

Victory and Defeat

By David Burr, '50

Football, the king of O.U. sports, stepped off the throne January 1 in New Orleans' Sugar Bowl. Losing 13-7 to Kentucky, the team that took a rebuilding season and made it one of the greatest in University history came to the end of their 31-game winning streak. Psychological reasoning turned up the rather obvious conclusion among students and alumni that the team had to lose sometime and that defeat is never the juiciest of morsels. Nonetheless, disappointment failed to quiet the pride of the Sooner supporters. What was estimated as the biggest crowd ever to turn out for a homecoming occurred when the Big Red flew into Norman from New Orleans. But even considered in the light of objectivity, the season was a phenomenal success story and the defeat proved what some students and alumni were beginning to doubt: Bud Wilkinson and his band are human and much more interesting people than the invulnerable automatons many suspected they were. Next fall the question would be, "Will we win?" Rather than, "What do you think the score will be?"

At seasons' end and during December and January the rumor mill turned out some rather interesting rumors. Every day or so a new rumor was reported with a certain amount of gusto. They centered around Wilkinson and Gomer Jones, his line coach. It made little difference how many times they were denied, hardly a soul could miss the suggestion that Bud was ready to depart for Minnesota. Then Jones began to grab the spotlight. Kansas State needed a head coach and who could perform more miracles than Jones. Witness his Oklahoma lines. A partial scotching of this rumor came when the University Regents named him assistant Athletic Director, a move calculated to add prestige. As the *Sooner* goes to press, Jones is being considered for the head coaching job at Ohio State. Again Bud took center stage. It was reported that he was not well. Also there seemed some likelihood that he might retire from coaching and go into business. At



Jerry Meader, Charles Coleman, George McCormick and Dick Jones elevate Coach John Jacobs, '16ba, and the Sugar Bowl trophy they brought home from New Orleans. Added starter in the Sugar Bowl track and field meet, the University's mile relay team ran away from the field for the important win in the University's "minor" sports.

the present time there seems to be no end of reports. However, this much seems true. Bud will enter Mayo's clinic in Rochester for a complete physical checkup. It is a routine checkup. To scotch the several rumors, Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, O.U.'s sports publicist, released the following story: "Bud Wilkinson, Oklahoma football coach and athletic director, today denied that:

"(1) He is breaking his contract at Oklahoma to accept a job as head coach at _____ (please fill in name of whatever school is mentioned in the next rumor.)

"(2) Or that he has resigned at Oklahoma because of illness . . .

"(3) Or that Oklahoma will win the Big Seven football championship in 1951.

"I am very happy at Oklahoma. My contract . . . still has three years to run. When it expires, I hope Oklahoma people will want me to stay longer," Wilkinson says."

Basketball, the crowned prince of sports, keeps plugging away. Although as of January 22 the roundballers sported a record of 9 wins and 5 defeats, the team seemed ready for its conference grind. Thus

far it had met only Missouri, Colorado and Iowa State in conference competition. It lost to Missouri, defeated Colorado and split a pair with Iowa State. The big boys in the conference, Kansas State and Kansas, are still to be played two games each, a pair with Nebraska, and singles with Missouri and Colorado.

Whether the Bruce Drakes, '29phys.ed, can trim the two Jayhawk rivals and the remaining conference opponents remains to be seen but one very important game is out of the way and proves what the team can do. January 20, they met Oklahoma A.&M. when A.&M. boasted the No. 1 team in the nation. In a game that proves why basketball is the premier spectator sport, O.U. triumphed 44-40.

Even at mid-season it is hard to evaluate the latest cage edition. Against Missouri and Iowa State they looked like novices playing a professional game. But against A.&M. they performed like professionals. One spectator at a game commented that it seemed O.U. played the kind of game their opponents played. If their opponents were good, like CCNY, A.&M. or Kansas State

Continued page 29

Sports . . .

(who defeated the Sooners in the Big Seven Invitational tourney at Kansas City), the local cagers played like champs. But against lesser teams the opposite was true.

Probably one of the reasons for the turn-about playing is Marcus Frieberger. The 6-foot 11-inch center can be great as he was against A.&M. or he can be miserable. True he can not be personally blamed for the losses. He is only one member of a team and he is not the only one who makes mistakes. Yet it is the belief of this reporter that if Frieberger could consistently maintain his A.&M. play the Sooners would be hard to handle down the stretch. Teddy Owens, the slender sharp-shooting guard who is presently pacing the team in scoring, Stanley Grossman, guard and excellent floorman, Sherman Norton, forward, Charles Pugsley, captain and forward, and Doug Lynn, reserve center or forward, make up Drake's first line of offense.

