

There Were Enough Honors For Everyone

By David Burr, '50



FRANKIE ANDERSON
... Among Others, A.P.

Football lost none of its glamour during December. If anything, a month after the cessation of the gridiron season, the sport was claiming more newspaper space in Oklahoma than basketball. The reasons



LEON HEATH
... Collier's Picked Him

were simple: December was the Month of Honors and of preparation for the Sugar Bowl game.

Heading the list of honorees was the entire squad whose 31st consecutive victory (O.U. 41, A.&M. 14, December 2) kept them at the top of the Associated Press and United Press polls which serve as the most authoritative national rating systems.

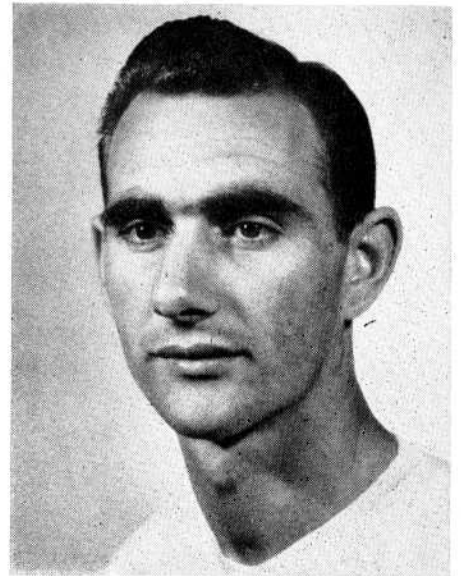
Next in line came the All-American selections. Practically every publication conducted some type of poll on players of All-American proportions and each managed to be as arbitrary as the others. Some, however, are considered more prominent than others by the sports-writing fraternity and the players themselves.

Four Sooners were named to major All-American teams. Heading the list because of his nearly unanimous selection was tackle Jim Weatherall. He was considered an All-American by such agencies as the Associated Press and United Press and by *Collier's* and *Look*. *Look's* selections were made by the Football Writers of America and the dean of all sportswriters, Grantland Rice. *Collier's* was assisted by coaches around the nation.

Leon Heath, the terrific blocking half-back, was named to *Collier's*, U. P. and the All-American Board "All" teams. Frankie Anderson, end, was named on the AP and Player All-American teams, and Buddy Jones, the ace defender of the Wilkinsons, was chosen by *Look*. All except Weatherall, a junior, are seniors.

Next in line for honors was Bud Wilkinson. He was chosen as coach of the year by the Associated Press poll. Another honor that came his way, according to the *Daily Oklahoman* was an offer by his alma mater to become head coach at Minnesota. The story stated Bud refused.

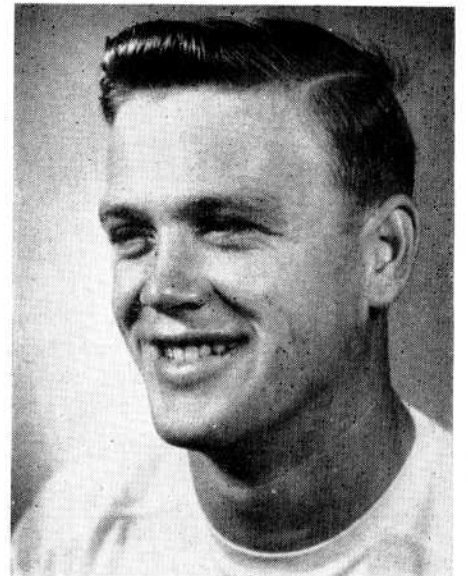
Still other honors may be heaped upon the pile if the Sooner gridmen tame Kentucky in the Sugar Bowl January 1. If they win, and alumni will know the outcome before this magazine is in their hands, the Sooners will have retired the Sugar Bowl trophy to an O.U. trophy room. To acquire the cup, a team must win the Sugar



BUDDY JONES
... At Last, Recognition

Bowl game three years. The Sooners completed two legs on the tripod when they defeated North Carolina, 14-6 in 1949, and L.S.U. 35-0 in 1950.

Everyone thought the Sugar trophy would look just fine with the newly acquired Rev. J. Hugh O'Donnell trophy, symbol of national football supremacy. The latter trophy is held by the team that finishes atop the AP poll. To retain the trophy a team must lead the parade for three years. So it will have at least, a temporary resting place at O.U.



