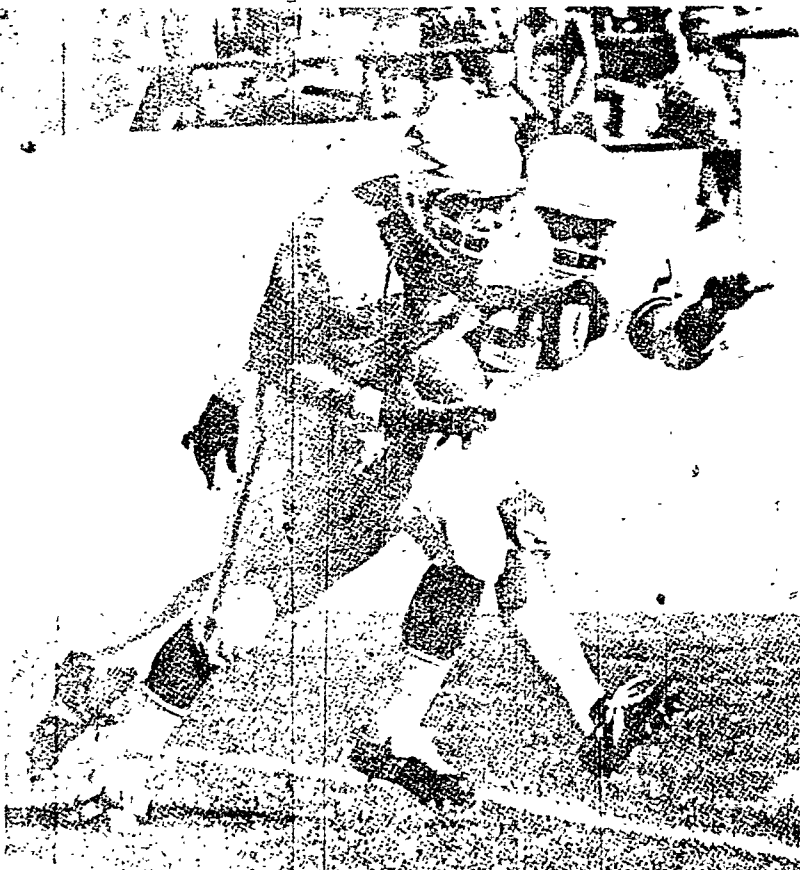


At Colorado Springs, Oct. 6

Air Force : high-flying Falcons back

By HAL BATEMAN
Director
Office of Sports Information



Flanker Frank Murphy

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Head Coach Ben Martin, starting his 16th season with Air Force, will have 24 lettermen from the team that posted a 6-4 record in 1972, the Falcons fifth straight winning year.

Air Force, which entered fall drills at full strength, will start the season with 11 returning starters, including seven from the offense, which last year scored 303 points, one of the best scoring averages in the nation.

The passing attack will pace the offense, headed by senior quarterback and co-captain Rich Haynie, a two-year starter who missed spring drills to play with the baseball team. Haynie also underwent minor knee surgery in May but is expected to be ready this fall.

Haynie, who could set just about every Falcon total offense and passing record this fall, accounted for 1,793 yards last season and passed for 17 touchdowns.

Haynie's two favorite targets last season, senior flanker Frank Murphy and senior split end Greg Smith, also are back. Murphy caught 31 passes for seven touchdowns last season while Smith had 26 catches.

In the running department, the top returnee is senior fullback Bill Berry, a starter who was the second leading rusher with 462 yards in 1972. Junior tailback Mike Mark had 373 yards as a reserve but moved into a starting berth in spring drills.

Regulars returning on the offensive front includes starting guards Lance Webb and Larry Fariss, and senior Steve Hansen, a

two-year starter at tackle who was shifted to tight end in the spring.

There are only three starters returning on defense, linebacker Jim Morris and backs Steve Heil and Dennis Collins, all seniors. Morris, defensive captain and signal caller, led the team with 120 tackles last year while Heil was next with 102 tackles. Collins was the top pass interceptor with four.

The area with the newest faces will be on the defensive front where there are no returning starters. The top carryover is senior defensive end Paul DeHart, a reserve last season. The only sophomores to break into starting berths starting fall drills are all on the defensive line, tackles Doug Kupersmith and Mike Renner and end Gary Potter.

In the kicking department, sophomore Dave Lawson returns as the top placekicker after scoring 52 points last season, including 28 of 29 extra point attempts, but the Falcons will be looking for a new punter this fall after the graduation of Jerry Olin.

Air Force will once again have a strong intersectional schedule, playing their first three games at home. After meeting Oregon, the Falcons host New Mexico and Penn State a week later. Other home games are against Davidson, Army and Rutgers.

The four away games also are tough, starting with Colorado at Boulder. The Falcons will meet Navy for the first time at Annapolis while the final two games of 1973 are on the road — at Arizona and at Notre Dame in a nationally-televised game on Thanksgiving Day.

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