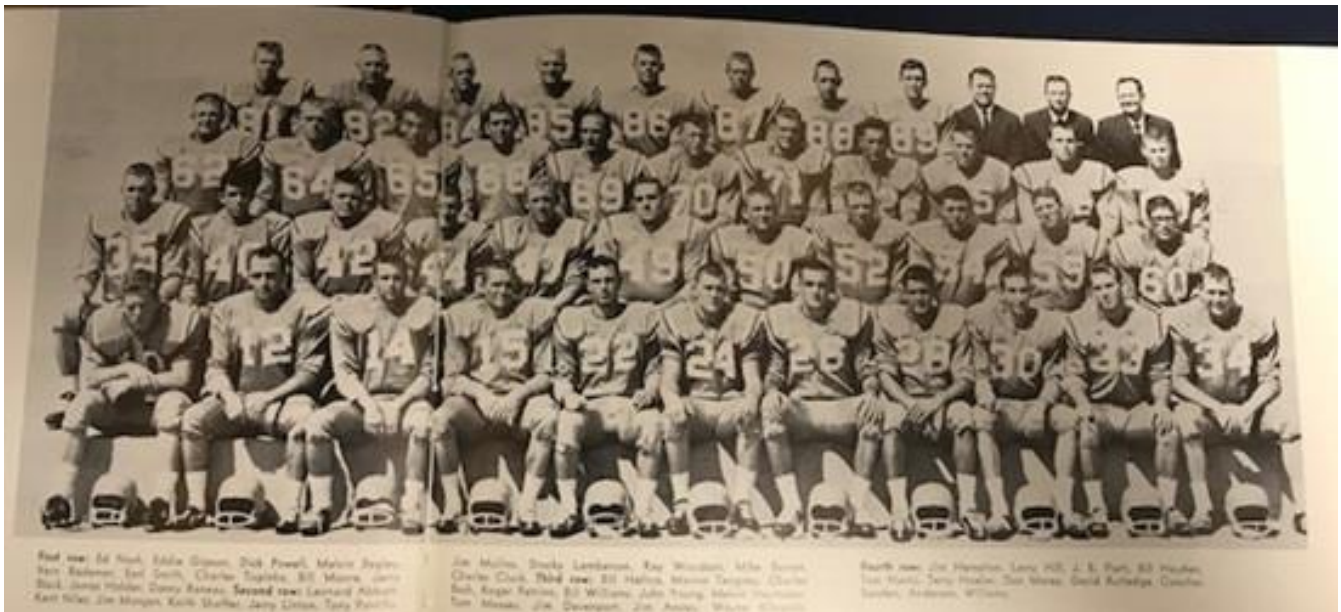


Class of 1961 Football Team and Associates Scholarship

Est. 2004

This scholarship is funded by donations made from the Class of 1961 football team members and friends. There is a Class of 1961 football team and associates reunion held every few years in Oklahoma City. This scholarship was endowed in August of 2006.



1961 Football Team

The Aggie football squad opened the 1961 season with four seniors. The players and coaches were apprehensive about the season's outcome due to youth and inexperience of the team. Inexperience was in evidence in the opening game in which Langston defeated the Aggies 33-14. At Morningside College the Aggies were defeated by a 14-7 score. Again inexperience coupled with bad breaks had played a role in turning back the Aggies.

In the opening home game the Aggie offense jelled; it cut-loose for 9 touchdowns in defeating New Mexico Western by 60-32. In the game against rugged Adams State, the Aggies displayed awesome power and beat the Indians by 30-7, starting the squad on the road toward national recognition. The fifth game of the season saw the Aggies defeat arch-rival Northwestern 17-7. The victory was the second victory ever gained by an Aggie squad over the Rangers. East Central was the next foe and the Aggies survived this cliff-hanger by 33-32.

