

sports

A spring training party has begun

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Staff

The verbal invitation was addressed to the 70-plus residents of the north wing of Cain Hall. Requested dress was full pads and the occasion was the opening day of spring training for the 1978 edition of the Texas A&M football team.

Yes, it was a party, of sorts. There were familiar faces there from days past: Robert Jackson, Edgar Fields, Phil Bennett and Mike Williams. There were some 25 guests in Kyle Field's bleachers. But the focus of the festivities was on the turf. And

for the host, coach Emory Bellard, this party was strictly business.

"This is going to be a very aggressive and very tough spring training," Bellard said of his four-week practice session. "We have a lot of work to do and I am very optimistic about it. I have lots of confidence in this group of fellows."

It will be very aggressive and very tough spring training, but it will also be a very experimental spring training. Changes are in store for the Aggies, changes that will be designed to alleviate some of the problems the team had last year. Defensive problems come to mind immediately.

"We gave up some big plays last year defensively," Bellard said. "We will make a concentrated effort during the spring to find the right player for the right position."

The defensive secondary gave up an average of 158 passing yards last season. Bellard hopes to find the solution to this problem, even to the point of going to the offense to find a defensive back.

"We are going to try Darrell Smith in the defensive secondary," the Aggie coach said. Smith, the much-traveled football player who saw action at wide receiver last year and at running back the year before, will be tested in the secondary for two weeks.

"Darrell is a good athlete with fine speed," Bellard said. "I know what he can do as a split end. At the end of two weeks if we think he can't emerge as a starter in the secondary, then we'll move him back to split end."

"By the end of spring training, we hope to have a solid defensive secondary. We have Darrell, Jimmy Hamilton, Elroy Stten, Carl Grulich, Ken Taylor, Greg Clark and others to choose from. Hopefully from that group we can get four who can play and four who can play behind them. It's a wait-and-see proposition. It depends on who evolves this spring."

Free safety Grulich was the Aggies' leading tackler last season. Bellard would like to see one of his line-

men or linebackers lead the Aggies in this department in the upcoming year. He is experimenting with some line changes this spring.

Eugene Sanders will move from defensive end to defensive tackle and James Zachery will switch from the defensive tackle position to defensive end.

Bellard must also find someone to replace strong-side linebacker Kevin Monk. Among the candidates for the three linebacker slots are Frankie Lemons, Floyd Randle, Ken Rollins, Dick Frazee, Tony Meyer, Mark Tullous, Randy Harvey, Mike Little and Doug Carr.

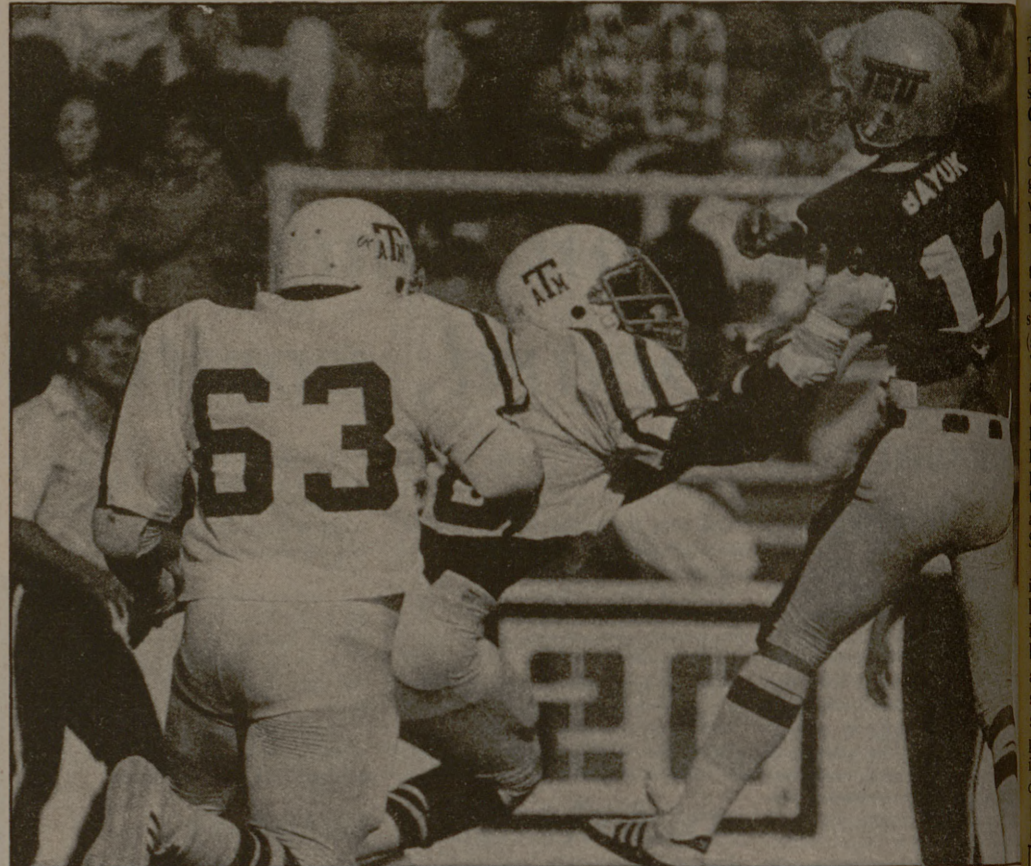
"We are in a good position to have a very sound defensive football team next season," Bellard said. "There will be a lot more experience out there."

