

## Wilkinson on Football Prospects

# A Hustling, Interesting Team

A spring preview of next fall's squad strength was unwrapped in Alumni-Varsity game in late April.

It's time again to discuss the Sooner's chances in football. What are the possibilities of Big Red going through the '50 schedule undefeated?

One factor that may prevent O.U. from stretching it undefeated string is the lack of experience of the team. Oklahoma will have good depth, but the starting team won't be as good as last year's. And behind it the Sooners will use reserves composed almost entirely of sophomores. The coaching staff faces a terrific problem in rebuilding the two Oklahoma lines. The 1950 line will be lighter and slower than last year's with far greener reserves.

"We've got to do an excellent job of coaching this fall," says Coach Wilkinson, "but kids can absorb just so much in a given period of time. I think we'll have a hustling, interesting team that should get better as we go along. We could lose one or two games by from three or four touchdowns each, but all the others should be close. The morale of our new squad was excellent in spring practice. If we should make a good record in 1950, we will achieve it on morale and hustle, and not on smooth play."

As for the 1950 Big Seven Conference race, Wilkinson says it will be as close as the 1950 basketball race. He believes the poorest team in the league will be capable of beating the best team. Wilkinson doesn't want to stick his neck out about the outcome. His view is:

"Frankly, I don't know who will win the Big Seven in 1950. It could be anybody."

A possible portent of what's to follow occurred on April 21. On that day the new Sooner team was defeated 20-14 by an alumni aggregation that had practiced only four days. The alumni club outrushed the varsity 350 to 176 net yards. The alumni offense was so sufficient that they never once punted. Although the defeat snapped Oklahoma's string of 21 consecutive victories, it will not go into the records since it was a practice contest.

However, the game did prove to be some comfort for the varsity rooters. Several players demonstrated they have played a little football in the past. Naturally, Leon Heath, the "Mule Train" fullback, was tearing gaping holes in the alumni line. Frank Silva, quarterback, seemed to have regained much of his old flash and fire. Buck McPhail, a freshman fullback last year, looked like one of the most promising sophomores in the lineup. Robert Gaut, a sophomore guard, looked like the one to stymie the opponent's offense. Left tackle Jim Weatherall also looked like he was up to 1949 par—and that was plenty good.

There were plenty more who would gladden the heart of any coach. But to the spectators the Hollis, Oklahoma, "Mule Train" looked like a dead ringer for the nation's top fullback in 1950. Leon Heath is the lone returning starter left from last year's eleven. However, eight Sooner second-teamers from last year, behind whom Heath exploded for much of his rushing yardage, return.

It was the rugged Sooner fullback Heath who personally rushed to 170 of O.U.'s 286 net yards

during the Big Red's 35-0 rout of Louisiana State in the Sugar Bowl. The 200 sports writers present voted Heath the game's outstanding player.

Heath's average in the Sugar Bowl game was a tremendous 11.3 net yards per carry, better than a first down every time he ran with the ball. That's clippety-cloppin' along.

But the Sooner socker did almost as well during the regular season. Heath's seasonal rushing average of 9.12 net yards per carry far surpassed that of such fullbacks as Price of Tulane (6.65), Dottley of Mississippi (6.31) and Sitko of Notre Dame (the recognized all-American who averaged 5.92). His average also surpassed all efforts of the nation's halfbacks and quarterbacks. Behind Heath were such players as Chandois of Michigan State at 6.86 and Coutre of Notre Dame at 6.59.

The coaching staff is tip top. Coach Bud Wilkinson, the Sooners' big, blond headmaster, has scaled football's coaching pinnacle in only his third season as a head coach.

Bud was named Coach of the Year for 1949 and

was also chosen head coach of the 1949 College All Star team. He will be co-coach of the West team in the 1950 Shrine game at San Francisco. Bud's won-and-lost percentage as a coach tops that of any other major college mentor in the business. His Sooner teams have won 28, lost 3, tied one for .903 percent.

Other coaches include Gomer Jones, line coach; George Lynn, backfield coach; Frank "Pop" Ivy, '40bs, end coach; and Bill Jennings, '46bs, '49m.ed, freshman coach.

