

Bud Wilkinson's

FOOTBALL LETTER

Mailed Only to Paid Members of the O.U. Alumni Association

1950 SEASON FORECAST

1950 SCHEDULE	
SEPT. 30	BOSTON COLLEGE AT NORMAN
OCT. 7	TEXAS AGGIES AT NORMAN
OCT. 14	TEXAS AT DALLAS
OCT. 21	KANSAS STATE AT NORMAN (HOMECOMING & BAND DAY)
OCT. 28	IOWA STATE AT AMES
NOV. 4	COLORADO AT BOULDER
NOV. 11	KANSAS AT LAWRENCE
NOV. 18	MISSOURI AT NORMAN (DAD'S DAY)
NOV. 25	NEBRASKA AT NORMAN
DEC. 2	OKLA. AGGIES AT STILLWATER



BUD WILKINSON

Norman, Oklahoma
August 1950

Dear Sooner:

Since practically all of our 1949 regulars have graduated, I know you are eager to know something about the new football team we will have at Oklahoma this fall.

I think we will have a hustling, interesting aggregation that should get better as we go along. We could lose all of our early games—one or two of them by big scores—but we are hoping that our improvement each week will enable us to play a close game with all our late season opponents.

The morale of our sophomore squad was excellent in spring practice. If we should make a good record in 1950, we will achieve it on hustle and morale, and not on smooth play.

Lack of experience in all departments is our No. 1 problem. We will have a good potential depth. But our starting team won't be nearly as good as last year's and behind it we will use reserves composed almost entirely of sophomores. One of our toughest jobs is building a second team line. Our 1950 line will be lighter and slower than last year's with far greener reserves.

I am told that our losses are the most terrific in the history of football at Oklahoma with the exception of the war years

1918 and 1943. We lose 10 of the 11 men on our 1949 starting team. Graduating are Ends Jim Owens and Bob Goad, Tackles Wade Walker and Leon Manley, Guards Dee Andros and Stanley West, Center Charley Dowell, Quarterback Darrell Royal and Halfback George Thomas. Halfback Lindell Pearson, a good student only three years out of highschool, has been banned from further conference football by the Big Seven Conference because he attended the University of Arkansas three weeks as a freshman.

We also lost Ken Tipps, our alternate line left end who did our conversion kicking and kicking off last year. Also Backs George Brewer and Charles Paine are gone. So is Delton Marcum, who played a fine game for us against Texas last year, as well as Kenneth Parker, our No. 1 linebacker, and Bob Bodenhamer, our center who was a fine linebacker and also threw back all the long center snaps on punts and conversion kicks.

The situation is far more serious than a year ago when we came into our 1949 season losing only four starters from 1948—Jack Mitchell, Buddy Burris, Homer Paine and Pete Tillman. And our reserves a year ago were so experienced that only two sophomores, Tackle Jim Weatherall and Halfback Dick Heatly, could make our alternate team.

Comparative player losses from each of the 1949 starting teams of each Big Seven school are as follows: Kansas State lost two starters, Colorado five, Kansas and Nebraska six each, Missouri seven, Iowa State eight and Oklahoma ten.

And yet I expect a close race in the Big Seven for 1950, probably just as close a race as in the recent Big Seven basketball season

when three teams tied for the championship. The poorest team will be capable of beating the best team. Except for Oklahoma, the Big Seven teams last year were very evenly divided. Missouri, the 1949 runner-up, had several close calls, 21-20 over Nebraska, 20-13 over Colorado, 34-27 over Kansas State and 34-28 over Kansas. And now that we have suffered such tremendous casualties in experienced players, no team in the league has superiority of playing talent. Any team in the league could win the Big Seven championship in 1950.

Fortunately, our coaching staff of last season remains intact for the coming campaign. I feel most fortunate to have a staff made up of such fine, capable assistants. Again this season Gomer Jones will coach our line, Frank "Pop" Ivy our ends, George Lynn our backfield and Bill Jennings the freshmen. In addition Dee Andros, who played on last year's team, will be a part-time assistant while he is studying for his master's degree.

I liked our new squad's fighting spirit in the alumni game at Taft stadium in Oklahoma City, played on the last day of our 1950 spring practice. Our alumni beat us, 20-14. They had practiced only four days, consequently weren't very sharp. They fumbled seven times or they might have licked us worse. The outran us 350 to 176 net yards and never had to punt.

