

Wilkinson Stays; Still Has Problems

With bulletin after bulletin, flash after flash trickling over the wires since the final gun ending the Sugar Bowl classic in New Orleans, *Sooner Magazine* staff cartoonist Barrett "visualizes" the O.U. fan looking with admiration at Coach Bud and dreaming of the future.

One early bulletin stated, "Development of a quarterback to replace Jack Mitchell, All-American standout, and rebuilding the left side of the line are problems confronting Coach Charles "Bud" Wilkinson and his aides in the coming spring practice for Oklahoma's Big Seven Conference and Sugar Bowl football champions.

"Players lost to the Sooners are Mitchell, A. & S. Arkansas City, Kansas; Myrle Greathouse, Business, Amarillo, Texas, standout linebacker; Co-Captain Homer Paine, Business, Enid, three-time all-conference left tackle; Paul "Buddy" Burris, Business, Muskogee, All-American guard; Pete Tillman, Business, Mangum, starting center; Truman "Teabone" Wright, A. & S., Houston, Texas, reserve tackle; and Bill Remy, A. & S., Norman, reserve back."

Musing over what everyone was excited about as he landed back on home soil following the National Coach's Association meet in San Francisco, Coach Bud said, "The situation is the same as it was before the Sugar Bowl game. I was satisfied with things here at O.U. then, I have always been satisfied here and I am satisfied now."

Busying himself following his strenuous tour of duty at the National Coach's meet in San Francisco with the one biggest problem at hand, namely, the completion of plans for University athletic building expansion program, the Sooner Coach cleared up one other widely discussed point. He stated, "We are planning no change from the split-T to the single wing formation. Our team knows the split-T and I would not think of scrapping it for some other formation unless it is absolutely necessary."

By the time this issue of *Sooner Magazine* goes to press, it is expected that Bud will be enjoying his deserved rest in Arizona with his wife and family—then back to O.U. for a strenuous 1949 spring practice.

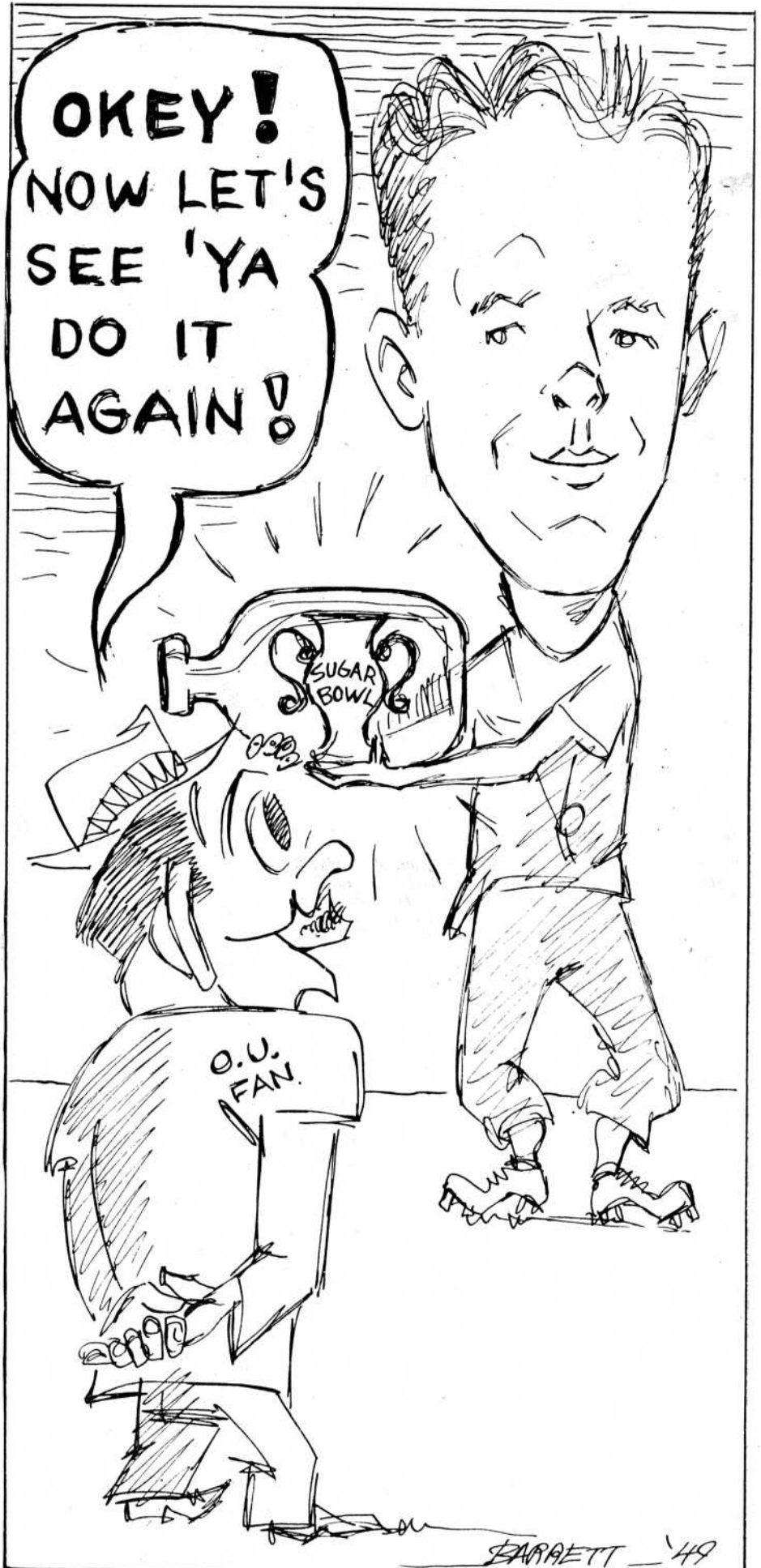
Oklahoma Quarterbacks

(Alumni football fans will be interested in the following letter written to the Alumni Association office by Hal Middlesworth, sports editor of *The Daily Oklahoman*, which explains the origins and aims of the Oklahoma City Quarterback's Club.)

