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 shellacking 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 Taft 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.
All-American Jerry Linkous racking up the yards against Highlands at Homecoming.

James Holder
All-Conference Back

Jerry Linkous
Back
All-Conference; All-American NAIA and Williamson Rating; Outstanding Back All-Sports Bowl.

James Holder being brought down by Highlands tacklers after a good gain.

David Rutledge
End

Jim Ansley
Tackle

Charles Bush
Guard
Outstanding Lineman All-Sports Bowl.
Tony Pontilla
All-Conference
Honorable Mention NAIA All-Americans
Back

Jim Morgan
Quarterback

Ray Woodson
Center

Charles Clark
Guard

Jim Davenport
Tackle

Bill Hayden
End

Showing their spirit as they cheer the team, the Apple squad never sits through a game.
Malvin Bagley about to be brought down by a Highland’s defender.
Other Appies in the picture are Charles Chock (60) and David Butleridge (89).

Bill Melhorn
Tackle
Roger Patton
Guard
Bill Williams
Guard
Malvin Bagley
Back
Leonard Abbott  
Eddie Gipson  
Dickey Powell  
Earl Smith  

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

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

Jim Mullins  
Center

Danny Rennan  
End

Ed Nash  
Guard.

It gets rough in the Apple Line as Jim Morgan (42), Joe Ansley (78), Terry Fowlie (49), and Jim Davenport (75) can vouch.

Terry Hooper  
End

Jim Fowler  
Guard

Keith Skiffer  
Back

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

Aggie Lerry 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 Hopkins are making him comfortable as the game continues.
Ray Whorton (54) picked up a loose ball and made some yards before being brought down.

Tom Massey
Tackle

Yarn Rossman
Back

Wayne Klinglick
End
Dick Cleland
Back
Jerry Black
Back

Marvin Tungney
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.

Larry Hill
End

Tom Harris
End

Rocky Lamberson
Center

Mike Barron
Center

Jim Hampton
End

Dennis Giargano
Back

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