

The Battalion Sports

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Memories come alive

Alumni to bring back old times in new version of spring game

by Frank Christlieb and John Wagner

Battalion Staff
It's going to be a whole lot of history rolled into one evening of football.

In fact, it's going to be a football textbook in action. Remember Paul "Bear" Bryant coaching John David Crow to the 1957 Heisman Trophy? Or perhaps Edd Hargett guiding the Aggies to a 20-16 Cotton Bowl victory over Bryant's Alabama Crimson Tide in 1968? Or maybe the magical long-distance foot of Tony Franklin and the crushing power of that vaunted Aggie defense in the mid-1970s?

If so, the first annual Texas A&M alumni game on May 1 will be a chance to relive some old memories.

For those who don't remember and want to learn, it'll be a golden opportunity to see a living who's who of Aggie football. When all these folks gather on Kyle Field at 6 p.m. for the Spirit of Aggieland and the Aggie War Hymn, there might not be a dry eye in the bunch.

Players, coaches, officials, managers, trainers and yell leaders, all from Texas A&M's past, will muster for a giant reunion — a reunion organized by Head Coach Jackie Sherrill and his staff.

And, lest we forget, they're going to play a little football also.

Over 170 participants will return to Texas A&M for the game, some for the first time, others as a routine trip. Many of those returning express the same feelings about coming back — they look upon it as a chance to see old friends, meet new people, and relive their days at Aggieland.

James Zachery, who played defensive end for Texas A&M from 1977-79, is playing for the Montreal Alouettes of the Cana-

dian Football League and finishing up his physical education degree here. He will be a defensive coach for the alumni. Zachery says the game is a chance to remember the good old days of playing in Kyle Field.

"It's always a good feeling to come back to Kyle Field again," Zachery said. "I know the stands will be full of people, all having a good time, and I know the spirit will be there too. That's the big thing about Kyle Field — that spirit."

"The game's going to be like a big reunion, and reunions are always fun. There's nothing but good memories here at A&M, and I'm looking forward to seeing all the people I played with — Robert Jackson, Ed Simonini, my old roommate David Brothers — we'll all be there to remember old times, to remember all the good times."

Dave Elmendorf likes the idea, too. Elmendorf, 32, was an all-SWC safety for the Aggies in 1970, capping a three-year career which began in 1968. From there he went to Los Angeles, where he played for the Rams until 1980. He's now a real estate developer.

"I think the whole idea of the game is great," Elmendorf said.

played at A&M."

Sherrill organized the game to bring some excitement to the annual spring game — a game that was traditionally an intra-squad scrimmage called the Maroon and White game.

This time, however, the varsity team will meet the alumni, and opinions are varied as to

be in for a surprise."

Hargett, however, has another idea.

"It's going to be something different, trying to play football again," he said. "I'm 34, and I'll be 35 soon. You know, some guys are still playing at that age, but I haven't played in seven or eight years."

Hargett is the Chief Engineer for Electric Co-op and lives in Douglasville.

Crow, 46, the only Heisman Trophy winner in Texas A&M history, says he's worried about getting hurt — even though he's listed as an honorary coach.

"I've got to watch what I'm doing (on the sideline) so these guys don't run over me," Crow said.

John Paul Young, a linebacker coach for the New Orleans Saints of the National Football League by way of the Texas A&M coaching staff, says the game will be interesting.

"It's going to be a real show," Young said. "It'll be funny to see some of these guys play."

"It'll be a real show, all right," he laughed.

