

ports

Ags begin spring training

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M head football coach Harry Bellard sat back in his chair, puffed on his pipe and spoke.

"We're going to run the wishbone offense," he said in answer to a question concerning the offensive strategy the Aggies would employ in the 1978 season. A rumor had circulated saying that the death of the wishbone in Aggieland was at hand.

But coach Bellard quickly dispelled the hearsay.

"The wishbone offense is going to be our basic offense," the Aggie coach reiterated. There will be times when we break from the wishbone and go with two wide receivers. In these cases we will move the other halfback over behind the fullback. That is a matter of 18 inches right or left, depending on the situation. Now, you can call that an I-formation, it all depends on

terminology."

Bellard said that this afternoon will have its advantages and disadvantages, as every formation does. "Everything in football is a give-and-take situation," Bellard said. "The two wide receivers will place additional stress on the defensive perimeters. Of course, in this formation we will lose some of the strengths of our running game. This will not be used as strictly a third down play. It can be played at any

time."

Bellard, who masterminded the wishbone offense while he was still an assistant coach at the University of Texas, is confident that the wishbone will do the job for the Aggies. "Our attack will be built on the principles and philosophies of the wishbone offense. And the wishbone was drawn up to be used with two wide receivers as well as a fullhouse backfield," he said, and he

should know.

Perhaps one of the reasons that the rumors of the scrapping of the wishbone got started is the fact that A&M failed to acquire the highly recruited high school fullback, Milton Collins of Blooming Grove. "I don't see what that has to do with it," Bellard said. "We have the finest fullback in the country right here, George Woodard. What are you going to do, just kick him out?" No, indeed, Woodard cannot be overlooked. But the big man from Van Vleck will be in his final season for the Aggies this year, as will his backup, Eddie Hardin. Finding a fullback is a problem of the future which Bellard said will be "taken up at an appropriate time."

Meanwhile, Woodard is still plagued with the weight problem that bothered him last season. "George is still a little heavy, but his weight is coming down," the Aggie coach said. "From all the advice that I can get from doctors, I think that George is supposed to weigh somewhere in the 250-255 pound range. Hopefully he will be down to that by the Maroon and White game."

The Maroon and White game will be the finale of Bellard's seventh spring training program at A&M, which begins today at 4:30 p.m. Bellard promised a very tough spring program. "It will be a very competitive spring training at all positions," he said. "The whole idea of this spring training will be to get to the point where we can play with great intensity at all times. Intensity always determines how much you can achieve, game by game, day by day, play by play and all the time."

Last year, A&M had big problems defensively. Spring training is designed to remedy those problems. The Battalion will look at some of the changes Bellard will experiment with during the four weeks of spring training in tomorrow's report of the first day of training.



"Yer Out!" ... Almost

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Rice Owl second baseman appears to tag out A&M infielder Randy Woodruff — but he missed the tag, and Woodruff was called safe. The Aggies swept the three game series

with Rice this weekend, tying them for second place with Arkansas. A&M travels to Waco this weekend to play the conference-leading Baylor Bears.

Trinity passes Aggies

By KEVIN PYLE

Trinity University, the No. 2 team in the nation, displayed its awesome power against A&M Monday at Oak Village Racquet Club in Bryan as they beat the Aggies in a dual tennis match 9-0.

Trinity was so dominating that the Aggies were only able to win one set of the nine matches, that being a set victory by junior Mike Moss. Moss won the first 7-6 but failed to lose the last two 6-1, 6-2.

In the number one singles match, freshman Reid Freeman, the top ranked 18-year old in the state, was defeated by Ben McKown of Trinity 6-1. The match was closer than the score indicated however as Freeman made McKown work for every point running him from side to side with deep baseline shots.

In other singles matches, all won by Trinity, it was Erick Iskersky over May King 6-3, 6-2, Tony Giammalva over Mike Moss 6-7, 6-1, 6-2 and Larry Gottfried, younger brother of tennis star Brian, downing Trey Schutz 6-3, 6-1.

In the fifth and sixth singles

matches it was John Benson beating Robin Baker 6-2, 6-2 and brother Dave Benson downing Jim Grubert by identical scores.

In doubles action the Aggies of coach Richard Barker, did not fare any better. The number one team of Freeman and King were put away in

short order 6-0, 6-1. The team of Moss and Schutz were beaten by John Benson and Giammalva by scores of 6-2, 6-0. Closing the Trinity victory in the number three doubles slot were Dave Benson and Iskersky over Baker and Grubert 6-2, 6-4.

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