

The season was scheduled for rebuilding the 1949 squad losses. Few could see an undefeated '50 record. Yet the Sooners did it and managed to wind up

High and Dry

By David Burr, '50

On the afternoon of December 2, Oklahoma completed its 1950 football schedule. Barring any unforeseen difficulty, the game with the Oklahoma Aggies on that day served as win No. 31 for the Sooners and a light workout for a bowl game if the players are interested in such post-season carryings-on.

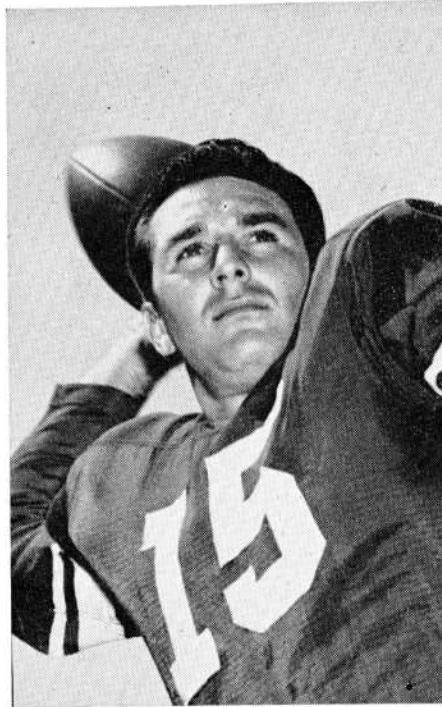
In many ways the season has been an interesting one for fans and football lovers alike. The Big Red has been everything a national champion should be—defensively great, offensively wicked and confident without swaggering.

For highlights the sportsman would have to look only to Texas, Texas A.&M., Kansas and Missouri. In the first two the Sooners proved their worth by merely coming out on the winning end of the score. In the case of the latter two, the convincing wins of 33-13 and 41-7 established the Sooners as the whipping cream of the nation's football dairy.

Several very important questions are still unanswered as of November 20. Will the Sooners be ranked as the No. 1 team in the nation at the end of the season? Will O.U. accept a bowl bid? Who will make All-American?

Tackling question number one is a dangerous pass at a frivolous adversary. Thus far the boys from Norman have never been on top due to a combination of factors. 1) The eastern sportswriters seem to be stuck with Army. 2) A sensational score such as an 80 point job seems to attract favor with the scribes and it is a foregone conclusion that a Wilkinson coached team will not roll up such a licking. 3) There seems to be a conspiracy afoot to forget that Oklahoma defeated two highly effective teams in Texas and Texas A.&M.

Yet there is strong reason to believe that the Oklahomans will still lead the pack when the final concensus of opinion is in. The margin of victory over Nebraska will undoubtedly have much effect on the final polling. From this corner it looks like only Kentucky or Army will be left to battle



CLAUDE ARNOLD
... Sooner Mastermind

O.U. for the honored spot and the odds should be on O.U.

Question No. 2. Will O.U. accept a bowl bid? President George L. Cross has publicly stated that he would prefer not to compete in a bowl game this year. His reason was simple—he thought the additional month training period would put too much emphasis on football. Yet he also said the players would be the ones to decide.

The best guess would seem to indicate that the Sooners will tackle a bowl assignment. If Kentucky is the opponent, the Sooners will probably let old bygones be bygones and return to New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl game. Undoubtedly, part of the decision hinges on the type of match the bowl committees can offer.

Question No. 3. Who will make All-American? Recently as the first All-American team to receive nation-wide attention, the Police Gazette offered its selections.

Sure enough there was the name of Lean Heath, the mule-train from Hollis.

Other names that will appear on various "All" lists will include Weatherall, Anderson and perhaps Arnold.

As general of the split-T offensive attack, Arnold has displayed some unusual football quarterbacking. The Okmulgee mastermind has improved his signal calling and play-manipulating with every game. Coach Blair Cherry of Texas credited him with the Oklahoma win over the Texas team. Before Texas U., fans were accrediting Arnold with the Texas A.&M. win when his arm uncorked a flurry of passes seen seldom of late on a O.U. team to outmaneuver the cadets for that win. But Arnold's improvement has been consistent. At Colorado he found many of the teams plays effectively scouted and stopped. So, Mr. Arnold decided to use the quarterback keeper and showed his efficiency as a runner. At Kansas, with the team behind, the cool calculating play of the team and the excellent quarterbacking broke from behind a 13-point deficit to wallop the Jayhawks 33-13.

Arnold's willing to take chances. On several occasions he's elected to run on fourth down and as far as this corner can remember, has always been successful. His passing has been great. All in all, he's a quarterback in the O.U. tradition of fine quarterbacks. As a footnote it should be added that Eddie Crowder, Arnold's sophomore substitute, gave proof in the Missouri game that he would be ready to fill the gap Arnold's graduation will cause on next year's team.

Before basketball, crowned-prince of sports, takes center stage in December it should be pointed out that the Sooners were a great team in a year that was supposed to be a re-building year from last year's tremendous losses. The history making victory string is a tribute to the coaches and players who have started with inexperience and ended with the nation's champs.