

# The President Speaks

BY DR. GEORGE L. CROSS

**Dr. Cross keeps alumni abreast of the construction progress on the new stadium and announces the appointment of Clee Fitzgerald as the athletic ticket sales manager.**

Last month I announced to the alumni that the University Regents had awarded on February 9 a contract to the Harmon Construction Company which provided for enlarging the stadium to a total capacity of approximately 55,000 seats. As I write this article, less than one month later, the project is well under way. The beautiful turf in the stadium has been plowed up and removed, and the dirt moving equipment has been brought in. The hedge, fence and trees at the north end of the stadium have been removed. The clock tower and the Mirror Pool are next to go.

The project is developing satisfactorily and, if

the good weather continues, the field should be excavated and the sod re-established on the playing field in time for a season's growth before our first game this fall.

As we improve our physical facilities for inter-collegiate sports, we are making plans also to improve some of our procedures in regard to sports management. I know that the alumni will be interested in what we are doing.

During the past several years, as many of you recall, there has been considerable criticism of our method of ticket distribution. Two years ago Bill Cross, Business Manager of Athletics, asked me if



he could not be relieved of the responsibility for ticket sales. He explained that the work of his office had increased as our athletic program had expanded to "big business" proportions and that it was no longer possible for one man to look after the business of the Department of Inter-Collegiate Athletics and be responsible for ticket sales also.

It was not immediately possible to grant Mr. Cross' request, but we have now worked out a plan whereby he will move to the Administration Building and handle the funds of the Athletic Department under the terms of the bond contract which made the expansion of the stadium possible. His office will be moved to the Administration Building some time during the summer of 1949.

Upon recommendation of Athletic Director Bud Wilkinson, Mr. Clee Fitzgerald has been selected to handle ticket sales and other problems associated with the staging of inter-collegiate contests.

Mr. Fitzgerald is at present finishing a program leading to a law degree at the University of Oklahoma. He is an extraordinarily capable young man. He entered the army as a private during World War II and rose to the rank of major before he was separated from the service. At the University he has maintained a grade point average of 2.39 while engaging in a great number of extra curricular activities ranging from University Debate to the management of our Celebrity Series. He is a past commander of the campus American Legion Post and he has been very active in the affairs of Boys' State. He managed Preston Moore's campaign for State Commander of the American Legion and Wayne Quinlan's campaign for President of the State League of Young Democrats. He knows law, business methods and how to get along with people.

In his new job with the University, Mr. Fitzgerald will have responsibility not only for ticket sales, but he will plan also promotional activities associated with the athletic program. He will have general responsibility for our policies concerning traffic control. He will work with the Campus Planning Committee in regard to the University's parking problems. He will represent the President's Office in regard to the public relations aspect of our athletic program.

Mr. Fitzgerald will have his office and facilities for ticket sales in the new addition to the stadium. He will occupy the northwest corner of the first floor in the new addition, where adequate space will be made available for an office staff, ticket files and other facilities needed for the efficient handling of 55,000 potentially eager customers. The removal of the ticket office to the stadium will result in increased efficiency all the way around. The present ticket office is too small to accommodate the fans, and its location in the Field House is unfortunate in that the offices of our coaching staff are immediately adjacent to it. The new ticket office will



*Clee Fitzgerald, new athletic ticket manager, discusses the stadium expansion project with the Sooner editor, David Burr.*

be set up in the style of an operations room. Sides of the stadium, drawn on charts, will cover the sides of the room. It is hoped that each seat in the stadium can be "named" and a cross index to flat files (or IBM records) developed, which will give the ticket manager a dual check as well as a graphic representation of every season ticket and every Texas ticket sold from our office.

The ticket priority plan for the coming season is now being studied carefully. No immediate change will be made from the plan of last year (described in September, 1948 issue of *Sooner Magazine*), but an even greater effort will be made to maintain the integrity of our ticket sales system. The price for season tickets to football games will be \$17.50 for the season of 1949. The price for individual reserved seats for each game will be \$3.50. General admission tickets will be \$3.00 for adults and \$.50 for children.