JIM WEATHERALL
... Nearly Unanimous

For Bud Wilkinson, regardless of the outcome of the Sugar game, the season was a tremendous success. His O.U. (and only head college coaching) record stands at 38 won, 3 lost and 1 tied for an overall percentage of .926, believed to be the nation's

top record by a coach who is still living. His past three seasons have seen the Sooners in 5th, 2nd, and 1st places in national polling.

His statement on how his 1950 team accomplished their national championship after terrific graduation losses in 1949 was a tribute to the players who make up the Champs.

"Although we are deeply grateful for the splendid support given us this season by the sports writers and coaches about the country," he said, "we have felt all year that our 1950 team has been somewhat over-rated. However despite their lack of experience and depth, I have never seen a team with more poise, heart or fighting spirit."

The Sugar Bowl game was the last opportunity for seniors to play on a Big Red team they helped make famous. Three of the All-Americans, Leon Heath, Buddy Jones, and Frankie Anderson, headed the senior list. But the list included other seniors who played their roles extremely well. Dean Smith at tackle, J. W. Cole, tackle, Clair Mayes, guard, Norman McNabb, guard, Harry Pace, center, Al Needs, back, Sam Carnahan, center, Joe Cunningham, quarterback, Ed Lisak, defensive half, Tommy Gray, defensive half, Art Janes, tackle, Harry Moore, center, and the man who oiled the mechanism—quarterback Claude Arnold.

A statistical comparison of the 1949 and 1950 editions leaves little to choose from. In 1949 the team outrushed the '50 squad 320.3 to 293.1 net yards, out-defended the '50 team 55.6 to 132 net yards, out-scored the '50 team 364 to 345 points and yielded fewer than the current edition, 88 to 135. But on the '50 side of the ledger, the team out-passed last year's, 1,223 net yards and 16 touchdowns to 890 net yards and 11 touchdowns. The 1950 pass defense was also better, holding opponents to 39.5 percent completions to 44.4 percent for the 1949 team.

At the end of the season, the Big Red had managed to wrap up just about every honor available to football players and coaches. Anything that could be added in the Sugar Bowl would be so much more gilt for the lily.

Sooner 1950 Record

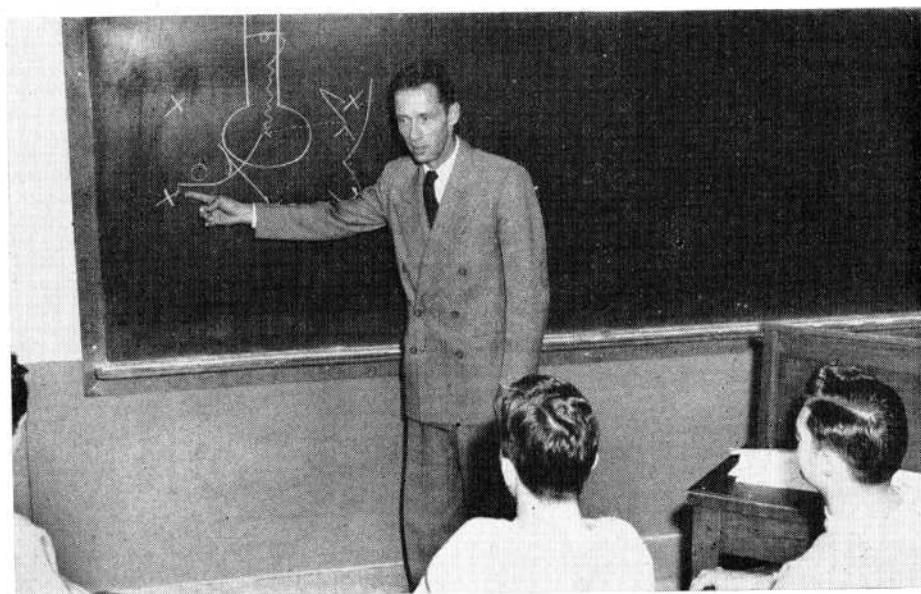
O.U. 28, Boston College 0
 O.U. 34, Texas A&M 28
 O.U. 14, Texas U. 13
 O.U. 58, Kansas State 0
 O.U. 20, Iowa State 7
 O.U. 27, Colorado 18
 O.U. 33, Kansas 13
 O.U. 41, Missouri 7
 O.U. 49, Nebraska 35
 O.U. 41, Oklahoma A&M 14

