

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

Oklahoma's defensively rugged but undeveloped football team divided its first two games, losing 7-21 to Army and defeating Texas A. and M. 10-7.

Coach Jim Tatum's fighting Sooners surprised the nation in their battle against Army's defending national champions on Army's home field at West Point. Against an Army team that was without Felix "Doc" Blanchard, All-American fullback, the Sooners played very evenly and deserved at the worst a tie.

The fierce tempo of the game, rocking-socking defensive play with the rival tacklers striking the ball-carriers with force intended to knock the ball from his hands, was evident in the first half when the rival lines slugged it out, completely stopping the running attacks.

The Sooners scored first when Norman McNabb, 194-pound ex-Marine who played his last football for Coach Chalky Stogner's Norman High School Tigers several years ago, blocked an Army punt on the goal and Bill Morris, left tackle from Oklahoma City and also an ex-Marine covered the ball for a touchdown. Quarterback Dave Wallace kicked goal.

Army tied the score 7-7 just before the half ended when Quarterback Arnold Tucker flipped a quickie pass to Left End Foldberg in the end zone after two other passes, Tucker to Glenn "Junior" Davis, Army's All-American left half, had carried from the Army 39.

At the start of the last half, Army quickly scored again and led 14-7. Poole, Army's other fine end, blocked an Oklahoma punt and taking over on the Sooner 15, the Cadets again took to the air, Tucker passing to Davis to take the ball up to the goal from whence Fuson bucked off tackle two yards for a touchdown, scoring by inches. MacMull again kicked goal.

Then followed the game's most sensational moments for the 2,000 Oklahomans in the stands and the hundreds of thousands listening by radio back home. The Sooners made a great threat to score on a long march from kickoff. Joe "Junior" Golding, 26-year old Sooner halfback from Eufaula, turned left end for 10 yards and the Sooners were off to the races.

Jack Mitchell, sophomore quarterback from Arkansas City and Ponca City, was doing the quarterbacking behind a 210-pound Sooner line that leveled everything before it. Mitchell faked a lateral and chugged ahead five yards. Darrell Royal of Hollis whipped around end for 20. Golding cut back inside tackle for 10 more. George "Junior" Thomas, Fairland freshman, ripped off nine. When Mitchell spurred down the middle for five yards on a quarterback sneak, the ball rested only four yards from the Army goal and the valiant Sooners had come 73 long yards from kickoff with first down and goal to go. It looked like they couldn't miss.

Then disaster overtook the Oklahomans. Thomas tried a wide play and Tucker, the excellent Army quarter rified in from the secondary to spill him for a two-yard loss. Then Mitchell tried a short forward pass towards the end zone, basketballing the pigskin to Royal who stood behind the defensive back. But again Mr. Tucker was Johnny-on-the-spot. He leaped high to intercept the ball inside the field of play and came back to the Army seven. Then West, Army punter kicked to midfield. The Sooner drive was scotched.

The Sooners weren't licked yet. With the sun sinking into the green woodland behind the snug, little Army stadium, Mitchell arched a long punt deep into Army territory. Myrle Greathouse, Sooner fullback from Amarillo, Texas, and another ex-Marine (it was a big day for Sooner Marines) hit Gustafson, Army safety, with a quail-high tackle, knocking the ball from his paws. Then

Greathouse himself dove for the ball and it was his on the Army 18 with the third quarter almost up. Again Oklahoma was knocking at the Army goal for the tying touchdown.

Golding was called around end and got four yards. Wallace came in at quarterback and turned right end for one yard. Golding was tried on his dive-tackle play and shot off the strong side for four more. It was fourth down and one to go on the Army 13. Everybody could scent this was the crucial down.

Again the play boomeranged fatally for Oklahoma. Wallace lateraled to Royal sweeping wide around his right. The Army defense piled up the play, Royal being tackled while trying to secure possession of the ball. It was knocked into the air. Again the alert Mr. Tucker was Johnny-on-the-spot. He neatly caught the loose ball in the air and ran 85 yards to the decisive touchdown. All over the nation Sooners listening in gasped with disappointment and turned away from the radio. That was the finish.

Even in defeat there was ample consolation for Oklahoma. Although his pass-receiving set up two touchdowns, Davis, Army's famous "Mr. Outside," was stopped cold on the ground for the first time in his career, held to an average of 1.7 net yards per carry, held without a touchdown for the first time in three years. Oklahoma out-ran the Cadets on the ground 127 to 83 net yards but was in turn out-done in the forward-passing. Golding was the best back on the field with 72 net yards gained. The generous eastern press was eloquent about Oklahoma's savage line play.

Accompanied by Dr. George Cross, president of the University, the Sooner team flew to and from the game in two planes chartered from the Braniff Company of Oklahoma City.

OKLAHOMA 10, TEXAS AGGIES 7

"We're still a long ways from an organized ball club," said Coach Tatum following the Sooner's dramatic 10-7 win over Coach Homer Norton's Texas Aggies the following Saturday (October 5) before 28,000 fans at Norman in the home opener.

