

The Gridiron's in Hawaii

But the Tactics Used By Major Stacy's Air Force Football Team Will Be Strictly Owen Field

By ERNIE HOBerecht

IF the Seventh Air Force football team in Hawaii brings in the bacon this season, every Sooner in the Pacific area will know it's because Maj. James W. Stacy, '35ed, is helping coach these gridsters.

The coaching staff is headed by Capt. Charles Erb, who was twice an All-America quarterback and veteran Pacific coast college mentor, but all Oklahomans between San Francisco and Tokyo are confident the winning plays will be those of Major Stacy picked up at Owen Field. There is no doubt that many Big Six stunts will be repeated in Alohaland.

Stacy's outfit already has four games scheduled and an additional five games are contemplated, pending approval by the Hawaiian department. The squad consists of 40 officers and men. Major Stacy is determined to put them through the paces—the same rugged treatment he got during the week-day practice sessions in the shadow of the big Norman stadium.

It will not be Major Stacy's rank or his size that will get the men into action. They will be co-operating with him and taking his instructions gladly. He is one of the most respected and most popular officers in the very busy sector.

Major Stacy, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Stacy, Altus, Oklahoma, is Post Special Service Officer at an air base on Oahu. His work is sincerely appreciated by all the men and he gets along with everybody as well as he did with the members of the Altus High School team.

During three of the four years he played with the Altus gridsters, he was All Southwestern Conference Tackle.

For two years he was Southwestern Conference All Heavyweight Wrestling Champion. One year he captured the state heavyweight crown.

He worked his way through the University of Oklahoma, pounding his path the hard way, learning to take the hard knocks that come plenty often in the Pacific area. In June, 1935, he was graduated with a B. S. degree in Education.

He did right well for himself during his athletic career at O. U. He was chosen All Big Six Tackle three years. In 1935, he played in the East-West game.

He first came to Hawaii from San Francisco with an All-Star team of East-West

game players who invaded the islands to tangle with a local combination.

Out of college, Major Stacy accepted an offer to play professional football with the Detroit Lions. For three years he stuck to pro-ball, and was with the Lions when they won the World Pro Title.

The Lions headed for Hawaii to play some games, and so Major Stacy made his second trip to the islands. On the return voyage he had a shipboard romance with a girl who was on her way from Honolulu to the Mainland to study nursing. A year later they were married in Hollywood.

Spotting the handwriting on the wall, Major Stacy saw that he could not play professional football forever. So he and his wife decided to see what Honolulu had to offer.

They docked at Honolulu June 8, 1938, with a few dollars and Major Stacy's determination that is so easily detected. Immediately he was hired as assistant warehouse manager for the General Electric Company representative. He held the job until November 9, 1940, when he was called to active duty.

While at O. U. he had received a commission as second lieutenant in the Field Artillery Reserves. He was one of the first 10 Army reserve officers in the islands to be called into active service for their country. He reported for active duty as an administrative officer in the Air Corps.

For his first duty he was assigned to a tactical organization as publicity, athletic, recreation and transportation officer. That was his primary duty. His additional duty was morale officer of the post. Later he was on duty as post athletic recreation and morale officer, a position he held until the morning of the Jap blitz when all athletic and recreation work was halted.

At that time he was stationed at Hickam Field. He was asleep, but the first bomb knocked him out on the floor.

"I jumped up after another explosion," he related. "I'll never forget the sight that met my eyes as I ran to the window. Outside, a Jap plane was coming down in flames. It was easy to identify.

"I told my wife to get dressed and to get away from the field as quickly as possible.

"Knowing it would be almost impossible to get around while the Japs were strafing, I remained in the house through the first attack. Then I beat it to the barracks to see what I could do.

"I helped clear the boys out. When there was nothing else to be done there, I went to Post Headquarters to report to my superior officer.

"I was there during the second raid in

which seven bombs landed from 75 to 100 yards away.

"I was knocked down again, and got a little mad. I intended to lie down, but it seemed to me at that moment that the Japs were being a little rude about the whole thing.

"Somebody yelled 'Clear the building,' and I got out on the hospital grounds. I was there for the third Jap party. And I saw a good size Jap bomb land within 30 yards of the hospital. It blew a terrific hole in the lawn.

"Up until that point, I don't think I had been boiling angry—but after that bomb just missed the hospital, I was really mad. I was scared, too. Anybody who says he wasn't is a liar.

"I found a boy lying under a truck. He didn't need his rifle any more, so I grabbed it and took a couple of shots at a Jap plane. The plane turned and two paths of machine gun bullets began tearing up the ground as they headed for me. Luckily, they stopped in time."

There was a lot of cleaning up to be done after the attack, and Major Stacy was placed in charge of evacuating women and children from the field. He secured food and bedding for them that first night.

The next day, he was assigned as Military Postal Officer in charge of the field post office and started censorship immediately.

He remained on that duty until February when he was selected to activate a new squadron as squadron commander. He was squadron commander until May 5, 1942. At that time the Post Commander asked him to transfer back to Special Service Officer.

He has been a Special Service Officer ever since, and at the field where he is now stationed he has developed fine recreational features for other members of the flying forces. There is a large gymnasium—one of the biggest and most modern in the islands—and there is a motion picture theater that gives five complete showings daily.

Under Major Stacy's direction, a service club for enlisted men was built. And there is a wonderful library, too. He is supervisor of the field's newspaper.

He has charge of the swimming pool, the bowling alleys. He has seen to it that a large sum from the field's recreation fund is now invested in War Bonds.

Investing money in War Bonds is a cinch—but the Sooners who intend to be on the sidelines when Stacy's team goes on the field say the Seventh Air Force football team will be just as much of a sure thing when those Owen Field tricks come out of the bag.