

SPORTS

Louisiana blue chippers top A&M's 23 player recruiting list

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

The prospects are in, but the verdict is still out.

Texas A&M announced its 1985 football signees Wednesday. The Aggies signed 23 prospects, many of which could be starters as soon as next season.

A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill said the Aggies went after need — linemen and linebackers — this year. "Linemen were one of our top priorities," Sherrill said. "We also needed linebackers."

Aldine Nimitz lineman Dave Carr headed the linemen signed by the Ags.

A three-year starter, Carr was named second-team All-State by USA Today and was considered a top prospect by most newspapers in the state.

Pasadena Dobie center John Elam, named to the Houston Post and Dallas Morning News top prospect lists, and Dallas Roosevelt defensive end Richmond Webb are other top linemen signed by the Aggies.

A&M hauled in some impressive linebackers who could provide immediate help.

Lafayette, La. (Northside) linebacker Adam Bob was voted player of the year in Class 3A (the equivalent of 4A in Texas). Bob was also a member of the Louisiana All-Star team.

Another Louisiana product could also shore up the Aggies' linebacking corps.

Basil Jackson, from Hammond, La., recorded 103 individual tackles during the 1984 season. Jackson was an All-State player and was selected to play in the Louisiana All-Star game.

Sherrill said the Aggies took advantage of their ties in Louisiana in signing players from that state. From A&M's only Heisman Trophy winner, John David Crow, to last year's first round NFL draft choice, Billy Cannon, the Ags have continually raided Louisiana for its top blue chip prospects.

"We all get tied up talking about who is the best player in the state," he said. "Our best recruiting has come from out-of-state, especially in

'85 A&M Football Recruits

Out-of-state signees

- 1) Tom Campbell OL, 6-5, 245 — Baker, La. (High)
- 2) Wally Hartley TE, 6-5, 215 — Baton Rouge, La. (Broadmoor)
- 3) Basil Jackson LB, 6-2, 215 — Hammond, La. (High)
- 4) James Howse RB, 6-0, 185 — Mufreesboro, Tenn. (Oakland)
- 5) James Dotson DL, 6-2, 260 — Vicksburg, Miss. (Warren Central)
- 6) Troy Jones RB, 5-11, 185 — Lafayette, La. (Acadiana)
- 7) Adam Bob LB, 6-2, 210 — Lafayette, La. (Northside)

In-state signees

- 1) Rod Harris WR, 6-0, 180 — Dallas (Carter)
- 2) Lafayette Turner DB, 6-2, 195 — Dallas (Carter)
- 3) Steve Greene RB, 6-1, 195 — Littlefield (High)
- 4) Rodney Anthony DB, 6-4, 180 — San Angelo (Central)
- 5) Brian Ross TE, 6-4, 220 — San Angelo (Central)
- 6) LaSalle Harper C, 6-2, 230 — LaPorte (High)
- 7) John Elam OL, 6-2, 230 — Pasadena (High)
- 8) Mike Holmes OL, 6-5, 247 — Klein (Oak)
- 9) Billy Ford RB, 6-1, 215 — Aldine (MacArthur)
- 10) Scott Lark OL, 6-3, 240 — Bay City (High)
- 11) Richmond Webb DL, 6-6, 245 — Dallas (Roosevelt)
- 12) Aaron Wallace LB, 6-4, 210 — Dallas (Roosevelt)
- 13) David Carr OL, 6-6, 260 — Aldine (Nimitz)
- 14) Anthony Taylor DB, 6-1, 180 — Kilgore (High)
- 15) Chris Scott TE, 6-3, 225 — Houston (Smiley)
- 16) Vantz Singletary LB, 6-1, 215 — Houston (Worthing)

"We all get tied up talking about who is the best player in the state. Our best recruiting has come from out-of-state, especially in Louisiana. All the players from out-of-state would be what you considered blue chip players in-state." — A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill

Louisiana. The five players from Louisiana were all in the state All-Star game. All the players from out-of-state would be what you considered blue chip players in-state."

The Aggies reached into the out-of-state grab bag once again and came up with a gem in running back James Howse.

Howse played for Oakland High School in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Howse rushed for 2,400 yards and scored 29 touchdowns en route to becoming Tennessee's High School Offensive Player of the Year.

Howse earned every All-State honor and was voted Most Valuable Player in the state championship game.

The Aggies signed four running backs, but no quarterbacks.

"We did not want to bring in a quarterback or running back that we didn't feel could compete immediately," Sherrill said. "You don't need 10 or 15 quarterbacks. We would not sign more than one."

Sherrill said Littlefield running back Steve Greene could be the biggest surprise of this year's crop.