Oklahoma's offenses this year will be the split-T which was started by Don Farout of Missouri but perfected by Wilkinson. The team will be principally a ground team but is capable of a devastating air attack if the occasion arises.

Co-captains for 1950 are Center Harry Moore of Blackwell and Guard Norman McNabb of Norman. Both are seniors. These boys will direct the team through a season's schedule that includes:

Boston College—September 30

Texas A&M—October 7

Texas—October 14

Kansas State—October 21 (Homecoming)

Iowa State—October 28

Colorado—November 4

Kansas—November 11

Missouri—November 18 (Dad's Day)

Nebraska—November 25

Oklahoma A&M—December 2

## ASSOCIATION



Something new in Alumni meetings! Here are a rather tired foursome at the Los Angeles Alumni square dance held February 17. Two separate conversations involve Loreeda Moody, '43bus, and Bill Kendall, '03ba, on the left and Naomi Conklin, '01, and Jack Mindes, '46bs, on the right. Thirty faithful alumni braved one of the worst fogs of the year to attend the meeting.



### Seattle Club Chooses Officers

The Seattle Alumni Group held a business meeting at Dr. Richard Roys, '35ba, '39med, March 31. Newly elected officers of the group are Dr. Roy H. Ballard, '32m.ed, '39Ph.D, president; J. B. Pennington, '40Law, vice-president; and Miss Mary Myers, '32-'33, secretary-treasurer.

Pictured are Dr. Walter Darrough, '29bs, '30 med, Dr. Ray Ballard, '32m.ed, '39Ph.D, Lt. Col. J. F. Morehead, '39, Lt. Col. S. H. Alexander, '26

ba, '28med, Lloyd Silberberger, '28bs, J. H. Pennington, '40Law, Jesse Schrock, '40-'41, W. L. Delbridge, '40bs, '49Law, Dr. Jesse L. Yarboro, '48 med, Clarence Taylor, '43arch, '43arch.eng, Dr. R. W. Florence, '39bs, '41med, R. W. Taylor, Dick Quisenberry, '48bs, Ira Eppler, '38fa, '43mfa, Veroqua Smith, '44ba, Dr. Richard Roys, '35ba, '39med, Mary Myers, '32-'33, Shelby Smith, '45bs, Devere Leo, Edward Hayes, '42bs.

Also present were Mrs. Lloyd Silberberger, Mrs. Walter Darrough, Mary Taylor, '41bs, Ruth Shannon Roys, Mrs. E. J. Templeton, '20ba, Nina Ep-

pler, LeBeryl Alexander, '27ba, Jeanne Schrock, '43bs, Leena McArthur, '32ba, '41pharm, Mrs. R. W. Florence, Mrs. Ray Ballard, Peggy Ballard, Mrs. W. L. Delbridge, '38bs, Lavonia McArthur Leo, '43bs, Mrs. Edward Hayes, Mrs. Clarence Taylor.

Seated below are the new and old officers of the group. From left to right they are Clarence Taylor, ex-president; Dr. Roy Ballard, new president; J. B. Pennington, new vice-president; Ira Eppler, ex-secretary-treasurer and Mary Myers, new secretary-treasurer.





Posing for the cameraman (the pooch included) are the attendants at a meeting of the New York Alumni Chapter. In the back row standing are Russell Black, '42ba, president; Ken M. Robinson, '36ba, '38Law, past president; Doak Stowe, President George Cross, Dr. Robert Calvert, '09ba, '10ma, past president; Morris Haggard, '36, secretary-treasurer; Professor Elmer Million, '35Law, Allen C. Duncan, '21geol. vice-president, and Dr. Sterling Brown, former professor of psychology at O.U. Seated are Margaret C. Stephenson, former counselor of women at O.U.; Merle C. Montgomery, Mrs. George Cross, Mrs. Robert Calvert, Mary Jeanne Brown, Mrs. Ken M. Robinson and Thunderbird, Jr., '??Ph.D.

