



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



"General" Jack Mitchell takes time out from Sugar Bowl practice to show Mrs. Mitchell a crab from the beach at Biloxi, Mississippi, where the Sooner squad drilled for the New Year's Day game. Jack's injured left foot (in white sock) improved enough by game time for the "General" to score a touchdown and spark the Sooners to a 14-6 victory.

Big Ten conference schools, so that our student body, as well as the general public may see the meets."

"If it is proven impractical for our indoor track teams to train in the new fieldhouse during the winter months, we will enclose the present makeshift indoor track quarters beneath the east stadium and install lights and heat so Coach John Jacobs' trackmen will have warm quarters in which to train on the dirt floor facilities Coach Jacobs wants for training."

President Cross has also announced plans to build a new outdoor cinder track to replace the present track which will be eliminated by the expansion of the stadium.

The proposed track will include new, modern dressing facilities and an extensive seating arrangement modeled upon that of the large California schools for their track stadia, separate from football. Jacobs will design the track and work with architects regarding the details.

When the building program is finished, once again there will be seats for all Oklahoma fans at all Oklahoma sports events. And it can't come too soon!

Roundballers Lead Conference

After staggering momentarily under the weight of one of Coach Bruce Drake's typical "suicide" schedules, the basketball Sooners revived upon entering Big Seven conference play and finished the first half of their season with a seven won, four lost record.

The University team got off to a shaky start,

losing four of its first five games. It beat powerful Ohio State at Norman in overtime, 64-55, but lost to Coach Jack Gray's Texas Longhorns, 49-40, in a home game, and to Illinois, 73-68, Syracuse, 55-49, and City College of New York, 53-51, on the road.

The O.U. five won the Big Seven pre-conference tournament at Kansas City by defeating Colorado, 56-45, Iowa State, 55-45, and Kansas, 52-49. Then in January conference games Oklahoma edged the same three teams by scores of 43-40, 43-42, and 38-36, respectively.

This University team seems to win the close ones. For the first 11 games Oklahoma's average score was 50.8 points per game while opponents made 49.1 points, leaving an average victory margin of only 1.7 points per game.

Four regulars from last year's team, which finished with a 13-9 record and was ranked 42nd in the nation, returned to court action this season. They are:

Paul "Lefty" Courty—leading scorer of the Big Seven conference last season—this year's captain—6-3, 190—senior from Windsor, Missouri;

Paul Merchant—finest passer and playmaker on the 1948 team—6-0, 162—junior from Tulsa;

Kenneth Pryor—one of the greatest set shot artists ever developed at Oklahoma—5-11, 160—junior from Oklahoma City;

Bill Waters—known for the flat trajectory of his hook shots off the post—hits with either hand—6-6, 220—junior from Oklahoma City.

Wayne Glasgow, sophomore from Dacoma, has won the fifth starting post, which Bob Jones and Harley Day shared last season, with his aggressive play under the backboards. Glasgow stands 6-3 and weighs 190 pounds.

Marcus Freiburger, the tallest Sooner player of all time at 6-11, has seen considerable action so far this season and is improving rapidly, but is still a year away from cage greatness.

Other lettermen on the squad are Douglas Lynn, 6-8 junior from Henryetta; Jack Hughes, 5-9 junior from Muskogee; and Wayne Speegle, 6-3 junior from Oklahoma City.

The Sooners were pre-season favorites to win the Big Seven championship, and justified their favored role in early conference play, but still have nine games to play in February and March.

The most obvious stumbling blocks remaining in the schedule are Missouri at Columbia, Texas at Austin, and Henry Iba's Oklahoma A&M cagers, both at Norman and Stillwater. All are tough teams for the Sooners to beat.



When the Sugar Bowl champs returned to Oklahoma City January 4, they were met at the airport by Tom Smith, president of the Oklahoma City Junior Chamber of Commerce, right, who presented Sooner co-captains, Tackles Wade Walker, left and Homer Paine, with a certificate of appreciation from the city.