A major position change on offense is planned, as well. Returning starting guard Ed Pustejovsky will be moved from guard to center.

"For the first two weeks there will be no first team and no second team," Bellard said. "We will be shuffling the lineups freely. We are exploring every possibility."

"I will say that fellows who have proven themselves, like Cody Risien are going to be tough to beat. Somebody is going to have to beat him out in order to get a starting position."

So, the four-week long party called spring training is on. It takes place every Tuesday through Friday at 4:30 p.m., with Saturday scrimmages, and everyone is invited.



Coming through

Last fall the Texas A&M defense lacked a consistent pass rush. This spring training coach Emory Bellard and crew will be searching for linemen who can pressure the opposing quarterback.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Neil

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Aggie golf team keeps on improving

By KEVIN PYLE

Led by Biff Alexander, the Texas A&M golf team placed fifth in the Morris Williams Invitational in Austin this past weekend.

The 54-hole tournament, played on the par 72 Morris Williams Municipal gold course, was won by Oklahoma State with a team total of 870, followed by Houston and Texas tied at 883, Wichita State with 886 and A&M with 891.

Individual honors went to Harrison of Oklahoma State who was two under par 214. Alexander of Seguin was two over the pace with an even par 218. John Ogrin had rounds of 72-73-71. Sophomore Dave Ogrin had rounds of 72-73-71. Richard Cromwell with 233 and Kent with 236.

Coach Bob Ellis seemed pleased with the Aggies performance. "We are finally starting to play better."

In tournaments over the state, the Ags finished fourth in the Border Olympics in Laredo, Texas and Pan American. Individually, the Aggies were represented by Richard Cromwell and Taylor with 227 totals.

Next the Aggies travel to California for the Fresno Classic where they tied for first place. They were led by Ogrin, Alexander and Carlton with 223 and 232 totals respectively.

A&M's next tournament will be the April Sound Salute to Golf on April 8 and 9 at April near Conroe.

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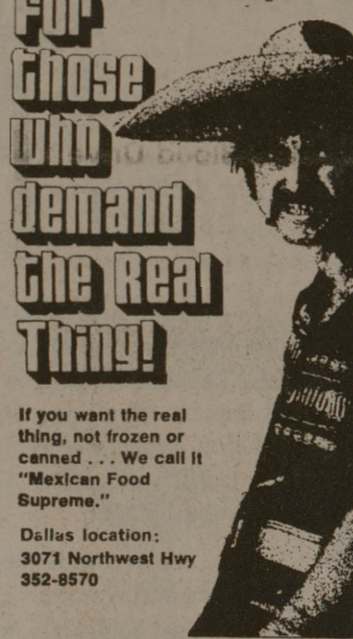
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