"You wouldn't call him a sleeper since he rushed for 2,885 yards," Sherrill said. "He is a good prospect. More people write about the failures, rather than the successes. You hardly ever read about the player

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SMU burns A&M

Associated Press

SMU 81, A&M 79

DALLAS — It took a career game from junior guard Butch Moore and some deadeye free-throw shooting for No. 9 ranked Southern Methodist to subdue Texas A&M Wednesday night and seize command of the Southwest Conference basketball race.

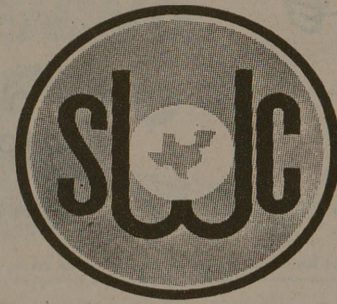
Moore hit his first nine shots and scored 25 points as the Mustangs snapped a three-game losing streak with an 81-79 victory over the Aggies.

"I haven't had a game like this since I played against Mt. Vernon in high school back at Newburgh, New York," said Moore. "I felt in the warmups like my shot was going to go. So I took it to 'em."

"We really played together as a team."

SMU hit 15 of 18 foul shots in the second half but went 8:29 without a field goal as the rallying Aggies almost caught the Mustangs.

"The team came back from three tough losses," said SMU Coach Dave Bliss. "The Aggies made a great comeback at the end but we just gutted it out. The first half of this



game showed what this team can do."

Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf said, "I'm sick for our players because they put their hearts on the floor. It was a great comeback."

"All I know is that Butch Moore is the best player they have. I've said that all along. He's a great competitor."

In a Southwest Conference scrap for first place, SMU improved its league record to 9-3 while the Aggies fell to 7-4 before a sellout crowd of 9,007 in jammed Moody Coliseum. The Mustangs are 19-5 overall and A&M is 15-7.

The Mustangs, stung by consecutive losses to Arkansas, North Carolina State and Baylor, hit 16 of their first 20 shots. They made 75 percent from the field to lead 52-35 at half-time.

However, the Aggies refused to fold and came charging back behind guard Don Marbury, who scored 27 points before fouling out.

The Aggies cut a 19-point deficit to a single point at 72-71, but center Jon Koncak hit four critical free throws and Carl Wright made both ends of a one-and-one with seven seconds to play to ice the game.

Koncak scored 24 points for the Mustangs and had five blocked shots.

Kenny Brown scored 24 points for the Aggies on long jump shots over the Mustang zone, while Todd Holloway added 14.

There was a brief scuffle between the players at the end of the tense game but no punches were thrown and the referees quickly took control.

TCU 81, Baylor 70

WACO — Texas Christian guard Dennis Nutt scored 22 points and Jamie Dixon added a career-high 21 off the bench as the Horned Frogs defeated Baylor 81-70 in Southwest Conference play Wednesday night.

TCU improved its record to 14-9.

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TCU smells of recruiting success

Associated Press

The purple tinge that TCU recruiters cast over the Southwest Conference national signing day Wednesday was just "stinkin' unbelievable," according to Horned Frog head coach Jim Wacker.

Wacker turned five of the state's top blue chippers into Wacker backers, but the No. 1 recruit in the state escaped across the Red River.

Wide receiver Hart Lee Dykes of the Bay City Black Cats, the most sought-after player in the state, decided to attend Oklahoma State.

"Oklahoma State showed a personal interest in me," Dykes said. "They touched my heart."

Dykes visited the Oklahoma State campus on his own. Illinois and

Texas A&M were also in the picture.

"Quite honestly, it still hasn't quite soaked in that this could be all really be true," Wacker said in the wake of the school's gold-plated harvest of schoolboy talent. "The response we have received this year has been just stinkin' unbelievable."

"No question, this is going to be an excellent recruiting class. Basically, our coaches and players here do a great job of selling the program for us. So far there are no surprises, and we don't expect any, but we're still keeping our fingers crossed."

TCU signed more blue chippers than the other eight SWC schools combined.

Jasper wide receiver Reggie Davis, Huffman running back Greg

Moore, Houston Madison quarterback Ronald Jiles, Fort Worth Eastern Hills defensive tackle Mitchell Benson and Madison wide receiver Jarrod Delaney — all Texas blue chippers — will play for the Horned Frogs next season.

SMU got two blue chip signees from Corsicana, running back Bill Jones, 6-1, 205, and linebacker Robert McDade, 6-3, 230. Navasota quarterback Lynn James, who had earlier given a verbal commitment, and Lamar Consolidated cornerback Roderick Wilson, also chose the Mustangs.

Arkansas Coach Ken Hatfield helped stem the trend of losing Ar-

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