The Roundballers Hold Sport's Center Stage

By Arnold Ismach, '51

Bruce Drake, '29phys.ed, embarking on his thirteenth year at the helm of the Oklahoma basketball ark, hopes for the best during 1950-51, but fears the worst. That's not, of course, an uncoachly attitude. Nor is it far different from the towel-wringings of most of the coaches within wailing distance. But the affable and lucid Drake offers sound reasoning for his stand. Listen: "We lost," he says, "four regulars and

whose field goal percentage remained well above forty percent in two years of varsity play. Little Walt Morris was an unobtrusive guard—but second to Glasgow in scoring and first in free throw and field goal percentage. Speegle, the Splendid Splinter, a hustler from way back, didn't know the word quit. And Paul Merchant proved his nickname of "Cat" was no misnomer. The Tulsa playmaker was a magnificent ball-



Bruce Drake, '29phys.ed, head basketball coach, diagrams a play on the blackboard for his 1950 basketball team. Going into the Big Seven tournament at Kansas City in late December, Drake's team had posted a record of 4 wins against 2 losses.

three first-line reserves from last year's squad that finished in a tie for fourth in the conference. Gone are starters Wayne Glasgow, '50ed, Walter Morris, '50phys.ed, Paul Merchant, '50ed, and Wayne Speegle, '50. Those four finished 1-2-4-5 in team scoring. And with them went Bill Walters, '50ed, Don Leake, '50bus, and Jack Hughes, '50 ed, who saw a great deal of action in 1950."

With the mass exodus from the halls of cage ivy, and only two players returning who averaged more than five minutes of play per game last season, crocodile tears definitely seem in order. In Glasgow, Drake had a remarkable one-handed shooter

handler who doubled his scoring effectiveness with a half-dozen assists per game.

To dwell on player losses is an occupational disease of the coaching profession. But an ailment even more widespread is a tendency to cast envious, lingering glances at the opposition. The Sooners rate second to none in this department, but fortunately have a factual basis for their trepidation and admiration. Bruce Drake has never shown an aversion to touch schedules. Year in and year out he has booked about 10 non-conference games with outstanding teams from coast-to-coast, with nary a breather in

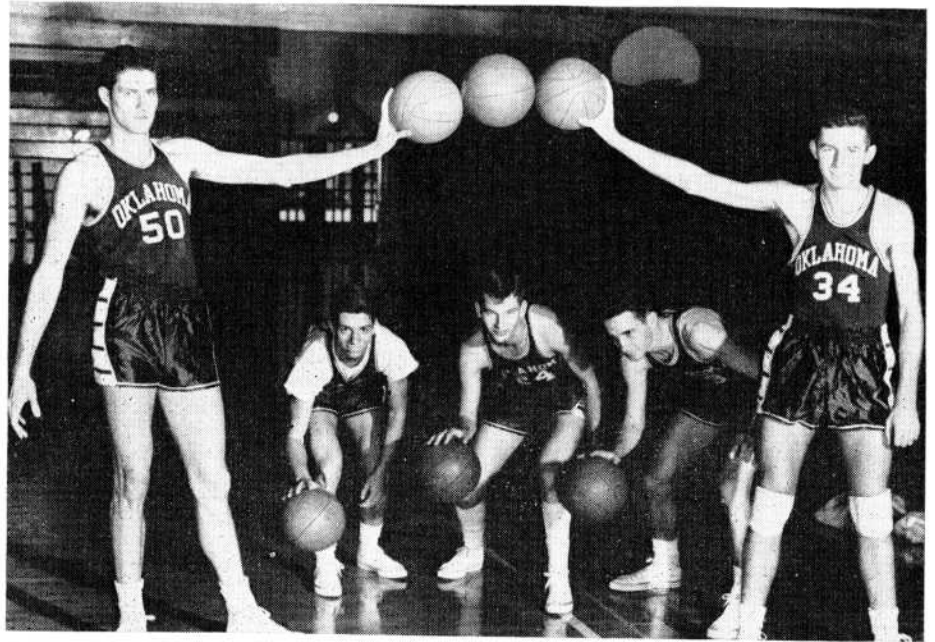
the lot. Big Seven competition is accepted as the equal of any in the nation.

