

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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## Football evolution

### Aggies' Hallman has seen many changes during career

by Joe Tindel Jr.

Battalion Staff

Curley Hallman is a first-hand witness of the evolution of college football over the last 15 years or so. As a member of then-coach Gene Stallings' Texas A&M squad that knocked off Alabama in the Cotton Bowl, Hallman had the job of helping halt opponents' passing games.

Now he teaches Aggies how to do that same job under slightly different circumstances.

Hallman's fear of facing Jerry Levias of SMU, then the Southwest Conference's only real speedster, has evolved into a fear of facing as many as four or five such speedsters on just one team.

"Boy, everywhere you go there's guys with Jerry's speed or better speed," Texas A&M's secondary coach said. "Every Saturday you line up you're playing against people that are in Jerry's category."

Hallman has seen the changes in the game from more than one point of

view, though. Coaching stints at Alabama, Memphis State and Clemson have provided him with several sources from which to draw his observations.

Now, as Coach Jackie Sherrill's secondary coach, Hallman is coaching in a football era that features more folks with more speed doing more complicated things.

"When I was here, (as a player) and I think it was pretty much the philosophy across the country defensively, you didn't play that many defenses to start with and you didn't play that many coverages, because people were not that sophisticated and complicated in their passing games," Hallman said.

"At that time, offensively, people were not that sophisticated as far as one-man backfields, all the different kinds of motions and all the different formations."

As if things aren't complicated enough, Hallman must try to teach his players how to see through those sophisticated offenses and stop several Levias-types each week.

"There's more speed at the wide receivers now," he said. "Everybody you play has got outstanding people at the wide-outs. They've got great speed in the backfield — guys that can catch the ball — and they've got a lot of guys that can throw it."

"That in itself has made you stop and change a little bit in regard to disguising coverages and playing a lot of different coverages."

As a cornerback on Stallings' 1967 team, Hallman learned to respect the good passers, including his teammate, Edd Hargett, who was one of the conference's top signal-callers, SMU's Chuck Hixon and Arkansas' Bill Montgomery.

But Hallman said the quarterbacks of then and now are similar and that the change of the game's tempo has made today's quarterbacks shine more.

"I really don't believe there's any difference," he said. "You've got a bunch of Hargetts that are playing this day and time that are good."

Although Hallman may have to deal

with a few more variables as a modern-day secondary coach, he said the basic approach to coaching and the mental factors needed to win are the same.

"Coaching is teaching," he said. "It's an exact science. Coach Stallings and his staff were very intense, and they really tried to do a great job of teaching. I think we're trying to do the same thing, and other places that I've been it's the same."

"A lot of people think Coach (Paul "Bear") Bryant has changed over the years. He's changed a little bit, but Alabama still probably works harder than any football team in the country. They stay on the football field in practice sessions for a long, long time."

The mental factors of the game, which might be categorized with coaching as an "intangible," have remained constant as long as Hallman has been involved with football, he said.

In 1967, the Aggies desperately needed something positive to happen for the team to get out of a slump that led to a disappointing 0-4 start.

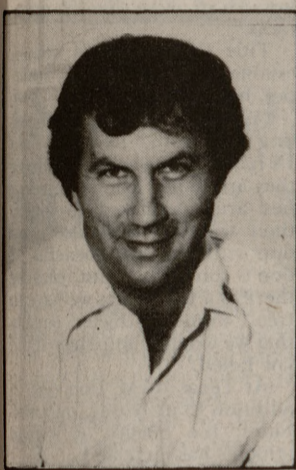
In 1982, the Aggies are in a similar predicament. The difference between the two seasons is that in 1967, something positive did happen to boost the Aggies' confidence in time to capture the title, Hallman said.

It was necessary for something good to happen to the secondary if it was going to have confidence that would help the Aggies during the course of the season.

"If bad things happen to the secondary, they happen to the whole defense, and vice versa," he said.

"I can go back when we were 0-4 in 1967, everybody and their dogs had given up on us, and we kept working hard and all of the sudden Hargett runs that thing in the last play of the ball game at Tech. All of the sudden something good started happening to us. We knew we had a good football team."

