

History

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criteria by which we could gauge our results," Bright said. "We haven't had a roadmap drawn and have not given that roadmap to the people who are responsible for running the program and giving them clearly measurable goals."

That roadmap, Bright said, should have originated on several different levels, some of it from former students, some of it from the administration, some of it from the regents. Then, he said, the plan should have filtered through the chancellor and president, until it "reaches the people who implement it."

Bright said: "I don't think we've been unsuccessful, but we haven't attained, particularly in the area of football, the level that the majority of former students believe we should have attained."

Here are the levels Bright wants for football:

1) For the Aggies to be SWC championship contenders three or four times every five years;

2) For Texas A&M to contend for the national title one or two times every 10 years;

3) For Texas A&M to attain a national title at least once every 15 or 20 years.

However, the five most recent former coaches disagree with Bright — they say they had goals, but those goals weren't publicized. In any case, there's no denying the destination on the roadmap now.

Now if the Aggies can stay on the road.

Foldberg, one of the coaches who veered off the road, admits he made some mistakes. He said he alienated some ardent Aggie followers by wanting to control their recruiting more tightly.

He compounded his recruiting problem by having only three coaches from Texas on his staff, cutting Texas A&M's effectiveness in attracting state schoolboy talent.

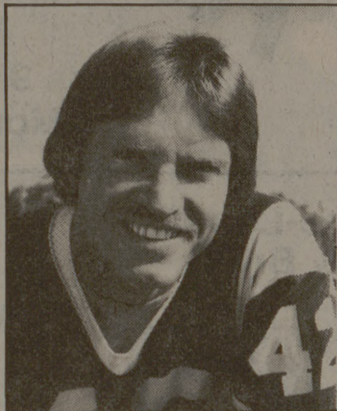
So, with marginal alumni support and a coaching staff made up largely of non-Texans, he had to do the impossible — counteract the image of Texas A&M as being exclusively military.

As for on-the-field problems, Foldberg said recruiting depth, lack of speed especially, drove his record down.

His weight training facilities and a weak weight program were burdens as well, he said.

And finally, he said, the Aggies lost another group of recruits because, in a Texas A&M student population of 8,000, there were about 150-200 women — mostly wives or daughters of faculty.

"Not having women hurt, but I can't believe it hurt that much," he said.



Dave Elmendorf



Emory Bellard

Before Foldberg, Myers had much of the same. He echoed Foldberg's analysis about recruitment, adding that he and his staff weren't able to lessen black athlete's dissatisfaction with Texas A&M's white cast.

Even when Texas A&M was able to recruit quality players, the troubles didn't stop — largely because of the Aggies themselves.

"After taking the wheel from Foldberg, Stallings won only eight games in three seasons, until, in 1967, he fashioned a scrappy, light team that won seven and lost four to win the SWC. The Aggies beat Alabama in the Cotton Bowl.

Winning was tough then, and the quarterback for that team, Edd Hargett, said just being Aggies made it even tougher.

"Of course. We didn't make it easy for ourselves," Hargett said. "You know Aggies have a pretty high opinion of themselves, and we like to tell everyone just how good we are when we do something. We had a tendency to brag about it. I think that transferred to the field."

Since Hargett, matters haven't changed much from the Aggie viewpoint. An ardent Aggie supporter, Keith Langford, Class of '39, agrees with Hargett:

"You won't find another conference where the animosity against one team is as great as it is in the SWC against Texas A&M. I think it stems from the fact that we stick together and have a lot of pride. I think it's jealousy."

Former NFL all-pro safety Dave Elmendorf, Class of '71, backs his fellow Aggies: "If you have the kind of program you should have, the team will go and perform to its maximum capability every Saturday. They will realize the jealousy and say, 'Hey, we want you to be jealous of us — and we're going to (beat you) for it.'"

Brian Hall, place-kicker for Texas Tech from 1974-77, concurs: "I think there was some

extra emotion to get up for A&M. For a long time, man-for-man and talent-for-talent, A&M was probably the best-equipped team in the nation. But I think there was no more jealousy for A&M than for any other school in the SWC."

There is some disagreement. Former Baylor split end Tommy Davidson (1974-77) is adamant about his feelings.

"Jealousy? I never felt it was that," he said. "The major reason people were out to beat the Aggies was simple — they weren't very good sports. They were really mad when they lost, and when they won they didn't know how to handle it well."

"We didn't want to beat A&M because they had everything. It was the reputation (for overly aggressive play) they had — yet they had everything."

Grant Teaff, Davidson's coach at Baylor, was concerned about Texas A&M's 1970s reputation, too.

"When Emory came in, they

developed a very aggressive defense," he said. "They have a reputation. A lot of coaches were concerned about it; I was certainly rather accused of being overaggressive than being underaggressive."

That overaggressive defense helped build a team that had the best Aggie record of recent times and nearly a Cotton Bowl bid. However, Bellard couldn't weather the pressure to win every time out. He resigned.

Bellard, now at Mississippi State, has only positive statements about his coaching at the University. Tom Wilson said he has mostly good memories about Texas A&M. So do Myers, Stallings and Foldberg.

Their happiness now can't obscure how each of them left the University. Myers and Wilson were fired. Foldberg and Stallings left after dismal seasons when their support was eroded beyond repair.

David Walker, an Aggie quarterback from 1973-77, said: "If you lose, the average guy will say it's the coaching or a hundred other reasons. But it all comes down to the coaches. That's the bottom line."

"If I didn't play well at quarterback, I knew I'd be spending some time on the bench. Who grades the quarterback? The coach. Who grades the coach? The supporters. That's the way it will always be."

Langford said: "The real problem at Texas A&M is that the people involved in the program are all successful businessmen. Those people have gotten out of this institution and have been successful. It's been a total frustration to them because they have not been able to transfer

that success to their number one love, which is Texas A&M football."

So, if the Aggies can control their ambitions for a winner, they may finally have everything they need to get one. The money for facilities or coaches will be there. The fans will be there. They have no need to worry about jealousy, according to their opponents. The campus is coeducational, and military service is not mandatory.

As for pressure, Sherrill has the name, credentials and contract to hold off the coaching ambitions of even the staunchest Aggie alumnus.

Now all the Aggies have to do is win.

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A&M archery team meets tonight at 8

The Texas A&M archery team will hold an organizational meeting tonight at 8 in DeWare Fieldhouse.

Coach Frank Thomas said the purpose of the meeting will be to discuss plans for the 1982-83 school year, including shooting facilities and the team's scheduled events.

The team plans to compete in the Las Vegas Shootout during the spring, and in the national tournament, slated for May in Colorado Springs. The Aggies will travel to Austin to take part in the South Central Regionals in the fall, with the event being hosted by the University of Texas.

Other competitions include the Aggie 1,200, an indoor tournament to be held during the fall semester. Thomas estimated that the team would participate in eight to 10 tournaments during the course of the year, and in about four this fall.

Thomas said the team, an club funded by the intramural department, is open to anyone interested in shooting target archery. Further information can be obtained by contacting Thomas in the Health and P.E. Department or at 693-6025.

Methodist Student Movement

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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Concert Vocalist

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Methodist Student Movement

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