To those members of the alumni group who wish to be sure to obtain tickets this year, may I repeat from my statement of last year that you:

1. Pay your Alumni dues immediately and thereby become a member of the Association in good standing.

2. Send your request for tickets (not more than four to a purchaser) sometime between April 1 and June 1, as early as possible, and *be sure to send a check with your order*. The order should be sent to Bill Cross of the O.U. Athletic Department (it is through the Athletic Business Manager and through this source *only* that seats may be assigned) and inasmuch as the seats are assigned in the order of receipt of the requests, it is to your advantage to get your order in immediately after April 1.

3. If you plan to have more than four people in your party and you desire seats together, have your alumni friends join with you in filing a joint application with the O. U. Athletic Department. This will assure a block of seats together.

There will always be difficulties, of course, and one difficulty seems to be that large groups of people fall within two, three or even more categories in our priority list. Occasionally people receive tickets through more than one category and thus receive more than their share of tickets. These they distribute among their friends, to the great dissatisfaction of other disappointed ticket buyers, some of whom inevitably are, or have been up to that time, loyal alumni of the University. In the future, with greater attention given to the preparation of detailed lists of those belonging in the various categories of priority, it is hoped that this problem and many others can be solved.

We are looking forward to a fine season in 1949.

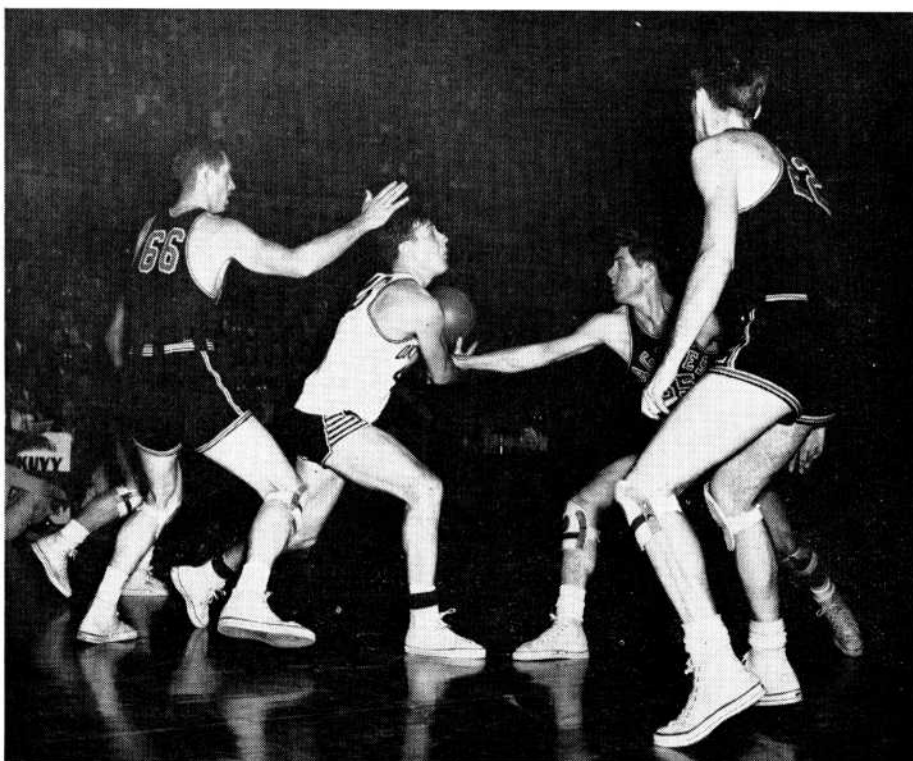
## Sixth Championship for Drake

For the second time in as many years the Big Seven representative went into the 1949 NCAA playoffs after having lost two out of three games during the season to the Sooners.

Last year it was the Kansas State Wildcats who lost to Oklahoma twice and carried off the conference pennant. This season the Drakemen won twice over Nebraska in regular season play, 47-45 at Norman and 56-49 at Lincoln, before losing to the Cornhuskers in a Kansas City playoff March 14; 57-56.

The Big Seven playoff game was caused when Oklahoma and Nebraska finished the regular schedule with identical 9-3 records in conference play. The Sooners defeated Colorado 55-44 March 12 in the season's finale to earn the right to meet the Huskers.

