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Oklahomans at home and abroad

ASSOCIATION PROGRESS

The Tulsa meeting

One of the best attended Sooner Club meetings in Tulsa was that held September 6 in the First Christian church there welcoming Athletic Director Ben G. Owen and Coaches Hardage and Rowland. One hundred and twenty-five Sooners attended. Mr. Rowland continue his rôle of afterdinner speaker, bringing laughter and applause with his many sallies.

B. A. Bridgewater, sports editor of the *Tulsa Daily World*, declared the new coaches "made a few neat verbal broken field runs and touchdowns." Mr. Bridgewater's report of the spirited meeting continues:

A crowd of about 125 O. U. alumni—many of them now prominent in Tulsa's public life—greeted the new coaches, Hardage and Rowland, and upon getting acquainted liked them very much. The boys from Vanderbilt proved entertaining after-dinner talkers, particularly the chunky Rowland whose clever persiflage kept the assembled diners in a constant uproar, for the better part of half an hour.

Hardage said some very nice things about Oklahoma university as a school. In appealing to the alumni to use their influence to send athletes to Oklahoma instead of permitting them to go to out-of-state schools, Hardage said he certainly could urge this most wholeheartedly. Naturally, being a Vanderbilt alumnus and having served the Tennessee school as a coach for so many years, Hardage said he always had considered Vanderbilt just about the last word in schools, but since he had been at Norman he had become convinced that Oklahoma university was just as fine a school.

"You Oklahomans have something to be proud of in that school," said Hardage. "Certainly there's no reason why a Tulsa athlete, or any other Tulsa boy or girl, should go out of Oklahoma to school."

Incidentally, Hardage explained the failure of Oklahoma university's football teams in recent years in a way that no doubt pleased Bennie Owen and would have made Ad Lindsey glow a bit had he been present. Hardage said the reason the football teams down at Norman had been weak was because there hadn't been

enough football players present. And he urged the alumni to correct that negative situation by bending their efforts to interest the athletes to stay at home instead of traveling far to school.

Hardage said he believed there was a great opportunity at Oklahoma and he considered himself fortunate indeed to be chosen for the football post. In all seriousness he declared he would not trade places right now with any coach in America. (He must not consider the present crop of material at O. U. so terribly inferior at that.)

The coach said he was enjoying immensely "this traveling around the state, getting acquainted with the alumni." He finds himself appreciating the truth of something Wallace Wade told him after he had moved from Alabama to Duke.

"Wade said," Hardage smiled, "that the happiest time in a coach's life is in the idle period when he leaves one school and goes to another—those months between the close of one football season and the opening of the new one, when he hasn't had time to lose any games on his new job. We have a good time going around meeting the alumni when they haven't anything against us."

The speaker who had welcomed Hardage and Rowland to Tulsa, Judge Thurman Hurst, had pointed out "Gloomy Gus" Henderson, the T. U. coach, and warned the new O. U. mentors not to expect a pushover when the Hurricane invades Norman the first of October. Francis Schmidt came up with a big T. C. U. eleven last fall, Hurst recalled, and the Texans

"had come to scoff, and remained to pray." Mentioning that advice Hardage said there would be no taking Tulsa lightly down at Norman.

"We haven't come to scoff," he said, "and we've already started praying."

Rowland, evidently on the theory that his superior had done enough serious speaking for one coaching staff, devoted himself to frivolous banter and got away with it very nicely. The way Rowland kept Hardage on the spot continuously in his talk showed the perfect understanding that exists between them, and left no doubt as to the harmony to be found in the football "brains department" at O. U. as the season opens.

Bennie Owen had explained in introducing Hardage that after the O. U. athletic council had employed Lewie to take over the football job he had been told to suggest his own assistant. O. U. wanted the new coach to have the whole set-up to his liking, and everything made over so that the best results possible could be obtained. Hardage had immediately suggested Rowland who was coaching at a small Arkansas school, Ouachita.

"The reason," said Rowland without cracking a smile, "that Hardage wanted me for an assistant was because he knew I was the only coach in the country who knew less football than he did."

Rowland had seen one after another judge, candidate, school board member, etc., introduced at the dinner—all old grads from O. U., most all lawyers. (Judge Harry Halley, '15 as, '17 law, Luther White, '14 as, Bill Eagleton, '14 as, '19 law, Candidate Holly Anderson, '24 law, Candidate Wayne Bayless, '20 law of Claremore and others were included.)

"I'm certainly glad I came over here and got acquainted," said Bo. "If things don't go so well down at Norman I'll come to Tulsa and run for something."

The assembled alumni were extremely considerate of the honor guests, all the preliminary speechmaking being brief and to the point so that the new coaches would have time to talk and get acquainted. Judge Hurst of Pawnee and Tulsa officially welcomed the visiting party and the response was made by Frank S. Cleckler, secretary of the Oklahoma Alumni association. Shelby Marr, '29as, cheer leader at O. U. back in the late 1920's led in a few rah-rah-rahs for the visitors and other guests, including Coach Henderson of T. U. and his aids, Chet Benefiel and Tom Edwards. Floyd Rheam, '24 law, the toastmaster, kept the pre-

CONTENTS

"A new deal..."	12
By Harold Keith, '28	
Laurels to these Sooner Flyers	14
Chief White Bull	15
By Stanley Vestal	
Railway Strikes and Radiator Caps	16
By Todd Downing, '24	
Marion McDowell	17
By Anne McClure	
W. C. French	18
By Muna Lee, '12	
Petroleum summer course	19
Sooner roll call	20
Belles lettres and bell ringers	30