And yet it was a close game and we very nearly won it. Six of our boys who will play for us this fall—Co-captain Norman McNabb, Frankie Anderson, Dick Heatly, Jack Lockett, Ed Lisak and Buddy Jones—were out of action, most of them because of injuries, so we didn't do too badly. The split-T formation is new to all our sophomores, but they are learning to understand and execute it.

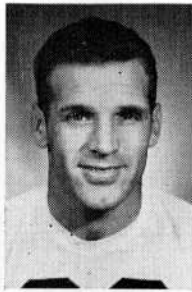
The Oklahoma freshman team won both games that they played, but we were only one of five Big Seven schools to compile a similar record. The Kansas freshmen defeated Kansas State 25-6 and Missouri 12-7. The Colorado freshmen drubbed Colorado A.&M. 57-9 and Scottsbluff Junior College 20-14. Iowa State's frosh defeated Drake 26-7 and Missouri 28-27. Nebraska's

1949 RECORD

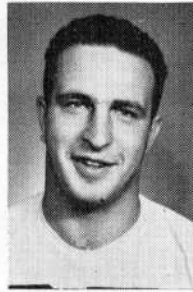
SOONERS 46,	BOSTON COLLEGE 0
SOONERS 33,	TEXAS AGGIES 13
SOONERS 20,	TEXAS 14
SOONERS 48,	KANSAS 26
SOONERS 48,	NEBRASKA 0
SOONERS 34,	IOWA STATE 7
SOONERS 39,	KANSAS STATE 0
SOONERS 27,	MISSOURI 7
SOONERS 28,	SANTA CLARA 21
SOONERS 41,	OKLA. A.&M. 0
SOONERS 35,	L. S. U. 0
	(SUGAR BOWL)



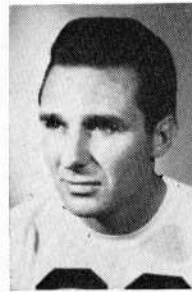
NORMAN McNABB



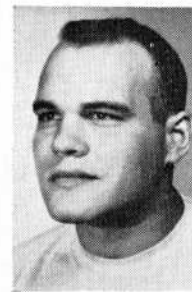
LEON HEATH



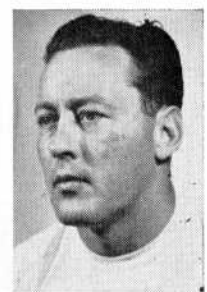
CLAIR MAYES



CLAUDE ARNOLD



DEAN SMITH



HARRY MOORE

yearlings defeated Kansas State 14-0. Evaluating our freshmen, they were unbalanced with the quality of our backs far outranking that of our forwards.

Oklahoma again will be a home state club. Of the 58 players on our 1950 squad, 48 are from Oklahoma, nine hail from cities in the neighboring state of Texas and one comes from Michigan. No other states are represented.

Also, we like the way our boys shoot for degrees that will give them the opportunity for a fine career after graduation. Scanning the major subjects of our 1950 squad, there are 18 of our players in the business school, seven in geology, eight in education, four in petroleum engineering, four in physical education, two in pre-law, two in pre-medicine and one each in industrial psychology, art, pharmacy, architecture, radio speech, industrial arts, psychology, industrial engineering and geological engineering.

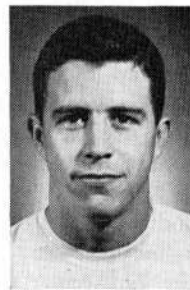
Our expanded stadium, which now seats 60,000 with the addition of bleachers at the south end, will be entirely ready for the home throngs this fall. Official attendance for our five home games last year in the order of greatness was: Santa Clara game, 60,145; Oklahoma Aggie game 47,937, Iowa State game 38,149, Kansas game 37,660 and Texas Aggie game 34,685.

