

# How To Watch a Football Game

It's an Art, But Every Fan Is Entitled To His Own Theory Of The Most Enjoyable Way To Go Slightly Insane Each Saturday



*Some football fans are waiting eagerly for gyroscopes to be perfected*

**S**OME people just go and watch a football game, listen happily to what goes on around them, watch the game casually, then go home and listen to the radio commentators explain what it was all about, or else read the play-by-play account with diagrams and closeup pictures in the Sunday morning newspapers.

But the real dyed-in-the-wool football fans have to have a System. They have evolved, out of long experience at football game watching, a particular method of watching by which to get the maximum enjoyment. Unfortunately, no two have the same System, so it's all most confusing to anyone trying to learn the art.

One of the most popular systems is known as the Feminine or What Happened Then? System. A woman football fan tells just how it is done. "Well, I just watch the ball most of the time—if I can tell where it is. I just kind of watch the two teams and try to find where the ball is. Then I quick look down the field to see if somebody is going to catch a pass and then I look back and probably the play is all over and so I listen to the public address system to tell whether to cheer or not."

On the other hand, there is the Don't Look Now system. This is the plan followed by the football expert who is horrified if you admit that you ever watch the ball carrier. "It's the big tough linemen who take a terrific beating and really do the work," he will tell you. "The ball carrier just goes through the holes that the linemen open up. Forget about those

flashy halfbacks an keep your eye on the line."

This kind of football watcher misses a lot of exciting football, including scoring plays and other insignificant chores performed by the backfield, but the backers of this system get a lot of satisfaction out of feeling superior to the weak sisters who can't keep from watching the ball carrier.

Another system sometimes encountered—particularly at big games where nearly all seats are taken—is the Sour Grapes or Whadda I Care System of Football Watching. The proponent of this System argues that it is much better to see the game from about the 10-yard line or the goal line at one end of the stadium instead of from the 50-yard line.

"Phooey on the 50-yard line seats," he will say with a scowl, after he has made sure you don't know where to get any. "I wouldn't have one if you would give it to me. Nothing important happens in mid-field, just a lot of punting. The real scoring plays and the fast action happen down close to the goal line. That's where I like to sit."

**A**DHERENTS to this system may be recognized by the books and magazines they bring along to amuse themselves with while the two teams are playing at the other end of the field. Some recommend keeping up with the game by portable radio, or by dog team messages in November games.

A system growing in popularity is the More the Merrier system. A gang of

friends get together and nominate one to handle their ticket orders, getting a block of seats so that they can attend the games together. One nice thing about this system is that it insures you against getting caught isolated in the middle of a block of rabid supporters of the enemy team. Also it assures you of agreeable company to listen to your predictions of the score before the game, and your alibis afterwards.

An interesting variation of the Don't Look Now system is the Take Turns system. This ingenious system prescribes that during the first quarter of the game you watch only the ends; the second quarter you watch the center, tackles and guards; the third quarter you watch the backfield; and the fourth quarter you watch the blonde in the second row ahead.

Some football fans demand seats high at the top of the Stadium. Their theory is that you can follow the pattern of the play better by being well above it. It gives you a birdseye view, but what do birds know about football?

Other fans insist on having seats right down in front, practically on the sidelines. Why? Well, some like to study the elegant English spoken by a wiry halfback who has just been kneed by a 220-pound tackle. Others like to watch the boy's expressions as they exchange pleasantries after a clipping penalty. Some fans want to sit down in front so that when they stand up the whole crowd can see them, and perhaps feel impelled to

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## Campus Review

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schools has been completed by Milton Hopkins, associate professor of botany. The specimens, mounted on large pieces of cardboard and covered with cellophane, are divided into duplicate sets of 20 state plants as traveling collections. State schools may obtain the plants through the University Extension Division.

► F. F. Gaither, '21ba, '26m.ed, director of teacher education, has been granted a sabbatical leave of absence from the O. U. faculty to do research work in teacher education at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. Mr. Gaither has been awarded a Mary E. Fletcher fellowship to do the research.

► O. J. Eigsti, associate professor of botany, has been awarded a grant of \$100 from the Society of Sigma Xi, national scientific research society, for the promotion of research. The money is to be used for the purchase of optical equipment.

► Stewart Harral, '36ma, associate professor of journalism and director of press relations, has been elected vice president in charge of research of the American College Publicity Association.

► Lt. Richard F. Thweatt, formerly stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, has been appointed professor of military science and tactics on the University R. O. T. C. staff.

► Odeal Locke, '24ba, '40ma, graduate assistant in the O. U. English Department for the last three years, has been appointed speech and English teacher at Norman High School.

► V. Lauren Shelton, University business teacher and a certified public accountant, has been elected an associate in the American Institute of Accountants. Mr. Shelton is one of 117 recently chosen members.

### Covering the Campus

The University is sponsoring three college-grade defense courses in Oklahoma City. They include engineering drawing, engineering physics and a course in the inspection and testing of non-metallic materials. . . . Many persons trained in special defense engineering classes at O. U. are now working, or expect to go to work soon, at the Douglas Aircraft Bomber plant in Tulsa. . . . Another of the ways in which the University is co-operating with the national defense program is an arrangement whereby men interested in going into the U. S. Air Corps can take the 19 hours of college work needed for entrance in one semester. . . . Although several divisions of O. U. have contributed faculty members to the national defense setup, the College of Engineering leads all other schools and colleges at O. U. with twelve staff members in military and industrial service. . . . The University Hospital in Oklahoma City expects to re-

ceive federal funds for expansion of nurses' training, which will allow the School of Nursing to accept from 20 to 25 more applicants.

► Due to a reduction of more than \$15,000 in the University NYA appropriation for this year, the number of students who pay part of their expenses with NYA jobs has been cut approximately 20 per cent. Grades, as usual, played a prominent part in the selection of students to receive the NYA assistance. About 600 students are receiving NYA aid this year compared with 833 last year. . . . Work on two new NYA dormitories, made possible through a \$40,000 allocation by the State Legislature, has begun. They will provide living quarters for 90 men and 90 women and a dining hall to be located between the two buildings. In addition to sleeping rooms, the dormitories will provide rooms for study, recreation and entertainment. Location is the northeast corner of Jenkins Avenue and Lindsay Street.

► Rush held in early September was climaxed with the pledging of 244 students by fraternities and 190 by sororities.

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vote for them in the next legislative election.

Football watchers are badly split on the merits of aisle seats vs. inside seats. Some argue that it's best to sit on the aisle where you can get in and out without tripping over feet, pop bottles and overcoats. Others contend that it's better to get settled in the middle of a row and stay there, letting all those who want to see a man about a dog depart on either side of you.

Football watching, like the automobile, seems to be here to stay and there are numerous modern improvements and accessories. Fully equipped with program, pennant, souvenir football on a cane, arm band colors, chrysanthemum, seat cushion, raincoat, blanket, thermos jar of hot coffee, a hot dog with mustard, and a portable radio with which to keep up with other games—the modern football watcher is well prepared for a happy afternoon or a polar expedition with Admiral Byrd.

One off-brand football watching system is the Scotch variety. This type of fan relaxes beside his radio in a comfortable chair at home, perhaps with a tall drink of his choice, and hears the game via the ether waves. Sometimes two or more fans get together to listen this way. That is known as a Double Scotch.

However, for fresh air, sunshine and a thoroughly hoarse throat we recommend the regular varieties of football watching.

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