

Bryant builds Aggie into national power

By David Winder
THE BATTALION

The 1954-1963 decade was dominated by one man, Paul "Bear" Bryant. After going 1-9 in 1954, Bryant's teams then went 24-5-2 over the next three years, including bringing home the 1956 Southwest Conference title.

"The man didn't care about who you were. If you couldn't perform, he would get rid of you," said Darrell Brown, who played from 1954-1955 and in 1957. "One day, we were scrimmaging, and the guy ahead of me was just going through the motions. He stopped practice and made us switch jerseys. He was just like a daddy to me."

Bill Granberry said Bryant cared for his players more than he showed.

"One day, it was either (Robert) Easley or (Lloyd) Hale and me were late to practice," Granberry said. "We were always late to practice because we were coming back from a petroleum lab. We were running to practice when I noticed we weren't running on the ground anymore."

Coach Bryant had grabbed both of us by our pants. He looked at us and said 'You boys better not be running filling stations.' He even knew our majors."

In 1956, A&M took on the defending SWC champion TCU Horned Frogs in the famous "Hurricane Game." Winds

The Decade in Review

Decade record: 42-52-7 (.451)

Best record: 9-0-1 (1956)

Worst record: 1-9 (1954)

SWC Championships:

1956

Highlights: J.D. Crow

wins the Heisman

Trophy (1957)

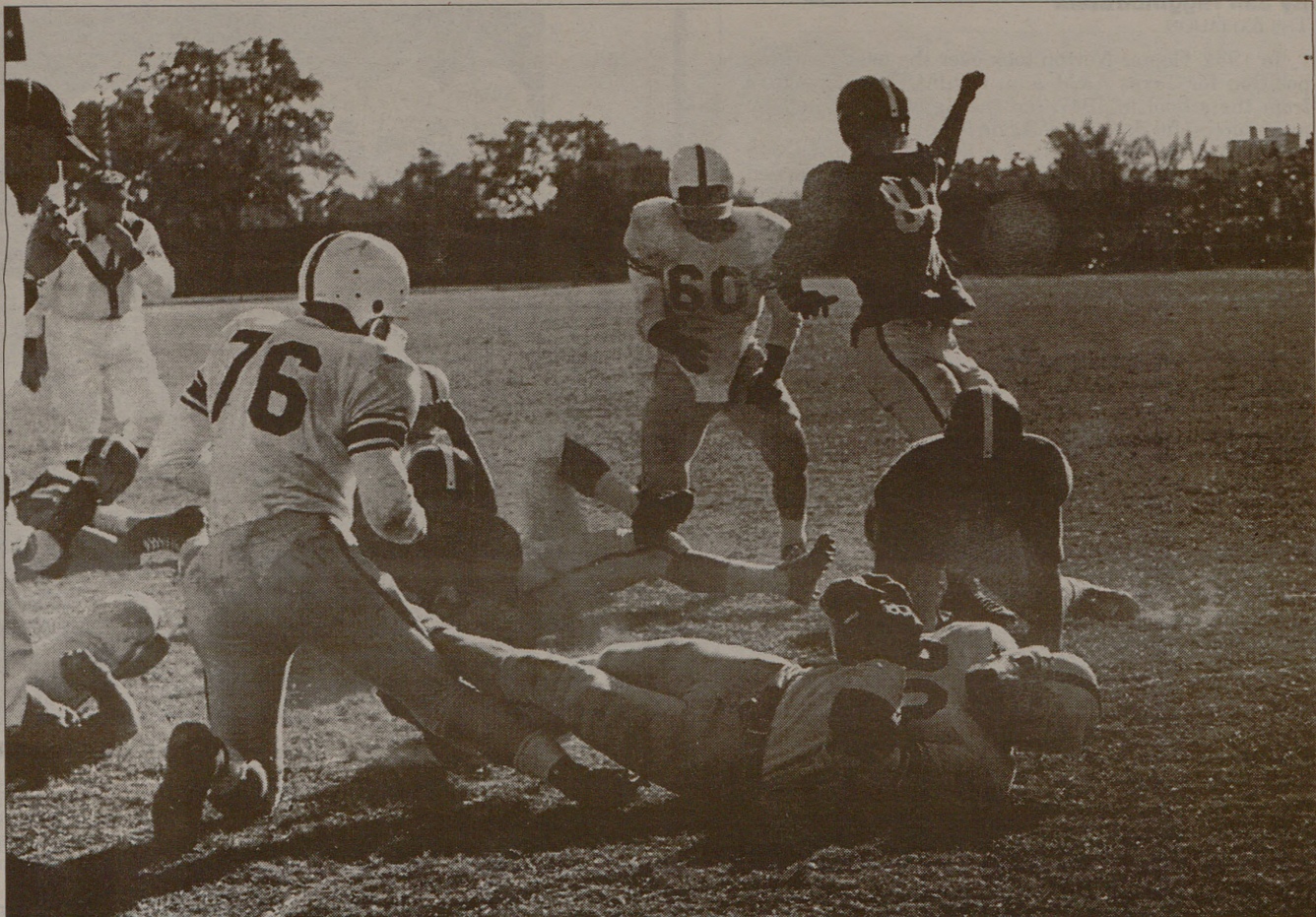
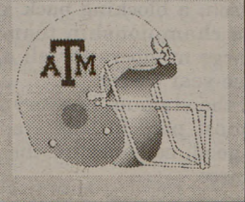


