

The Honors Roll In

A Big Seven championship (sixth straight year), a rating in football's top ten, and two All-Americans show the degree of success achieved by Big Red in '51.

For Oklahoma the barrage of enemy passes and punts has lifted. Another football season has passed. But even in mid-December the rumblings of the warfare lingers on with All-American selections and great bowl expectations (not for Oklahoma).

What kind of a record did the Big Red compile over the 1951 season? Officially it is condensed in the following fashion, won 8, lost 2. But there's a much better story available before condensation. For example, Oklahoma just managed to wrap up its fourth straight Big Seven championship. (O.U. shared the crown the two preceding years for a record of 6 straight championships.) The conference record showed wins over Kansas, Colorado, Kansas State, Iowa State, Nebraska and Missouri. No losses were reported in conference competition. The showing against the homefolks was so rewarding that seven Sooners were named to the loop's all-conference offensive and defensive teams by the A.P.—Eddie Crowder, quarterback, Buck McPhail, fullback, Tom Catlin, center, Bert Clark, guard, Roger Nelson, guard, Jim Weatherall, tackle, and Art Janes, tackle.

Two other wins were registered over

William & Mary and Oklahoma A.&M. On the darker side were the two losses to Texas and Texas A.&M.

The history of this year's team seems to run something like this: young, inexperienced but talented. They lost two of their first three and then came on to rank 10th in the Associated Press' poll for national standings. A good season for any team. It's doubtful whether or not Coach Wilkinson will receive many votes for coach-of-the-year but once again he proved his ability. Since there is no vote for line-coach-of-the-year, it is a safe bet that Gomer Jones will not receive any victor's wreath but his importance can hardly be exaggerated.

Oklahoma was not forgotten when the All-American berth's were passed out. To practically no one's surprise, Jim Weatherall, senior tackle from Hooker, was liked for everyone's dream team. They say that Jim never failed to perform like an All-American in any game he played.

Tom Catlin, the quiet, efficient offensive center and defensive line backer, managed to overcome the usual reluctance to place two All-American's from the same school on the all-team to score honors with some pickers. A junior from Ponca City, Catlin is not the sensational type of player the fan can pick out easily on the field, but his every-game-fine-play forced his selection. Just like Weatherall, Catlin was called on for double duty when the going was tough.

This reporter is pleased to remind the gentle reader's that the *Sooner* came dangerously close to accurately predicting the season's outcome in September. Then the reporter said that 1) Big Red will probably lose to Texas A.&M. (missed by not foreseeing 9-7 loss to Texas), 2) The Sooners will go undefeated in Big Seven play, 3) O.U. will probably wind up in the top ten teams in national rankings, say in about fifth place (admit mistake, missed by five places), 4) All-American choices look bright for Weatherall, Vessels, Tom Catlin and Bert Clark (Weatherall and Catlin made grade, Vessels was injured out of contention, and Clark made all-conference), 5) The game-of-the-year, Texas A.&M. 6) Best competition in Big Seven

should come from a) Nebraska (too bad about Reynolds) b) Colorado c) Kansas.

Not bad for one season and so, as the sun fades in the west, we take our leave from football.

Needed: A Tall Man

Youth Serves. By this time the basketball team has been unwrapped and much like the football squad that preceded it in the sports arena, it will be a young, inexperienced and talented club.

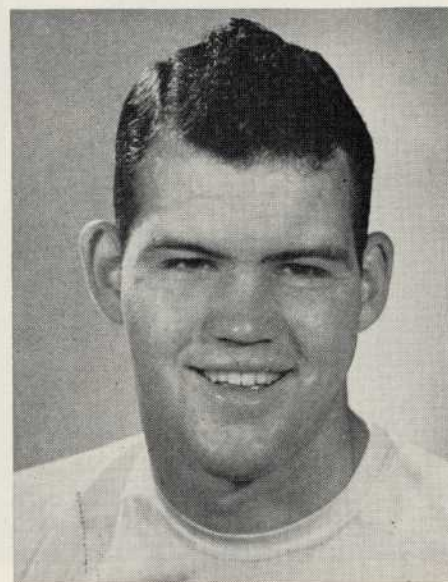
Only guard Stanley Grossman, senior civil engineering major from Brooklyn, returns from last year's starters to help balance the squad.

In comparing the 1950 team and the 1951 edition, Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, writes that the team will be "greener, faster, good potentiality. Heavily manned by sophomores and freshmen (eligible under the Big Seven Conference ruling) the new Sooners will lack the experience, the set-shooting skill and the rebounding of last

Continued Page 60



STANLEY GROSSMAN
... Returning Starter



TOM CATLIN
... An All-American

tipped-over glass silos with a boxcar joining them—is so constructed that maximum amount of space was provided for a minimum amount of money.

The sides of the aeronautical building, made of heat-resistant glass, should make for “excellent” daytime lighting conditions, Burgett, said.

Sports . . .

year’s team but will have more speed and better shooting on the run. Most pressing need: a big man standing 6-8 or more who can cover and maneuver. Coach Drake

doesn’t have one. At Oklahoma in 1951-52, the accent is on youth. Most of the new Oklahoma squad averages 18 or 19 years of age.”

Keith continues, “(the) system again will be the set offense, a multiple post, that coach Drake used last year. However, the new attack will feature more fast breaking and freelance play this coming season, owing to the inexperience and better speed of the new freshmen and sophomores who will largely dominate the Oklahoma squad.”

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE DUE TO
COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS

A paper copy of this issue is available
at call number LH 1 .O6S6 in Bizzell
Memorial Library.