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Bellard evaluates spring training

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

With the end of spring football drills five days old, the football players have gone back to their tutors, classes and whatever else they've missed in the past three weeks.

And in the past five days head coach Emory Bellard has had a chance to evaluate what he's seen in this year's spring workouts.

"I couldn't help but be impressed with what I saw," said Bellard. "This group of guys started with enthusiasm and aggressiveness and retained the tempo throughout the spring.

"And with this tempo some

players surfaced and showed that they wanted to play on this team."

But Bellard saw some things that he didn't expect to see. Most notably at the defensive tackle position.

"The defensive tackle position is the only position on this team that needs immediate attention right now," said Bellard. "And the only reason that we're in bad shape at the position is because the people that we've been counting on to step in there and play have been hurt this spring. The injuries to those players haven't allowed us to see just what we have at that spot.

"And the defensive tackle position is a vital spot on our defensive line. What happens at the line of scrimmage really determines what will happen everywhere else on defense.

"So once we're set on tackle, the other areas on defense will begin to solidify for us."

One of the areas that Bellard needs to improve on is the defensive secondary. On numerous occasions last year the defensive backfield was burned by big plays. In an attempt to improve play, Bellard shifted split end Darrell Smith to corner back this spring and the shift has been successful.

"Darrell has made the shift with relative ease and has been impressive at the corner back position," said Bellard. "And going into next fall, Darrell will remain with the defensive secondary. Of course, he's still got a lot to learn, but he's really made progress for us."

So Bellard seems content with the defensive team that finished spring drills. But when asked about his offense for next year, Bellard is like a new father showing off his baby boy.

"We're going to have tremendous speed in our offensive backfield next

year with the addition of Mike (Mosley) and David (Beal) at the quarterback position," said Bellard. "And with their speed we're going to do some different things on offense."

"We will be running from the pro-I formation, a two wide receiver attack, using a sprintout attack. We won't go to it except as a change of pace or only on passing downs but it will be a regular part of our offense."

"But a two wide receiver offense is not a new concept. There are some advantages and definite disadvantages to it, as there are with the wishbone. We will utilize what we can from both and judge the results next year."

But the big question that remains on offense is who will run the team. Bellard said both quarterbacks had good spring trainings and have

shown the necessary ingredients for leading a team. But the final decision hasn't been made.

"We've been blessed with a very fortunate problem. We have to choose between a quarterback who possesses good speed and one who has great speed. And that's the main difference between the two boys."

"But if we had a football game tomorrow and I had to choose my quarterback right now, Mike would be starting. But only because David missed so much work this spring (neck injury)."

"I will say this, both David and Mike will be playing football for Texas A&M in the fall. All the two really need is some actual game experience which they both will get next year."

One other player who will log some game time next year is

fullback Raymond Belcher. Belcher had the best spring of any of our fullbacks, said Bellard. "He was the most consistent every practice and continually performed the other fullbacks, if he continues to out-perform others, he will be our fullback next fall."

So Emory Bellard is going next fall with a good feeling. He says that the attitude to become a group, the type that might be a championship-level club.

And it may. But the question won't be answered until next semester.

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Aggie notes and quotes

Texas A&M golf coach Bob Ellis has announced the signing of Steve Bowman, a transfer from McLennan Community College, to a golf scholarship.

Bowman, who played his high school golf in Tyler, won the Texas State Junior in 1976 and the Bill Bass Intercollegiate in 1977. He also has won the McLennan Invitational, the Southwest Texas State Invitational and the Longhorn Invitational. Last summer he went to the third round in the Trans-Mississippi Amateur Tournament.

The Texas A&M men's golf team will compete in the Southern Intercollegiate in Athens, Ga., beginning Thursday. Playing for A&M will be Dave Ogrin, Tim Carlton, Biff Ale-

xander, Richard Cromwell and Jay Kent.

The Aggies finished third in the Southwest Conference Tournament last weekend in Tyler. Ogrin shot 3-under par 213 to finish second in the individual standings. Carlton had 225, Alexander 226, Cromwell 227 and Kent 239.

Texas A&M will host its annual women's spring softball tournament Friday and Saturday with all games to be played at Travis Park in Bryan.

Eight teams are entered. In addition to A&M, they are TWU, Sam Houston State, Texas Wesleyan, Texas Tech, UT-Arlington, Stephen F. Austin and Angelo State. Pool play will begin at 10 a.m. Friday with a single elimination bracket starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with the top two teams from each pool.

In pool play, A&M meets SFA at noon Friday, Angelo State at 4 p.m. and UT-Arlington at 8 p.m.

Brenda Goldsmith, the first woman to attend Texas A&M on an athletic scholarship, has been named to the eight-member Curtis Cup women's golf team.

The team represents the top women amateurs in the United States and will compete in international competition against Great Britain and Ireland.

Texas A&M swimming coach Dennis Fosdick has announced the signing of junior college transfer Terry Meek to a swimming scholarship.

Meek, the younger brother of A&M swimmer Greg Meek, is a breaststroker from Pasadena City College and his time of 2:08.5 in the

200 breaststroke is one of the best times in the nation this year.

Some 60 swimmers from Oklahoma and Louisiana, two who swam the English Channel, will be competing in the annual Masters Swim Meet on Friday and Sunday at Texas A&M.

The AAU sanctioned meet will be at 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday in Downs Natatorium.

Tom Hetzel from Corpus Christi, who swam the English Channel eight times, and James Shevchuk from Houston, the only woman to swim it, will be participating in the meet.

Texas A&M University shooters have swept the 10th Annual Intercollegiate Championships and won the right to tryout four men for the United States Skeet Shooting Team.

Steve Hopper, a junior major from Fallbrook, Calif., a sophomore engineering major, Dick Les Meineke, a senior in accountancy, and all of the opportunity awarded the opportunity Olympic tryout.

The Aggies were named legiate champions for having the highest overall average in the events of the American Athletic Union International (AAU) Skeet and Trap Championships in Peoria, Ill.

Simmons was high individual Hopper placed second.

"I was really proud of the said Dr. E.E. Burns, team

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