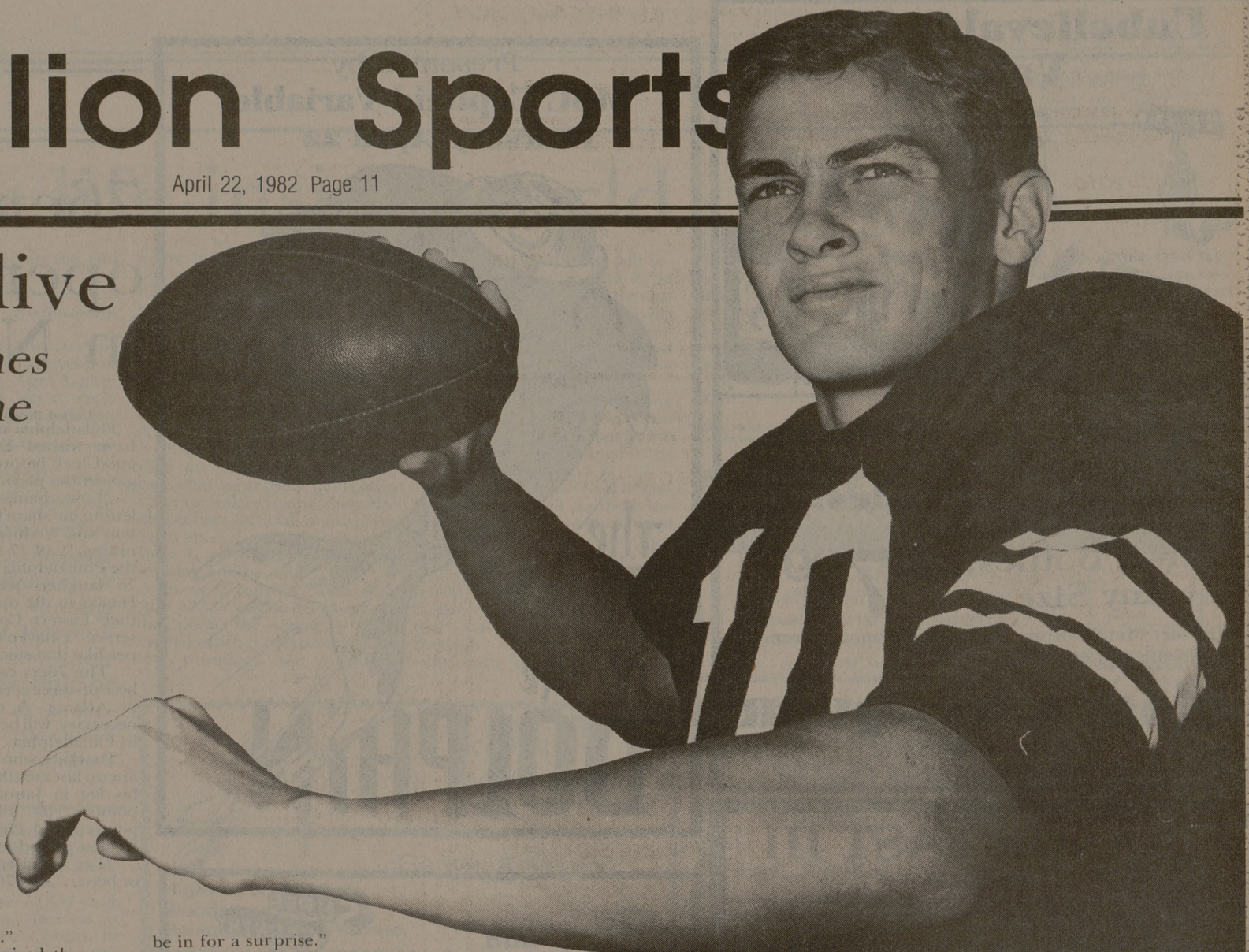
Young and Saints' head coach O.A. "Bum" Phillips are honorary coaches for the alumni. Young said he and Phillips won't arrive in College Station until the day of the game because they both will be working on the NFL draft. Phillips also coached at Texas A&M before entering the pro ranks.

Many of the players said they were surprised about being asked to play. Even those who are listed as honorary players — many NFL clubs have rules against their players playing in games such as the alumni game — were surprised at the idea of a game between the varsity and the alumni.

Curtis Dickey was a four-year letterman at running back for the Aggies from 1976-79. He now plays for the Baltimore Colts of the NFL, and is going to school here during the off-

Ed Hargett, shown here during his glory days as the Aggie quarterback, returns to Texas A&M with about 170 other past coaches and players for the

alumni game with the Aggie football team May 1. Hargett, now 34, led Texas A&M to its only Cotton Bowl victory ever over Alabama in 1968.



Dave Elmendorf, a safety for the Aggie football team during the late 1960s, talks with Coach Gene Stallings after a game during their careers at Texas

A&M. Elmendorf, who played for the LA Rams of the NFL for several years, returns for the 1982 Texas A&M alumni game, slated for Kyle Field May 1.

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"Basically, what it does is give the older players the chance to come back and play for a little bit and see some of the other players. It's also a chance to reminisce about the times they

played at A&M." Sherrill said. "They probably think they'll have to take it easy on those old guys, but they could

Game promises all-Aggie flavor

The following are some of the big-name participants in this year's Texas A&M alumni football game, slated for May 1 in Kyle Field.

Honorary coaches

- Paul "Bear" Bryant
- John David Crow
- Jack Pardee
- O.A. "Bum" Phillips

Coaches

- David Beal
- Elwood Kettler
- Bobby Marks
- Gary Milligan
- Lloyd Taylor
- Garth Ten Napel
- Lance Van Zandt
- John Paul Young
- Willie Zapalac
- James Zachery

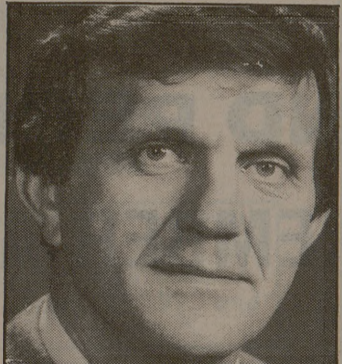
Honorary players

- Grady Allen, 1965-67
- Adger Armstrong, 1975-78
- Keith Baldwin, 1979-81
- Gerald Carter, 1978-79
- Jimmy Dean, 1973-76
- Mark Dennard, 1975-78
- Curtis Dickey, 1976-79
- Edgar Fields, 1974-76
- Jacob Green, 1977-79
- Lester Hayes, 1973-76
- Charlie Krueger, 1955-57
- Mack Moore, 1979-80

