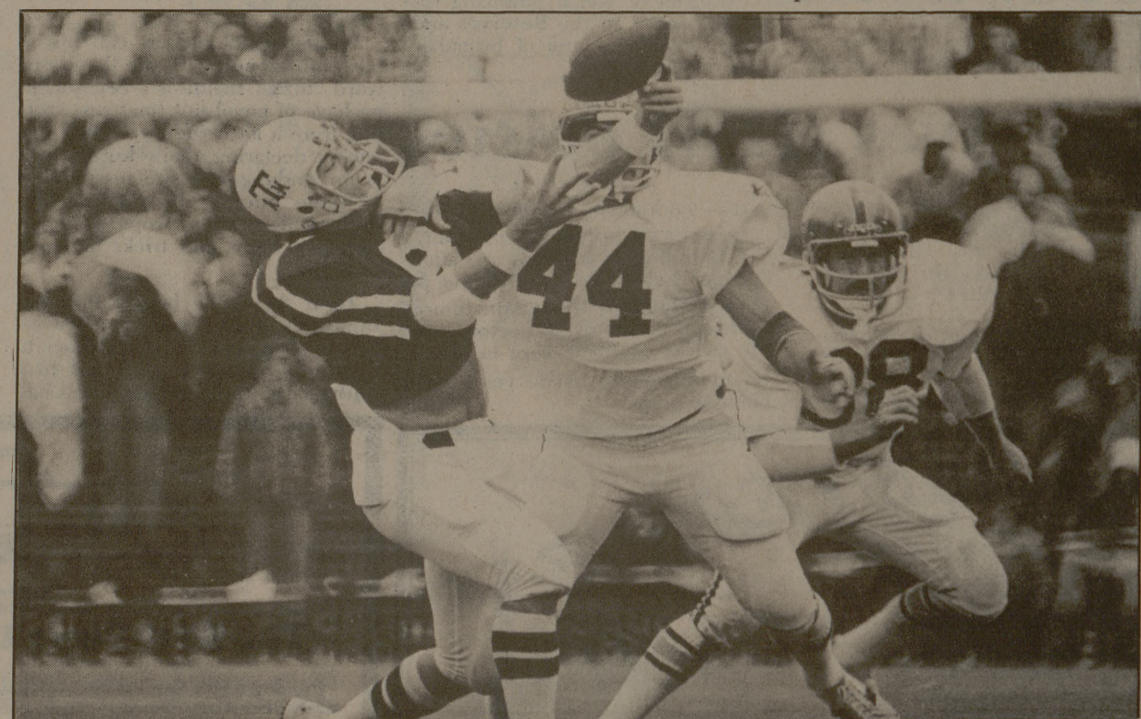
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The Texas Aggies sailed through two-a-days with flying colors, making great progress and avoiding serious injuries.

Now, with classroom work under way, the Aggies have one week of afternoon drills in which to prepare for the season's opener against Kansas. The Jayhawks come to Kyle Field for a 4 p.m. kickoff on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Defensive coordinator Melvin Robertson, though not laying claim to any national titles, is highly pleased with the progress of his group.

Head Coach Emory Bellard and his offensive coordinator Tom Wilson each like what they've seen of the offense.

Though there may be some changes made, the depth chart now looks like this:

**OFFENSE:** SE — Darrell Smith, Doug Teague, Al Nasser, LT — Cody Risien, Paul Hagerty, LG — Ed Pustejovsky, Kenny Kirk, C — Mark Dennard, Preston Dickson.

**RC —** Thomas Gregory, Holmes, RT — Frank Myer, Jennings, TE — Russell, Not Phillip Simpson, Chuck Card each — David Walker, Mike Wetmore, Jay Dale, John Dawson, David Brothers, Adger, Mark Tullous, FB — Woodard, Eddie Hardin, Belcher.

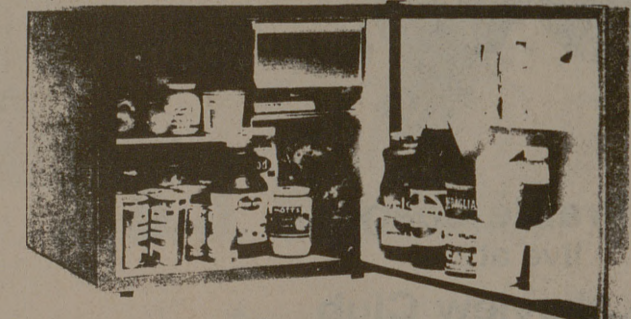
**DEFENSE —** LE — Heath, Jacob Green, LT — Donahue, James Zachery, Svatek, RT — Steve Spitzer, Garry Milligan, Tim Ward, Phil Bennett, Eugene Stacy Brehm, SLB — Monk, Lawton Carlton, Lemons, MLB — Dick Roderick Reed, WLB — Kocurek, Floyd Randle, Harvey, LC — Mile Wadine Miles, Elroy Steen, Jimmy Hamilton, Greg Davis, SS — Kenneth Taylor, Johnson, Leandrew Brown, Carl Grulich, Ralph Barrett, Davis.

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