Photo courtesy of the Texas A&M University Archives

Texas A&M's Ed Kachtik scores a touchdown against Texas in 1954. The Longhorns went on to win 22-13 giving the Aggies a 1-9 record.

bent Kyle Field light towers while torrential rains drove many fans under the stands. A&M won 7-6 on a half-back pass to John David Crow from Don Watson. Tornadoes were reported in the area throughout the game.

The Aggies ended the season ranked fifth in the nation after a 34-21 victory over Texas at Memorial Stadium. Jack

Pardee, Dennis Goehring and Charles Krueger were all named All-Americans.

In 1957, John David Crow became Bryant's only Heisman Trophy winner.

"His (Crow) best year was probably my senior year, 1956," Pardee said. "He was a big back for those days. He was good blocker and a good receiver with good speed. When it came his turn to do some-

thing besides run, he was just as good at that. I think he should have won the Heisman in '56 as well as '57."

In 1962, Texas Tech hit a field goal with five seconds left to give the Red Raiders a 3-0 lead. The Aggies Dan McIlhany returned the ensuing kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown and a stunning 7-3 victory.

A&M's Statistical Leaders

Career Rushing Leaders:

Darren Lewis 1987-90 - 5,012 yards
Curtis Dickey 1976-79 - 3,703 yards
Greg Hill 1991-93 - 3,262 yards

Career Passing Leaders:

Kevin Murray 1983-86 - 6,506 yards
Edd Hargett 1966-68 - 5,379 yards
Gary Kubiak 1979-82 - 4,078 yards

Career Receiving Leaders:

Tony Harrison 1990-93 - 1,576 yards
Shea Walker 1983-86 - 1,411 yards
Rod Harris 1985-88 - 1,395 yards

Total Offense Leaders:

Kevin Murray 1983-86 - 6,455 yards
Edd Hargett 1966-68 - 5,411 yards
Darren Lewis 1987-90 - 5,162 yards

Career Punt Return Leaders:

Rod Harris 1985-88 - 971 yards
Carl Roaches 1972-75 - 916 yards
Jimmie Hawkins 1982-85 - 749 yards

Career Kickoff Return Leaders:

Rod Harris 1985-88 - 1,209 yards
Carl Roaches 1972-75 - 1,087 yards
Larry Stegent 1967-69 - 814 yards

Career Punting Leaders:

Todd Tschantz 1984-86 - 42.4 yards per kick
Phil Scoggin 1964-65 - 41.9 yards per kick
Steve O'Neal 1966-68 - 41.8 yards per kick

Career Interceptions Leaders:

Kevin Smith 1988-91 - 20
Lester Hayes 1973-76 - 14
Pat Thomas 1972-75 - 13

Career Scoring Leaders:

Tony Franklin 1975-78 - 291 points
Darren Lewis 1987-90 - 270 points
Terry Venetoulis 1990-93 - 265 points

Career Field Goal Leaders:

Tony Franklin 1975-78 - 56
David Hardy 1979-82 - 43
Terry Venetoulis 1990-93 - 42

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