So with the prospect of an inexperienced team in 1951 and a conference stacked with power, even the wolves were inclined toward indulgence at the start of the current year. National basketball experts rated the Drakemen lower than an ant's mother-in-law. One magazine placed the Sooners in the top fifty teams for '51, but didn't indicate where. Stanley Woodward, an astute observer of the roundball sport, said the Oklahomans had the poorest prospects since Drake began coaching in 1938. This observer was inclined to go along with forecasts of doom in those gloomy May days. That opinion has changed markedly in the intervening months, and might even be interpreted as mildly optimistic now. But before we deprive Drake of his therapeutic crutches of pessimism, let us indulge in one last bit of hindsight.

Last year's cage edition finished fourth in league play with a 6-6 record, the overall mark being 12-9. It must be regarded as a disappointing season in the light of outstanding player material and past successes of Drake-coached teams. But the fates had a thumb in the pudding in the form of recurrent injuries that seriously impaired the effectiveness of the squad most of the season. The Sooners thus lived up to their potential only sporadically. But when they did, a few eyes were opened, witness upset victories over fabulous CCNY, NCAA and NIT champs, and Clyde "Kansas" Lovellette, conference co-champion.

The erratic play looked like a matter of superb players not meshing with a superb offense. The 1949-50 Sooners were a collection of outstanding individual stars. The offense employed, recently christened the "Drake Shuffle," was an intricate affair that demanded exceptional teamwork and subserviance to the cause. The shuffle offense, developed during the past three years by Drake and assistant Jerome "Shocky" Needy, '37ed, almost defies description. Many of the finest scouts in the land were unable to diagram the perpetual motion affair which has only a few simple plays as a basis, but innumerable options that follow in sequence. It demands precision in position and blocking until a man is cut free or a screen is set. It defies the basketball player who has an itch to shoot after two passes. It is ball control of the type that made Henry Iba famous. The offense was new to the '50 Sooners, who nevertheless mastered it sufficiently to play .571 ball, injuries and all.

The current cage crop is undoubtedly at an advantage in that respect. They were virtually weaned on the shuffle, and are physically and mentally adapted to that style of play. Sooner teams are renowned



No glue. Just unusual photography. Standing are Marcus Frieberger and Sherman Norton. Dribbling are Stan Grossman, Teddy Owens, and Charles Pugsley. They are the five men who take the floor to pace Coach Bruce Drake's basketball pack.

for ball-handling ability, a credit to the emphasis Drake and Needy place on fundamentals. The present group tops any in memory in that department. Stan Grossman, Ted Owens and Charley Pugsley are cuties who can do everything except make the ball vanish, and on occasion are accused of that. Also, the players got a head start this season that gives them an edge previous Sooner teams did not enjoy. Drake, recognizing that his boys were short on experience and long on time, arranged to have them play—and work—in New York's Catskill Mountains resort area this summer. The warm weather junket to the "borscht belt" was of great value, giving the cagers a pre-season condition and sharpness that was sorely needed.

On the experience side of the ledger, Marcus Frieberger and Charley Pugsley are the only returnees who can be placed in the "veteran" category. Pugsley, six foot senior, lettered at Oklahoma in 1946, '49 and '50. Not a prolific scorer, his defensive ability and court savvy provide a steady influence. Frieberger has been Paradox Pete to Sooner cage fans and coaches alike. At 6-11 he is the tallest man ever to play at O.U. and probably the most graceful big man on collegiate maps today. A senior, he came here widely-heralded as a panacea for postwar Sooner hoop headaches.

But the big boy didn't perform in the way most fans expected. Marc didn't blitz the cords for a 20-point average in the tradition of the Mikans, Kurlands and Tuckers. This in part was due to Drake's offense, a pattern which keeps the big man

away from post position a good part of the time. The Sooner mentor was unwilling to build his team around one player in the way many coaches have reacted to the occasional longitudinal specimens happening their way. Furthermore, Frieberger himself has been somewhat erratic. Occasionally he is all basketball player, hustling, thinking and indicating poise and maneuverability that belies his huge but well-proportioned frame. At other times, though, the Greenville, Texas, senior has seemed listless and dispirited.