On the same weekend the Sooners trimmed the Aggies in basketball, another O.U. team—wrestling—ender another Aggie streak. Going back to 1937, the Aggies had never been defeated in dual meets. This time Port Robertson's boys completed the weekend sports rout by winning with a sizeable point margin.

At the Sugar Bowl festivities, the University's mile relay team, which had been invited as an added starter in the Sugar Bowl track and field meet, ran away from the field for an important victory.

The victory represented an unusual coaching job by John Jacobs, '16ba, Sooner track coach. Lacking quarter-milers, Jacobs took a high-jumper, a half-miler and two powerful 440-yard runners and cast them into a relay combination that won the event in 3:17.3 in cold weather, defeating Texas A.&M. of the Southwest Conference, Oklahoma A.&M.'s champions of the Missouri Valley, and Louisiana State's defending Southeastern Conference kings.

The so-called minor sports and basketball were proving themselves competent representatives of a University that had already produced a championship football team.

Sugar Roundup . . .

homa City, Dr. T. J. '39bs, and Bob, '15ba, of Sapulpa) made sure they were known as Oklahomans. They sported big hats and kept the red and white flying all weekend.

Enjoying the festive occasion before getting down to affairs of the state were legislators Boyd Cowden, '27-'28, Chandler;

Bill Logan, '41-'42, Lawton; Jim Bullard, Duncan, Bert Larason, '30ba, Fargo; J. D. McCarty, '36-'39, Oklahoma City; William L. Jones, '49Law, Okemah, and Paul Harkney, '39, Idabel. Jones, incidentally, was in the company of an Okemah delegation, each of whom was wearing a specially designed Oklahoma button. Base of the emblem was a pecan made into a football, serving also to advertise the pecan industry of the group's hometown.

Regents and former regents of the University were spotted in the crowd. Dr. Oscar White, '21med, and Mrs. White, were down from Oklahoma City, and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Morgan from Blackwell. Malcom E. Rosser, Jr., '21, regent in the early '30's and Joe Looney, '20ba, '22Law, Wewoka, regent from 1927 to the early '40's, also were among those registering at Alumni headquarters.

Duncan was represented by Dick March, '14, and Mrs. March and T. Howard McCasland, '16ba. Claude Reeds, '14ba, the football great of a day gone by, and Mrs. Reeds (Luella Bretch, '14ba) came in from Newcastle; Harry Revelle, '24ba, from Ardmore, and Dolph Montgomery from Lawton.

Atoka's delegation included Joe Ralls, '20, and Charles Memminger, '14ba, '33 Law, and Mrs. Memminger (Ruth Moore, '20fa, '26ba).

Three who didn't have to travel far for the festivities were Bill Richards, '41bus,

and Richard O'Shields, '49eng, and Mrs. O'Shields from Baton Rouge. Braydon Sheen, '50bus, who used to play baseball for O.U., also was close enough to make it a short trip. His present business calls for travel through Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico.

Fred E. Tarman, '10ba, and Mrs. Tarman, Norman, and their party including son Roger, '50fa, now studying journalism at O.U. after completing work last spring for a BFA degree; daughter, Harriet, and her husband, Richard Remmers, '44eng, who is back in school, and Remmer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Remmers, Oklahoma City, had been in the city almost a week when Sooner headquarters were established at the Roosevelt. Tarman put in a good word for the University Ruf Neks when he was interviewed by the New Orleans press, reminding folks to watch for their activities. The Ruf Neks didn't disappoint anyone, nor did the Sooner cheerleaders.

Others registering at the Sooner booth included Dr. C. E. Lively, '30ph.c, '30bs, '34bs in med, '34med, McAlester; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wells, Henryetta; Bruce Carter, '32ma, '50d.ed, Miami; Tom Finney, Jr., '45ba, '48Law, and Mrs. Finney, Idabel; Judge Bob Howell, '26ba, '28Law, and Mrs. Howell, Holdenville, and the following all from Enid: Milton Garber, '33, George Beggs, '35-'27, Phil Edwards, Bruce Selby,

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