## New Yorkers Visited by Cross

In keeping with the spirit of their pioneer ancestors who rushed to stake claims before the official signal for the opening of the "Territory" April 21, 1889, "Sooners" in New York celebrated the 61st Anniversary of that famous epoch six days early. April 15 was the only day the New York chapter of the Oklahoma University Alumni Association could stake a claim to President and Mrs. George Cross' time during their short visit to New York.

Despite the fact that Saturday is an off day in the big city, the round-up drew 80 alumni from

Connecticut, New Jersey, up state New York, Long Island and Brooklyn and Manhattan proper.

President Cross pleased the former graduates with a discussion of the building program and an outline of the immense progress of their alma mater since most of them had left the campus. Great interest was shown in every field by the varied questions asked during the open discussion following Dr. Cross' speech.

Bud Wilkinson's stars galloping across the gridiron in the Sugar-Bowl film brought the same kind of prideful smile to the faces of ex-football players, musicians, teachers, lawyers, engineers, doctors and housewives that Gov. Roy Turner dis-

played in *Life Magazine* last fall along with his prize-winning Rupert III.

George Cummings, '49bus, Alumni secretary, came with Dr. Cross but was unable to appear on the program because of the untimely passing of O.U.'s best known and best loved alumnus Ted Beard, '21ba, whose many duties George had been carrying on during the latter's illness.

Sandwiches, donuts, coffee and tea, although served in chuck-wagon quantity all during the afternoon, did not especially remind anyone of the reported territory "daze" of refreshing from the little brown jug. The hum of conversation often reached the proportion of sound made by the wagon wheels moving across the prairie—nice quiet wagons, full but not loaded.

The next get-together is scheduled for the fall.

## Mosley Writes for Army

Dr. Kirk T. Mosley served five years in China as a medical missionary. He helped fight two cholera epidemics, saw many lives lost. In World War II, he was U. S. army epidemiologist in the China-Burma-Indian theater.

There hasn't been much time for writing. But now the University professor is tackling a subject in which he is internationally known. Upon request of the surgeon general's office, he is writing a section on cholera for "The History of Preventive Medicine, U. S. Army, World War II."

"Except for a few government hospitals," Mosley recalls, "there were scarcely any medical facilities in China before the war." In central China where he worked from 1931 to 1936, the "small, inadequately manned hospitals served an area of four or five million people."

Mosley, a member of the O.U. public health school staff, will describe measures taken by the U.S. army to whip cholera. "It hit only a few of our troops in China," he explains, "and none of our men in India got it."

The epidemiologist is also consultant to the state health department.

## Saucers Are Grounded

Frank G. Tappan, David Ross Boyd professor of electrical engineering, contends that he can explain 99 percent of today's mystery discs.

This University professor says Romans saw flying saucers 2,000 years ago. These Buck Rogers discs are as old as the human race. Here's his theory:

"Due to impurities in the vitreous humor of the eyeball or to scars on its surface, you can see small discs, saucers, cylinders, beads or strings of beads. They are particularly noticeable when seen against the background of a clear sky. They may drift about in the eye. They are seldom in the center of the field of vision, and the eye turns automatically to bring them into the center.

"Naturally, they move still farther ahead and the eye follows. If you imagine you are seeing something external to the eye and far out in space, you decide they are moving at tremendous speed across the sky."

Tappan believes this explains 99 per cent of today's mysteries. One percent may be balloons, planes or meteors.

"I myself," he explains, "have been seeing flying saucers for 50 years."

► Miss Virginia Morris, associate professor of physical education for women, has returned from Dallas, where she attended the National and Southern District Convention of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, April 17-22.



Another group attending the New York Alumni meeting gathered for the Sooner cameraman. In the back row are Walter Cunningham, Mrs. Bettis A. Garside, Edward A. Myck, Jr., Annette Myck, and Dr. Bettis A. Garside, '13ba. On the front row are Mrs. Charles Bailey Bryant, Anna Nell Stott, Vivian Vanderpool Cole, '39bs, Elizabeth Elliott, Adelaide P. McCrimmon and Capt. H. P. McCrimmon.