Again the Sooner defense was double tough, holding the Texas Aggies to a minus eight yards gained rushing. The Sooner attack was some improved. Instead of fumbling twelve times as against Army, the Sooners fumbled only three times against Texas A. and M. The pass protection and pass defense were better. But the offensive smoothness that comes from long usage of the T formation simply hadn't had time to develop. Twice Oklahoma was turned back on the goal after spending lavishly of her strength to reach there.

The first wasted drive occurred in the first quarter when Oklahoma marched magnificently 84 yards downfield and was held for downs on the Cadet one-yard mark. Old Man Golding ripped off T carries of 11, 11 and 17 yards. Charley Sar-ratt hurled a pass to Warren Giese that gained 42 yards. But the tightly-banked Cadets piled the fourth down play.

The Sooner second team scored in the second quarter and Oklahoma led 7-0 at the half. Mitchell counted the touchdown with a three-yard buck after Greathouse blocked out a key Aggie defender and Wallace kicked goal. Again McNabb, the blond, somber ex-Marine from Norman, made the touchdown possible. He blocked Welch's punt, Nute Trotter, Sooner right tackle, recovering on the Texas Aggie five.

The fiery Texans tied the score in the third quarter when Marion Flanagan, their quarterback, ran back a Sooner punt 72 yards in the game's most sensational play, Ballentine goaling. They threatened again in the third quarter when Lee Daniels authored a 43-yard passing offensive.

The Sooners kept pounding and pulled out the victory in the final 40 seconds on a 25-yard field goal by Wallace, after Royal had taken the ball down to the goal with a 30-yard run.

O.U.-Army Game, Reunion Dance, Plane, Boat Trips Thrill Sooners

By BUD BAER, '47
O.U. Journalism Senior

"Pardon me, sir, but how can I get to Pennsylvania from here?"

"Toin left at Toity-Foist; den go tree blocks to da right . . ."

"Huh?" What did you say? What kind of lingo is that?"

This was nearly typical of the conversation resulting between Oklahomans and New Yorkers when Sooner fans staged a mass invasion of the east September 28 for the Army-Oklahoma game at West Point. Southwesterners never realized they had an accept until they began conversing with the Easterners.

Train loads, plane loads and car loads of high-spirited folk from the covered wagon state pushed 1700 miles to West Point so they could help push the team over the goal line with rabid moral support.

Before the game you could spot an Oklahoman clearly at 100 yards. Sooner women wore giant white chrysanthemums over a red background. Down the sidewalks of New York, one could sight O.U. colors, red and white, on numerous occasions.

The chief topic of current bull sessions in lobbies of hotels where Oklahomans were staying revolved about the coming football game with the Cadets.

"Give me ten points and I'll lay you ten bucks on Oklahoma" was a familiar tone that would occasionally be heard from within a circle of buzzing team followers.

The evening before the game, an informal gathering for "people from the land of the Red man" took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel New Yorker.

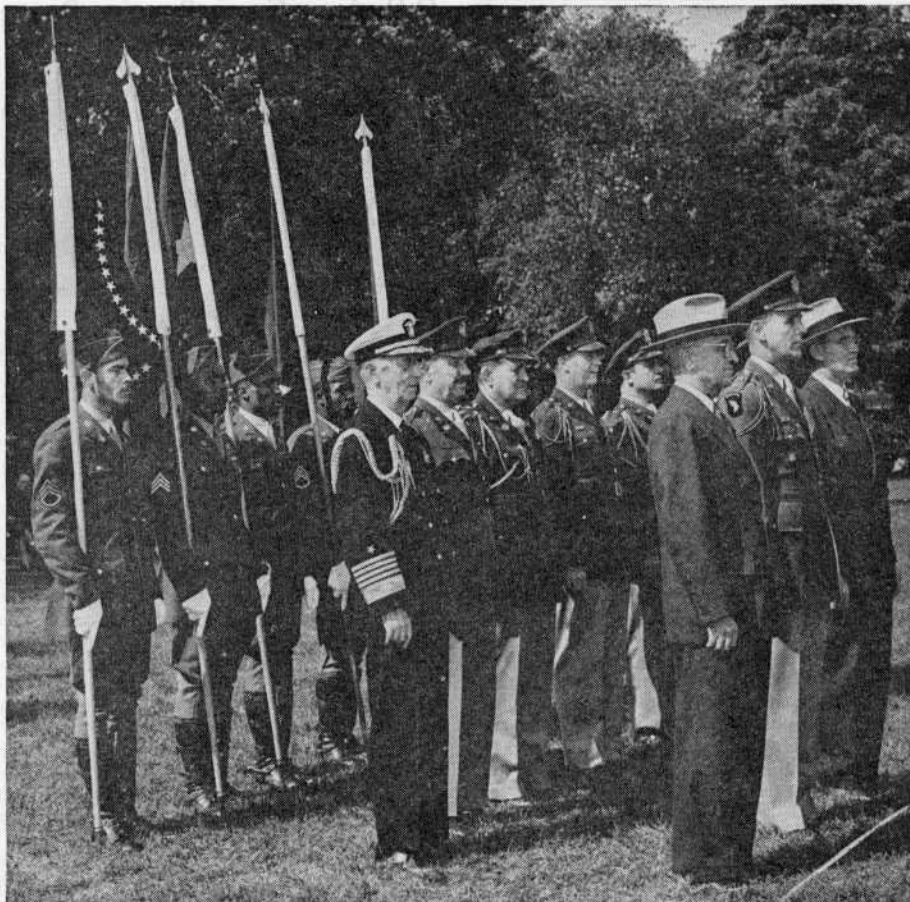
Ted Beaird, executive secretary of the Sooner Alumni Association, was chief hand shaker at this preliminary warm-up which turned out to be a very full weekend. Oklahoma songs, O.U. pep yells and gaiety resounded from the walls of the crowded ballroom throughout the evening. An occasional speech by a University official or an Oklahoma alumni could be heard above the din