The Monday Quarterbacks Club is a somewhat unusual organization in these parts, although there are similar plans in operation elsewhere. It was started three years ago by the sportswriters and broadcasters of Oklahoma City—with Curt Gowdy of KOMA and myself taking the lead in getting the ball rolling. Since then we have acted as sort of unofficial committee of two to direct the thing.

As you can see, it is a rather informal unit on the executive end but it has worked out well.

Our idea was this: The sportswriters and broadcasters want to talk with the coaches each week about the weekend's games and about the games coming up. The fans would like to hear what the coaches have to say. Therefore, the writers and radio men will invite the coaches to come to a luncheon, conduct their interviews so the fans can





Four sportswriters and casters who regularly attend Monday Quarterbacks luncheons sit for a portrait. In the front row on the left is Hal Middlesworth, sports editor of the Daily Oklahoman and WKY sportscaster. Lower right is Curt Gowdy, who now broadcasts for KOCY and has handled all O.U. football games for the last four years. Middlesworth and Gowdy founded the Quarterbacks Club. In the rear are left to right, Pete Rice and Laymond Crump of the Daily Oklahoman sports staff.

listen in—and two birds are killed with one stone. The showing of a football movie is an added feature each week.

Throughout the country, there are football writers' luncheons like this. In most cases, however, the writers and coaches are the only ones who attend. I know of one other instance where the Oklahoma City plan is used. That is in Chicago, where the *Herald-American* sponsors a Monday quarterbacks luncheon—open to the public, but conducted by the writers.

Our basic principle is that the meetings here are non-partisan. We include ALL colleges of the state—although of necessity Oklahoma will be represented more often than Oklahoma A&M because of the distance the coaches have to travel. The same way, we have Oklahoma City University coaches with us every meeting, while Tulsa sends a man only once or twice a year.

In spite of that, the writers and radio men are interested in the gatherings only so long as they embrace all schools. When they lose that broad base, we will withdraw.

As I say, the organization is somewhat informal. We conduct a season ticket sale before the football season starts. The past two years, the prices have been \$15 for 10 luncheon meetings. The season tickets entitle fans to first service at the luncheons, where there are sometimes more fans than room. We have sold about 200 season tickets each year.

Then we sell individual luncheon tickets for \$2.

That is a non-season ticket holder can attend one luncheon for that price. The season ticket holders are seated first, however.

Several of our luncheons have hit 300 attendance and twice we've had to turn away a few customers this season.

Represented on our governing group are *The Daily Oklahoman*, radio stations KOMA, KOCY, KTOK, KBYE, the Associated Press, and the United Press. Any sports writer or sportscaster is welcome to join us. . . .

Yours sincerely, Hal Middlesworth.

Mrs. Owens Should Know

BY MARTHA WOOD OWEN, '47

At the request of Sooner Magazine staff, Mrs. Jimmy Owen, Martha Wood, '47, wrote the following article from her own personal experiences as the wife of All Big 7 End Jimmy Owens, for the past few years, an O.U. gridiron great.

There must have been a lot of mighty proud people around January 1st, but look anywhere and you could find no one happier or more proud than the football player's wives as they joyfully worshipped and cheered their hero-husbands in New Orleans on that unforgettable day.

This day was the end—the victorious end—of months and months of sacrifice for both Jimmy and myself. We had worked for it and this day

meant a wonderful few days of relaxing in New Orleans; it meant that Jimmy would be home nights, and it meant an occasional party or movie instead of football talk mixed in with a few precious hours that Jimmy could spend on his law books.

There are about 20 boys on the football team who are married and their 20 wives are O.U.'s strongest and most faithful fans. Most of the wives have made all but one or two games out of the year and some even managed to go out California way last September. They were all there when the team sweltered in Texas and when they froze in Kansas. A lot of the girls had a hard time getting off work for the New Orleans trip, but we all made it, and it was really swell.

It isn't all wonderful trips and exciting Saturday afternoons, however. There are quite a few tiresome ordeals that comprise a football season—such things as the Friday nights when "Bud" takes the boys to the City.

And then there's the evening meal you eat alone every night while they have their required calories at the training table. Of course, this saves on the budget but we'd still like to see our husbands on the other side of the dinner table. We also have the night meetings, the football movies, and the many chalk sessions to put up with throughout the week. Then there's the "talk." All of the boys seem to limit themselves to football language between September and November and it is really an endurance contest for all listeners.

Every game of the season is played at least 15 times during the following week. Not only do I hear about the game at home but people, in general, think we (the wives) know a reason for every play of every game. They also feel sure that you can supply them with an unlimited number of tickets to a game whether it's Monday morning or Saturday at 1:30 just before play starts.

When the game finally arrives everyone is usually sick with nervous indigestion. It's been a night and a day since you've seen your husband and it seems like an eternity till you hear the last gun go off. A mad rush to the dressing room and then a long wait till the players come out is something you just have to get used to. Win or lose



Rivalry is forgotten at the Oklahoma City Monday Quarterbacks Club as Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, University sports publicity director, laughingly supplies a light to Otis Wile, who fills the same position for Oklahoma A.&M. College.