But the Oklahoma quintet salvaged a co-championship with Nebraska since the playoff game did not count in league standings. It was the sixth conference title, or tie for it, for Oklahoma since



Three angry Cowpokes close in on Sooner Captain Paul Courty during the February 11 game at Norman in a desperate attempt to get the ball. But they didn't and the Aggies bowed to O.U. 54-41. The Aggies are Vern Yates (66), Gale McArthur (55), and Joe Bradley (22).

Bruce Drake took over the coaching reins in 1939.

The most notable victory of the year came for the Big Red five at Norman on February 11, when the Sooners thrashed Hank Iba's Oklahoma Aggies by 13 points; 54-41. The 13-point shellacking was the University's widest margin of victory of all time over an Iba-coached team.

Only two regulars will graduate this spring. They are Paul Courty, captain and leading scorer of the team, and Ken Pryor. The rest of the squad, including sensational sophomores Wayne Glasgow and Marcus Freiberger, will play next year.

Courty, named on all-Big Seven and regional honor teams, averaged nearly 11 points per game to lead the individual scoring. He was followed by Glasgow, also an all-Big Seven selection, with 10.5; Pryor with 7.1; Bill Waters with 6.8; Paul Merchant, 6.0, and Frieberger, 4.5 points.

Oklahoma 40, Texas 49.  
 Oklahoma 68, Illinois 73.  
 Oklahoma 64, Ohio State 55 (OT).  
 Oklahoma 51, CCNY 53.  
 Oklahoma 49, Syracuse 55.  
 Oklahoma 56, Colorado 45.  
 Oklahoma 55, Iowa State 45.  
 Oklahoma 52, Kansas 49.  
 Oklahoma 38, Kansas 36.  
 Oklahoma 43, Iowa State 42.  
 Oklahoma 43, Colorado 40.  
 Oklahoma 44, Missouri 40.  
 Oklahoma 45, Kansas State 47.  
 Oklahoma 55, Iowa State 52 (OT).  
 Oklahoma 53, Texas 59.  
 Oklahoma 54, Oklahoma A&M 41.  
 Oklahoma 47, Nebraska 45.  
 Oklahoma 45, Kansas State 51.  
 Oklahoma 36, Oklahoma A&M 46.  
 Oklahoma 44, Missouri 49.  
 Oklahoma 55, Kansas 45.  
 Oklahoma 56, Nebraska 49 (OT).  
 Oklahoma 55, Colorado 44.  
 Oklahoma 56, Nebraska 57.

## Tourney Ends Indoor Season

Scoring 28 points, Coach Jack Jacobs' indoor track team placed third in the Big Seven Indoor Meet held February 25-26 in Kansas City. The Sooner thinclads came through with two conference champions, Merwin McConnell, Hollis, who set a new school record in the broadjump with a 24-foot leap; and Hobo Gilstrap, Ardmore speedster, who outran the field in the 60-yard low hurdles. His time was 7 seconds.

The indoor team couldn't upset Nebraska and Missouri, the "Big Two" of Big Seven track, either in the conference meet or in dual meets at Lincoln and Columbia, but scored victories over North Texas State College and Kansas State at Norman.

But the biggest triumph of the season for Coach Jacobs and his charges came in mid-January when, for the first time since track began here 50 years ago, the Sooners got a steam-heated track on the North Campus.

Warming up in their new training quarters as the season progressed the Oklahomans broke or equaled four school records. In addition to McConnell's record-breaking leap, Gilstrap tied his own record of 6.9 seconds for the indoor low hurdles. Bill Carroll, rangy pole-vaulter from Okemah, cracked the University indoor record with a 13-7 endeavor against Nebraska. The old mark was 13 feet. Jim Finley, Tulsa, set a new school record in the high hurdles when he did 7.5 in the dual meet with Nebraska.

Gilstrap was high scorer for the Oklahomans in the Big Seven meet, picking up eight points with his victory in the low hurdles and third in broad jump. Carroll had seven points, tying for second in high jump and getting second in the pole-vault. McConnell won five points for his first in broad jump, and Bill Jacobs, lanky son of the Sooner coach, also scored five points with second place in the mile run and fifth in the 880.