BUD BAER



Before taking off for the O.U.-Army game, Bill Morris, Sooner left tackle, proves to Evelyn Brown, '43-'45, Anadarko, hostess on the trip, that he weighs 201 pounds. Morris, who was a reserve end and tackle at the University in '41 and '42, served in the Marine Corps for 31 months.



Watching the cadets march in review at the O.U.-Army game at West Point, are (first row, left to right) President Truman, Major General Taylor, Dr. Cross; (second row) Fleet Admiral Leahy, Lieutenant General Wheeler, Major General Vaughan, Brigadier General Higgins, Brigadier General Graham, and Captain Hogan, aide to General Taylor (hat showing behind Dr. Cross).

of Sooners welcoming Sooners from way, way back.

Early the following morning sea-faring Sooners boarded the steamship Alexander Hamilton for a 40-mile run up the history-ridden Hudson river. The three-hour boat trip on the colorful Hudson was a novelty to most University team followers since practically all the navigating they had done had been on Oklahoma's Canadian tributary.

Leaving New York City's spectacular skyline scene, the ship passed the Jackson monument and the Palisades before steaming under the huge span of the George Washington Bridge.

"Just what we need on the Chickasha road," was one passing remark in reference to the bridge.

The Alexander Hamilton passed numerous vessels along the Hudson. These were never-ending source of interest to the folks from the West.

When the ship came in sight of West Point, anxious people began to jam the entrance to the gangplank. West Point at first glance looked like a mighty castle of some medieval king with its gray, sturdy buildings built right into the side of steep Catskill Mountains.

Debarking from the ship, Sooners ganged about a pennant salesman on the pier hoping to display their enthusiasm over O.U. by waving Oklahoma flags. It was indeed disheartening to find that only Oklahoma A. and M. pennants were available. A verbal reprimanding failed to enlighten the salesman on the fact that there was a difference between the two Oklahoma schools.

After trudging up what seemed an infinite number of stone steps, Oklahomans tiredly trudged to the West Point drill field, to watch the Cadets pass in review before the President of the United States. Brass buttons, tassels on hats, bluish-grey uniforms, rifles on shoulders, platoon on platoon of militarily erect West Pointers passed by in perfect alignment.

Following the drill, over 2,000 cheering Sooners moved to a special section of Michie Stadium to

watch Oklahoma (David) tackle Army (Goliath). While the teams were warming up, the Army mule paraded around the field.

Spurred on by hysteric screams of team rooters in the east stands, the Oklahoma eleven surprisingly outplayed the Cadets, gaining more yardage on the ground, getting more first downs and outclassing the West Pointers in team appearance.

The crowd went wild when O.U. scored the first touchdown of the game. Even though the Sooners dropped the game, 21 to 7, to the fighting Army team, Oklahoma's display of football antics won the admiration of 25,500 spectators at the game.

Proudly the Oklahomans paraded from the stadium after the game shouting, "What a game! we showed 'em!"

The gay, colorful stage show "Oklahoma!" was the next event on the visitors' schedule. Nothing could have been more appropriate for the sight-seeing Sooners than "Oklahoma!"

Listening to the cast sing the song "Oklahoma!" was an inspiration to the people from the Indian-populated state. The words "You're doing fine, Oklahoma" which the chorus sang were very fitting after the showing made by the Oklahoma team against the Army that same day.

After the show, O.U. football players went on the stage to meet members of the cast.

Some of the group continued their tour of noted spots in New York by taking in the well-known night clubs, such as the Stork Club and Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe. "Champagne on the house—courtesy of Manager Sherman Billingsly of Enid" highlighted the Stork Club visit.

When the time came to head back West, droopy-eyed touring Sooners, five days behind in sleep, weren't too tired to relate their experience.

Each Oklahoman who made the trip appeared to have that "loosen your belts" attitude of satisfaction as though he had just finished eating Thanksgiving dinner.

Editor's Note: Bud Baer, Oklahoma Daily sports editor was selected by the Student Senate to attend the O.U.-Army game as the official representative of O.U.



John Husak (center), Sooner guard, gets a handshake for extra luck from Joe Tackwell, a member of the Ruf Neks, before the plane takes off for New York. Looking on is Warren Giese, right end of the team. In foreground are Kendell Garnis (left) and James McGowan (right), members of the Ruf Neks, O.U. men's pep organization.