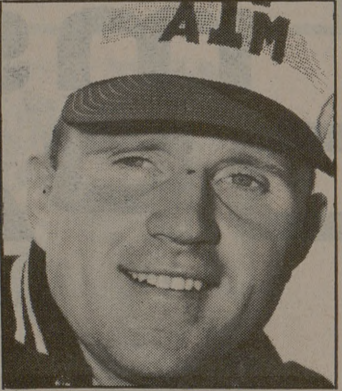
- Mike Mosley, 1977-80
- Cody Risien, 1976-78
- Ed Simonini, 1972-75
- Dennis Swilley, 1973-76
- Pat Thomas, 1972-75
- Mike Whitwell, 1978-81

Players

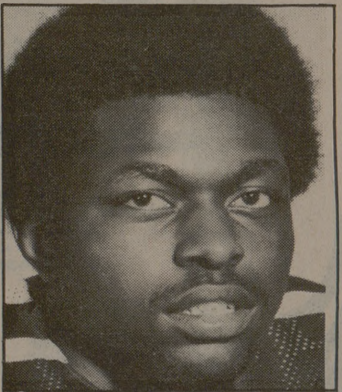
- Billy Bob Barnett, 1969
- David Beal, 1977-80
- Bubba Bean, 1972-75
- David Brothers, 1976-79
- Preston Dickson, 1977-79
- Dave Elmendorf, 1968-70
- Tony Franklin, 1975-78
- Craig Glendenning, 1973-76
- Benny Haddox, 1972-74
- Edd Hargett, 1966-68
- Barney Harris, 1967-69
- Eddie Heath, 1976-78
- Doug Holmes, 1977-79
- Jesse Hunnicutt, 1974-76
- Arlis James, 1979-80
- Rolf Krueger, 1966-68
- Tommie Maxwell, 1966-68
- Ken McLean, 1962-65
- Charlie Milstead, 1957-59
- Kevin Monk, 1974-77
- Gayle Oliver, 1957-59
- Richard Osborne, 1972-75
- Ed Pustejovsky, 1976-79
- Steve Spitzberger, 1975-77
- Elroy Steen, 1977-79
- Larry Stegent, 1967-69
- Johnny Svatek, 1977-79
- Doug Teague, 1976-79
- David Walker, 1973-76
- Grady Wilkerson, 1973-76
- George Woodard, 1975-78



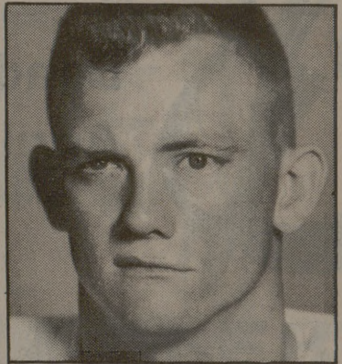
Jackie Sherrill



Jack Pardee



Adger Armstrong

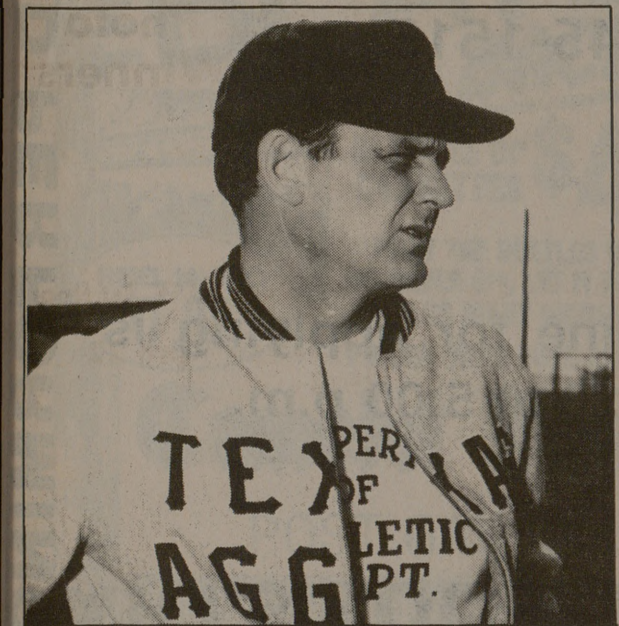


John David Crow



Former Texas A&M football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant holds the Aggies' practice outside an old rendition of Kyle Field during his coaching stint here in

the 1950s. Bryant and several other former Texas A&M coaches, players and trainers will visit the campus next weekend for the alumni game.



Paul "Bear" Bryant