Southwestern hopefully invaded Aggieland only to be dashed

by the Aggie great 40-0 victory. In a game, regarded as the acid test of the year, with perennially strong Nebraska State, the Aggies surprised the midland by shelling the Bobcats 56-0. A homecoming crowd of thousands cheered the Aggies as they tripped Highlands, 31-27, in a hard fought game.

In the last scheduled game, before the largest crowd ever to see a conference tilt, the Aggies played undefeated Central State at Edmond. The game was thrilling from start to finish as indicated by the score, Panhandle 27—Central 26.

As a result of the successful season the team accepted an invitation to play Langston University in the All-Sports Bowl at Oklahoma City. The Panhandle Empire moved in mass December 9 to Taff Stadium to watch Aggies triumph 28-14 in their first bowl outing.

The 1961 Aggies wrote a successful chapter in Panhandle's sport history. The season closed with the football team marking up a record of 8 wins, 2 losses, plus an impressive bowl victory.

Oscar Williams
Head Football Coach
Head Baseball Coach
Athletic Director



Otis Sanders
Assistant Football Coach
Intramural Sports Director



1961 Coaches



All-American Jerry Linton picking up his yards against Highlands at Homecoming.



James Halder
All-Conference
Back



Jerry Linton
Back
All-Conference: All-American NAJA
and Williamson Rating: Outstanding
Back All-Sports Bowl.



James Halder being brought down by Highlanders tacklers after a good gain.

David Rutledge
End
Jim Ansley
Tackle
Charles Bush
Guard
Outstanding Lineman All-Sports
Bowl.





Tony Paville
All-Conference
Honorable Mention NAIA All-American
Back



Jim Morgan
Quarterback



Showing their spirit, as they cheer the team, the Apple crowd never sits through a game.

Ray Woodson
Center

Charles Clark
Guard

Jim Davenport
Tackle

Bill Hayden
End





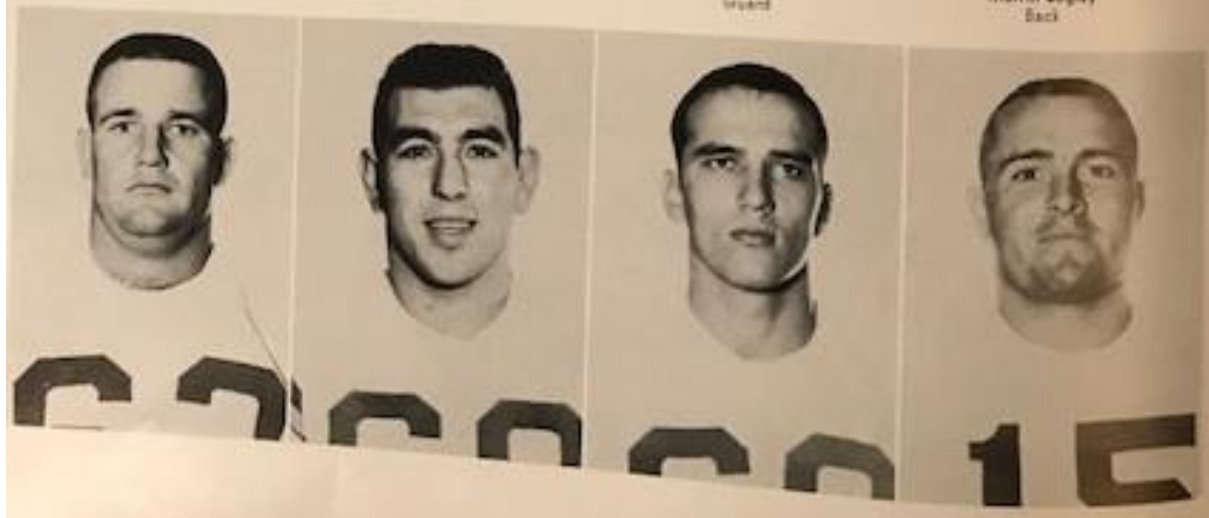
Malvin Bagley about to be brought down by a Highland's defender.
Other Appies in the picture are Charles Clark (40) and David Rutledge (49).