"The next couple of games, ... we had some confidence," Hallman said. "That's the thing we don't have right now. I think we've improved on it a little bit. Our guys have played hard."



Curley Hallman describes coaching as 'exact science'

## Cubs, Padres to contend for Garvey

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Steve Garvey officially left his rich Dodgers' tradition behind and Floyd Bannister discovered a wealthy future before him in baseball's seventh annual free agent re-entry draft.

Garvey, the glamour name in a weak crop of NL free agents, was selected by nine clubs and at the conclusion of the one-hour draft, Los Angeles declined to retain negotiating rights for the lifetime .302 hitter, who hasn't missed a major-league game since 1975 and has posted five 100-RBI seasons.

Garvey, 33, thus effectively severed his 7-year relationship with the Dodgers and is ex-

pected to be wooed seriously by the San Diego Padres. Also selecting Garvey were the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago White Sox, Houston, the New York Yankees, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle and Texas.

"I have to sit down and meet with (President) Ballard Smith and (owner) Ray Kroc to plan our strategy," Padres' Vice President Jack McKeon said.

But the Padres may find competition from an unlikely source.

Cubs' General Manager Dallas Green claims Chicago is in a strong position to sign Garvey and adds that star first baseman Bill Buckner is ready to move to left field to make room.

"We think with Wrigley Field as an inducement we can sign Steve Garvey," Green said. "We have the support of the (owners) Tribune Company to do what it takes to sign him."

Bannister, 27, headed an impressive list of AL free agents available and he was selected by 16 teams, including the Yankees, Philadelphia, Milwaukee and the World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals.

Although he sports a lifetime record of 51-68 in the major leagues, Bannister led the league last season with 209 strikeouts while posting a 12-13 mark with Seattle.

The Yankees and Phillies are expected to make strong bids for

Bannister, who says he wants to play his home games in a "pitcher's park" rather than the Kingdome, where the ball carries well and the power alleys are just 357 feet away.

Don Baylor, 33, who cracked 24 homers and drove in 93 runs as a designated hitter with California last season, was selected by six teams, including the Brewers. The Angels declined to retain negotiating rights for the 1979 AL Most Valuable Player.

As Class A free agents — requiring compensation of an amateur draft choice plus a professional player — were a pair of AL outfielders, Steve Kemp of the Chicago White Sox and Balt-

imore's John Lowenstein. Kemp, 28, was drafted by nine clubs, while Lowenstein, 35, was picked by seven teams.

Major league RBI leader Hal McRae was chosen by the Yankees, California and Pittsburgh.

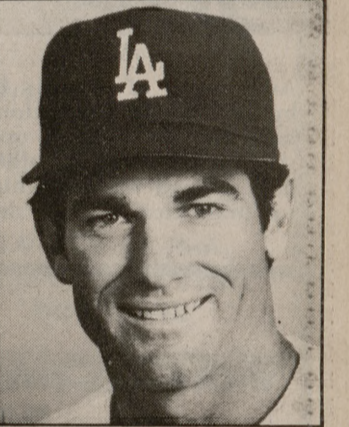
Five teams — Boston, California, Los Angeles, Minnesota and Seattle — elected last year not to participate in the selection of Type "A" ranking players and were excluded from the 1982 re-entry draft.

The Cardinals' first four selections were left-handed pitchers, with relievers Tom Burgmeier, Terry Forster and Woodie Fryman following Bannister in order. The Brewers, who retained negotiating rights

to left-handed reliever Bob McClure, also chose Bannister, Burgmeier, Forster and Fryman within their first five selections.

Bannister and Forster were each selected by 16 teams, tops among the 41 players available.

Nine of the 1982 free agents were not selected by any team. They were: Cleveland outfielder Miguel Dilone, Houston infielder Kiko Garcia, Kansas City pitcher Don Hood, Oakland infielder Dave McKay, Montreal infielder Mike Phillips, Philadelphia outfielder Bill Robinson, San Francisco first baseman Reggie Smith, San Diego catcher Steve Swisher, and California pitcher Luis Tiant.



Dodgers' Steve Garvey must decide between nine teams

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