Thus far this season, Marc has looked superb. At the time of this writing, the Sooners had posted wins over Texas, SMU and Minnesota. Frieberger contributed a three-game total of 41 points, but more important, his presence in the lineup seemed to transform the club into a more confident, sharper outfit. Continuation of this hustling, heads-up play could make Frieberger the man of the year in Drake's diary.

Going down the line, the roster lists about six more who justify optimism. Foremost among these are the three remaining starters, Sherman Norton, Stan Grossman and Teddy Owens. Norton, a LaGrange, Illinois, junior, contributes rebounding strength on a 6-4 framework, is a deft shooter from in close. He also is the possessor of a fiery competitive spirit, a kid who doesn't like the thought of losing.

Owens is a shining light whose glow could be seen two years ago. Nicknamed "Radar" because of phenomenal set-shooting ability, Ted is a very hard worker. He

knows the shuffle offense backwards, sideways and inside out. The same thing can be said for Owens as was said about Norton in respect to the team spirit angle. Though barely topping six feet, Radar takes more than his share of rebounds and is a ball of controlled fury all over the court.

Mention of Grossman automatically brings a comparison with Paul Merchant, the past master of play-making. It is the contention of this observer, be it heresy or not, that the "Ox," as the 5-10 junior from the sidewalks of New York is affectionately called, will make a place for himself in Sooner memory on a par at least with the undeniably brilliant Merchant. The diminutive ball hawk is the crowd's delight with his spectacular passing and guarding. Not an outstanding shotmaker, he'll take the six or eight good opportunities offered each night and hit half of them. But it's in the ball-handling department that Stan excels.

The supporting cast of Jim Terrell, Johnny "Motor" Rogers, Doug Lynn and Snuffy Turner are capable reserves. Rogers shows promise of breaking into the starting lineup at any time. The Centralia, Illinois, education senior is almost too fast. He can dribble downcourt as fast as the ordinary player can run. But Rogers has a tendency to be erratic, and a little stability is needed before he can move to that coveted starting role. Terrell, also a June grad, is the most accurate jump and push shooter on the squad, but has been hampered by injuries. He can be counted on for help, along with Lynn, a 1948 and 1949 letterman who is an aggressive rebounder and three inches shorter than Freiburger. Turner, senior letterman from Purcell, is a capable floorman and excellent setshot.

Beyond those nine, prospects are somewhat dim. Last year's freshman squad was anemic, although Sandy Borofsky, Tom Churchill, Bill Cummins, Jack Angel and Norm Fleshman show promise and will bear watching. It would be senseless to base predictions for a banner year on material alone; other conference squads hold an edge in that department. But there's an intangible quality present in the current squad that presages victory.

Call it spirit, hustle or will to win—it's there. It's the factor that upsets the dope chart. The Sooners have it. A youthful squad—15 of the 19 squadmen are 21 or younger—they have an intense desire to win. Part of this flame has been kindled by Drake, as vital and enthusiastic a man now as in his playing days at Oklahoma in 1926-29 when he was All-American in basketball and tops in track and football. His players want to win for him, they believe in the shuffle offense (an all-important

factor), and they have the verve of youth that hates to lose. Moreover, there is an undercurrent of desire to win to show Sooner fans that they're missing something by not watching them, for crowds have been at an all-time low in 1950.

So the writer is inclined to go along with the Big Red of the hardwoods. They are alert, sound ballplayers. They possess an indefatigable spirit that spells victory. They have an effective if exacting offense. Their coach is a tolerant perfectionist whose teams have won or tied for the Big Seven title six times in the 12 years he has coached, have been first or second nine times in a notoriously tough league from top to bottom.

Predictions would be much simpler had the writer not seen the Sooners in their first three starts. Irrepressible Shockey Needy, Drake's sharp-tongued and perpetually satirical assistant, premonitioned four losses in the first six games, already an impossibility. "We'll be lucky to score," insisted the Shocker with a straight face.