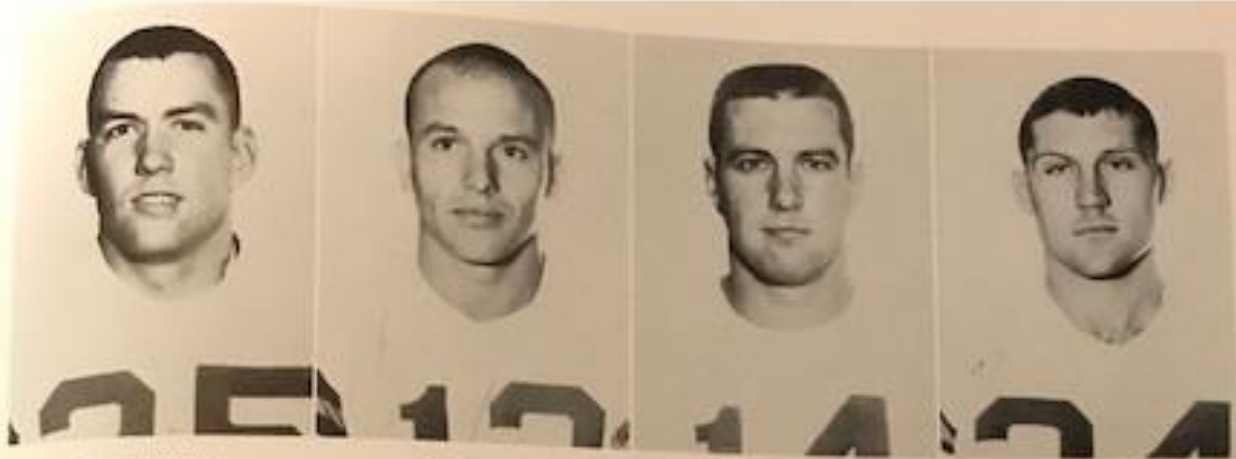
Bill Mahon
Tackle

Roger Petros
Guard

Bill Williams
Guard

Malvin Bagley
Back





Leonard Abbott
Back

Eddie Gipson
Back

Dickey Powell
Back

Earl Smith
Back



Dickey Powell and Eddie Gipson are about to bring down an Adams State runner for little gain.

Earl Smith brings back a punt return for a lot of needed yardage against Alex. Tom Messer is shown giving a helping hand.





J. B. Flinn
End



Jim Mullins
Center



Danny Reness
Back



Ed Nash
Guard



It gets rough in the Apple line as Jim Morgan (42), Jim Ansley (78), Terry Purtillo (49), and Jim Devesport (71) can vouch.

Terry Hooper
End



Jim Fowler
Guard



Keith Shaffer
Back



Bill Moore
Back





Aggie Fans supported their team well at the All-Sports Bowl in Oklahoma City.

Aggie Tom Harris is giving Langston's All-American Donnie Lee Smith a run for his money in the All-Sports Bowl.



Aggie Larry Hill was one of the unfortunate ones. He was injured shortly after the All-Sports Bowl game was under way in Oklahoma City. Coaches Sanders and Terry Hooker are making him comfortable as the game continues.



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Ray Woodson (54) picked up a loose ball and made some yardage before being brought down.



Tom Messer
Tackle

Van Rodamer
End



Wayne Klingpick
End
Dick Cleveland
Back
Jerry Black
Back



Marvin Tangner
Guard
Don Morey
End
Kent Niles
Back



Jim Holder catches a pass from Jerry Linton before being brought down by a Langston Lion in the All-Sports Classic.



Stocky Lamberon
Center

Jim Hampton
End

Mike Barron
Center

Dennis Gigamo
End

The referee keeps a close eye on Jerry Linton as he rounds the corner for yardage.

Larry Hill
End

Tom Harris
End

