Sports

Spring football drills begin; Wilson looking to fill holes

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Sports Editor

With the memory of their 13-7 victory over Texas still lingering on the school campus, the Texas A&M football team took to the field Tuesday to begin spring training.

Head coach Tom Wilson, who finished his first full year as coach last year with a 6-5 record, will watch 39 returning lettermen fight it out for starting positions on the 1980 squad. Among the lettermen returning, are offensive and eight defensive players were starters last season. The Ags did lose some commendable talent, though. Among the 22 lettermen lost to graduation were 10 starters.

"Among our top priorities, we must find a tackle and end on defense to replace James Zachery and Jacob Green," Wilson said. "Also, we must fill the void at tight end on offense. We have some other gaps to fill in the defensive line but we're confident that some of the young, quality people on our squad will step forth and make impressive showings."

Wilson can also look forward to some freshmen filling some of those gaps. The Aggies appeared to have won the Southwest Conference recruiting war this year, signing 11 of the top 30 high school players in Texas.

"We're not blessed with great depth for spring training and our incoming freshmen next fall must supply that needed depth," Wilson said.

There is adequate depth at a few positions though. Some of the more competitive battles for starting assignments will be in the offensive backfield. Mike Mosley, a three-year letterman who has started at quarterback for the past two years, will be challenged by David Beal, also a three-year letterman, and sophomores Gary Kubiak and Mark McQueen. Sophomores Johnny Hector and Ernest Jackson will try to fill the void left by Curtis Dickey at tailback. Returning starter David Hill will be pressed for the starting fullback position by Ronnie James, Roger Wiley and Elvis Walker.

Spring training will last four weeks with the team working out five times a week at Kyle Field. On April 19, the Ags will conclude spring drills with the Maroon and White Game.

The Ags will play five home games in 1980 at Kyle Field. In addition to Penn State, there will be four home SWC games against Texas Tech, Baylor, Rice and TCU.

Five Ag women swimmers competing in national meet

Five swimmers from the nine-member Texas A&M women's swim team will represent Texas A&M at the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women National (AIAW) Championships in Las Vegas, Nev., this week.

In her fourth straight year to reach nationals, Shirley Hill, a senior from San Diego, Ca., will swim in the 200-, 100- and 50-yard freestyle events. Her qualifying times were 1:53:13 in the 200-yard freestyle, 52.49 in the 100-yard freestyle and 24.45 in the 50-yard freestyle.

Representing the Aggies in the 50- and 100-yard breatstoke will be Tracy Johnston, a sophomore from San Francisco. Her qualifying times were 31.00 and 1:07.41, respectively.

Texas A&M also qualified its 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay teams which include Hill, Johnston, Jenny Hsu and Janet Marden. In addition, the 800-yard freestyle relay team also qualified and it consists of Hill, Johnston, Hsu and Joanie Hudel.

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