Dates of our five home games this fall are September 30 Boston College, October 7 Texas Aggies, October 21 Kansas State (Homecoming and Band Day), November 18 Missouri (Dad's Day) and November 25 Nebraska. If you haven't ordered tickets,

Editor's Note: Bud Wilkinson's Football letter is included this month in Sooner Magazine so that all Association members may have a chance at previewing the 1950 football crop. Bud's letters that follow each game in the 10-game schedule will be mailed out of the alumni office in their usual 4-page form no later than 72-hours after each game to paid members. This is the only letter that will be published within Sooner Magazine—D. B.



DICK HEATLY



FRANKIE ANDERSON

contact at once Kenneth Farris, our business manager of athletics. Although our advance sale is already our biggest of all time, we still have thousands of good seats available for the public, owing to the fact our seating capacity is now double what it was two years ago. All the seats are surprisingly good. We are very grateful to you all for patronizing our games so enthusiastically.

Buddy Jones' recent decision to play football his senior year gives our defense a decided lift. Last season Oklahoma was the

most passed-on team in the history of American football, our opponents throwing 290 forward passes at us, an average of 29 per game. Yet only four went through for touchdowns and Buddy's intelligent safety play had a lot to do with it.

Our 1950 squad by positions:

ENDS—Jack Lockett, Frankie Anderson, Bill Price, Troy Keller, Ed Sampson, Jennings Nelson, Fred Smith, Bill Beckman, John Reddell, Bill Coffman, LeeRoy McElwain.

TACKLES—Jim Weatherall, Dean Smith, Art Janes, J. W. Cole, Eugene Ball, Joe Horkey, Charles Goodmiller, Melvin Brown, George Cornelius, James Holder.

GUARDS—Norman McNabb, Clair Mayes, Bert Clark, Ed Rowland, Bob Gaut, Jim Davis, Neil House, W. D. Goins, Dick Bowman, Raymond Powell.

CENTERS—Harry Moore, Tom Catlin, Kent Braden, Floyd Murphy, Sam Carnahan, Jerry Ingram.

QUARTERBACKS—Claude Arnold, Eddie Crowder, Bob Ewbank, Bill Blair, Jack Santee, Bill Doty.

HALFBACKS—Dick Heatly, Frank Silva, Bill Vessels, Tom Carroll, Gene Cook, Bob Pyle, Tommy Gray, Dale Crawford, Merrill Green.

FULLBACKS—Leon Heath, Buck McPhail, Jimmy Patterson, Ed Lisak, Sam Allen.

Sincerely yours,
Bud Wilkinson

(No portion of this letter may be printed by newspapers or broadcast by radio stations).

ALUMNI

A Different Dream

Most little girls dream of being a nurse when they grow up, but Helen Frances Beasley, '50Law, had a different dream. When she was 11, she decided she wanted to be a lawyer, just like her father, Charles Beasley, Pawnee attorney.

So instead of playing dolls, she spent a great deal of her time in her father's law office. She answered the telephone and observed her father at work with his clients.

After graduating from Pawnee highschool, she enrolled at Oklahoma A.&M. College where she received a BA degree in 1947. Then she came to the University to enrol in the law school.

Continuing with the industry she exhibited in

her father's law office, Helen worked to help pay her own way toward the law degree she received at the June commencement program. She worked in a Pawnee abstract office, in the A.&M. college cafeteria for her board, in the county clerk's office in Pawnee, and in Long Beach, California, for Douglas aircraft during the war. For the last two years she has acted as girl's counselor at a University dormitory.

When she went to the capitol building late in June to take the state bar examinations, she was on the threshold of realizing her dream. She was about to become a lawyer—just like her father.

Alumnus Is Big Spender

Jess Larson, '22-'26, '33, who became the nation's youngest mayor when he was elected to that office in Chickasha at the age of 22, now shells out

about \$2,000,000,000 a year for supplies and equipment necessary to run the government.

In the "Interesting People" department of the July *American Magazine* Larson is portrayed as "Uncle Sam's Shopper." He is administrator of General Services in Washington, D. C., which is official jargon for the fact that he does the government's marketing.

The article pictures his shopping list as including "everything from paper clips to office buildings."

"To stretch the taxpayer's dollar, Larson, in his newly created job, has instituted an annual spring cleaning to find uses for surplus stock. For instance, he found millions of manila envelopes that were slated to be sold for scrap, and passed them along to the census bureau. In one agency he found enough fluorescent light tubes to last it 243 years. Larson pays Uncle Sam's utility and phone bills,