

The Battalion Sports

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Sherrill, staff bring home 'chips'

Aggies' haul impressive; includes five blue chips and sweep of local talent

by John P. Lopez
Battalion Staff

He didn't don Roman attire, but Texas A&M head coach Jackie Sherrill did a good Julius Caesar imitation in the wars of recruiting.

He came, he saw, and he conquered.

When Sherrill came to Texas A&M, he saw that the Aggies were lacking in line depth and he saw that after senior quarterback Gary Kubiak departed, the Aggies would be hurting in the signal-calling department. With those two weaknesses in mind, Sherrill went out to the front lines of the recruiting battlefield and conquered some of the best talent in the state.

The quarterbacks hauled in by Sherrill and his staff were Port Arthur Jefferson's Craig Stump, Eastland's Jay Hess, Houston Lamar's Paul Gasper, A&M Consolidated's Kip Corrington, Hempstead's Johnny Holland and Bryan's James Flower's — all considered to be great talents.

On the line, the Aggies corralled no less than 10 talented and big recruits. Perhaps the most touted linemen signed are James Jackson, 6-4, 235, from Houston Yates, Karl Harvey, 6-3, 225, from Plano, Jay Muller, 6-3, 225, from Conroe, Rick McLeod, 6-7, 240, from Bakersfield California, Frank Case, 6-4, 260, from North Mesquite and local hero Todd Howard, 6-3, 222, from Bryan.

But perhaps the best player landed by the Aggies was run-

Woodside says no to \$25,000 offer

by John P. Lopez
Battalion Staff

When Keith Woodside signed a letter of intent to play football with Texas A&M on Wednesday, he left in his wake more than other schools that wanted his services. He left behind \$25,000.

The 6-0, 195-pound Vidalia, La., native told The Battalion late Wednesday night he turned down \$25,000 from another school so he could play football at Texas A&M.

The school, which Woodside would not identify, tried to get the services of the Vidalia high school star by offering him cash, but Woodside said he turned down the big offer because he wanted to stick to his values. Woodside lives in a relatively poor neighborhood and said the offer was tempting, but he said he decided to turn down the money and come to Texas A&M because of Coach Jackie Sherrill.

"The first time I talked to him (Sherrill)," Woodside said, "he asked me if I could be bought and I said 'no'. And Coach Sherrill said that was good because if I could (be bought) he didn't want me. Coach Sherrill is really a straight-forward man and that really impressed me.

"It was hard for me (to turn down money), but I talked to Coach Sherrill about it and I finally decided to go to A&M. I didn't want to be bought. I'm going to go to college to get an education."

ning back Keith Woodside from Vidalia, La. Woodside romped for 2,217 yards this year despite missing eight quarters of play. Woodside's coach has compared Woodside to Tony Dorsett and Woodside himself idolizes Dorsett.

"I really like Tony Dorsett," Woodside said, "I always have. It

was great one day when I got a call from him. He (Dorsett) just told me all about Coach Sherrill and how he took care of Tony like a son. I just can't wait to get up there (A&M) and do my thing. I just love running with the football."

Sherrill can't wait for the new recruits to arrive either.

"These additions can certainly get us headed in the right direction," Sherrill said. "These young men have the ability to get us where we want to go."

Case said he chose Texas A&M because he believes the Aggies will be at the top of the Southwest Conference standings in a few years.

"I really think A&M will be a football power in the future," Case said. "I believe Coach Sherrill will turn the program completely around."

Case is an all-stater who was highly recruited by Texas Tech and Arkansas, but chose the Aggies after visiting the Texas A&M campus.

"I didn't realize how much I liked A&M until I compared it with other schools," Case said. "I have a cousin that goes there and I had been to Aggie games before, so I know that what I saw on my paid visit wasn't a front. The people at A&M are very sincere."

"Even though I didn't commit until late, I have always thought about going to A&M. When I was a sophomore I walked out to the middle of Kyle Field and dreamed about maybe someday getting recruited by A&M."

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staff photo by Irene Mees

Five local high school athletes who signed with Texas A&M pose outside of Cain Hall after committing. From left, Bryan High's Rod Bernstine, Todd Howard,

Shawn Slocum and James Flowers stand next to A&M Consolidated's Kip Corrington.

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