



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.



*Martha and Jimmy Owens pose together with smiles typical of their happy "football" family. They were married in June of 1947 and both attended Classen High School, Oklahoma City. She is the former Martha Wood, '47.*

they're cheered for we all know that everyone of them played a good game.

One of the biggest thrills of the football wife is waiting for the Sunday papers to possibly see your husband's picture and also to read the write-up of the game. It's hard to sleep Saturday night because Jimmy is still under tension and oftentimes jumps out of bed to catch a pass. He not only lives the game, but, on occasion, sleeps it!

Even Sunday afternoons are not free. The players go to a meeting to discuss Saturday's game and the one coming up. They are so tired after practice that entertainment is just scratched off the agenda till after football season.

Any sacrifice that the wives had to make this year was doubly rewarded, however, when we learned that we would be allowed to make the Sugar Bowl trip. We knew how much it meant to the team and knew we were lucky to be included. Now that it's over, I'm sure all the wives would say it's one of the most wonderful experiences ever. It certainly was for me. We had such a grand time on the Gulf in Biloxi, Mississippi, for five days that we hated to leave even for New Orleans. We spent four other days in New Orleans

and with the game and all its thrills, the French Quarter, Canal Street, and all that is New Orleans, they were almost too much for us. It seemed like a wonderful dream come true, and we were glad that it was O.U.'s greatest team in history.

We are all glad that the season's over but, as usual, everyone will be all set next fall. It's fun being a football wife—Ask any of us!

**Editor's note—Ask the man who owns one!**

## Athletic Plant to Expand

Headlines such as "Tickets for O.U.-Missouri Game Sold Out" and "Only Half of Students to See O.U. Home Basketball Games" will cease to plague Sooner Alumni and students soon when present building and expansion plans are put into operation.

The program, when completed, will give the University one of the most complete athletic plants in the nation including a 55,000 seat football stadium, a fieldhouse with a seating capacity of 20,000, and a modern outdoor track layout.

The stadium addition is scheduled to be ready for the start of the 1949 season and the other projects will begin with the completion of the stadium.

University regents recently approved the stadium construction, which, it is estimated, will cost \$1,000,000, and authorized a contract with Wright and Selby, of Oklahoma City, the project engineer and architect.

It is likely that the enlargement of Owen field will result in Oklahoma's being able to sign home-and-home playing agreements with "big name" schools who have been hesitant to play in a 30,000 seat stadium since they could not get a large enough financial guarantee to pay travel and other expenses.

The expansion plans call for erecting approximately 17,000 seats at the north end of the stadium, making it into a horseshoe. The circular track around the field will be eliminated and the present playing field will be lowered six feet.

Seats will be constructed from ground level to the new level on all four sides of the field and room on the south end will be left for temporary bleachers. The below-ground level seats will number about 9,000, bringing the total of permanent seats added to approximately 25,000.

The University stadium was built in 1929 to hold 30,000 fans, but with the aid of bleachers and chairs set on the cinder track, handled 39,000 persons for this season's Missouri game.

Since the war, University students have nearly filled the east side for Norman games, leaving only the west side for the general public.

The structure that sports writers have described as "the worst in the southwest" will be replaced by a 3-decker, 40-yard-long press box on the west side of the stadium. It will be built over the west side on its own foundation as the present structure cannot support the additional weight.

Present ramps into the stadium will be widened to prevent jamming of spectators filing in and out of the stadium, and a new electric clock and score board showing the progress of the game will be erected at the south end.

The regents' approval of the million dollar project came shortly after the end of the 1948 season during which the Sooners set a new crowd attendance per game record of 30,819 spectators for four home games.

A self-liquidating bond issue is planned to finance the construction but terms of the financing have not yet been settled.

Athletic director Charles "Bud" Wilkinson, since coaching the Sooners to a Sugar Bowl victory, has been considering plans for the new 20,000 seat fieldhouse which will replace the present inadequate basketball facilities.

The present fieldhouse was completed in 1928 when basketball coach Bruce Drake was an Oklahoma guard (he scored the first field goal made in the new building) and the first capacity crowd of 5,500 was present for the Kansas game the following year. (The Sooners won 40-25).

Since the flood of veteran students following World War II, students have been able to see only every other home basketball game and almost no tickets have been available to alumni and the public.

Last February the University student body gave its approval to the proposed new Sooner fieldhouse in a special election. Although weather conditions were unfavorable, 2,939 students went on record as favoring the construction with only 308 dissenting votes.

"It is planned," President Cross said recently, "that our new fieldhouse will contain an indoor track, like the fieldhouses of other Big Seven and