But the Sooners dropped a fine S.M.U. team, 47-39 in the opener, and made the Mustangs look highschoolish in losing. And S.M.U. rated one of the top teams in the Southwest, pushed a St. Johns team to the limit before losing a two-pointer. The Drakemen were even more impressive in tripping Jack Gray's Texas Longhorns, 50-35, and Minnesota, 66-45, showing smoother ball-handling and fewer errors than in the S.M.U. encounter.

It might be dangerous to forecast a successful season on the basis of early season victories. Little things win and lose ball games. Big tests coming in December are a return bout with Minnesota and CCNY. If the Drakemen weather those. . . . But there are a dozen "ifs" qualifying the predictions. If the team spirit doesn't force them to crack and press too hard. If injuries don't crop up in bunches. If deflation doesn't occur because of early season reversals.

Foregoing the ifs, it can safely be said that at worst the Sooners will be a club who can and will cause trouble for the mightiest of the mighty on any given night. Their offense definitely is a crowd pleaser with intricate plays winding up with a man free for a crisp shot. But from this rosy view, it looks like the Men of Drake will finish no less than second in conference play—and that a pretty strong order. And with the brightest freshman crop in history now matriculating at Norman, it looks as if the 1952 harvest season will not only produce a bumper crop, but yield a veritable victory garden.

Signs of the Times

Capt. Orel B. Lindsey, '38bs, formerly of Oklahoma City, has been assigned to the engineer section of the Japan Logistical Command with headquarters in Yokohama. Prior to his present assignment, he performed similar duties with headquarters, Eighth Army, and with the Black Hills Ordnance Depot, Igloo, South Dakota. During World War II, Captain Lindsey was awarded the Distinguished Unit citation.

Lt. George R. Robinson, '50Law, has been recalled to the armed services and is living in East Point, Georgia.

Nathan W. Anderson, '39eng, assistant professor of military science and tactics at the University, has been promoted from captain to major.

Ens. Charles Joel Mauch, '48eng, has reported for active duty in the United States Naval Reserve, Monterey, California. He is under instruction in the Communications indoctrination course at the U. S. Naval General Line school in Monterey.

Lt. Comdr. Jay B. Smith, '36-'37, now assigned to new duty in Washington, D. C., recently received an honorary citizenship certificate and keys to New Orleans upon his detachment as assistant public information officer for the Eighth Naval District. Smith has been in navy public relations work since 1942.

Lt. Alex K. Adwan, '50journal, formerly of Seminole, left early in October for active duty in the United States Army at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he performed temporary duty before being transferred to Camp Polk, Louisiana. Previous to his recall into the armed service, Adwan was a reporter on the staff of the *Seminole Producer*.

M-Sgt. Marion H. Alderson, '49journal, has been made personnel sergeant major of a combat command unit of the 6th armored division, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. A veteran of World War II, Sergeant Alderson returned to active duty October 12. He was awarded the purple heart from the Okinawa campaign and also holds two bronze star awards, the combat infantry badge and four battle stars. Following graduation from the University where he was a member of the *Oklahoma Daily* staff, Alderson was news editor of the West Plains, Missouri, *Journal-Gazette*.

Capt. Chester A. Hazelwood, '37-'40, has been assigned to the 1500th air base group, Hickman airforce base, Honolulu, T. H. A graduate of the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson airforce base, Dayton, Ohio, Hazelwood is a former Oklahoma Cityan.

Lt. Charles Terry, '41, and Mrs. Terry, the former Frances E. McCool, '46ba, Norman, visited in Norman in November. Lieutenant Terry is an instructor at the air force weather school at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois. The Terrys have two children, Carol Anne, 3, and Thomas Dale, 15 months.

Five former University students, now stationed in the Pentagon Building, Washington, D. C., have been promoted from the rank of Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel. They include: Col. John Embry, '27 Law; Col. Eldon H. Larecy, '26; Col. Marvin W. Ludington, '28Law; Col. Carlos E. McAfee, '28 Law; and Col. Merton E. Munson, '29ba, '31Law.

Lt. Col. Herber C. Leney, '34Law, Lt. Col. Thomas V. Munson, '35bus, and Lt. Col. Ray W. Whitson, '34eng, were recently promoted from the rank of major.

Major Charles W. Allen, Jr., '40ba, '42Law, Guthrie, has been named executive officer to the

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