

Football enthusiasm will get an unusual sendoff this year when professional football's Washington Redskins and Detroit Lions play an exhibition game in Owen Stadium. The two teams will spotlight

# Oklahoma's Best

BY DAVID BURR, '50

Alumni sports followers have yet another first in store for them. Even the more blasé should register anticipation. For the first time in the history of sports in Oklahoma a professional football game will be played in the state. Appropriately enough, the Detroit Lions-Washington Redskins will do battle in Owen Stadium—appropriate because some of O.U.'s finest performers will be in action for the two teams.

Three-fourths of the famed backfield of '49—Thomas, Pearson, Heath—will be in action, along with South and Southwestern stars that have streaked across the fall sports pages.

Junior Thomas and Leon Heath represent the Washington Redskins along with such other stickouts as Sammy Baugh, Texas Christian, Harry Gilmer, Alabama and Bill Dudley, Virginia.

On a recent trip to the campus, a representative of the Washington club stated that great things were expected of Heath this year. An injury cost him time and effectiveness last season. If Heath has a great year, it would surprise no Big Red fans who saw him display the form and finesse that made him an All-American. Thomas, one of the finest runners ever produced at

Oklahoma, may well become one of the great pro-gallopers, also.

The Detroit Lions will have much Sooner support. Lindell Pearson, a big, fast man, who joined the Lions after being ruled ineligible for his senior year of competition by the Big Seven Conference, will represent O.U. And there is another name or two in the lineup that will insure enthusiastic support for the pro game. Doak Walker,

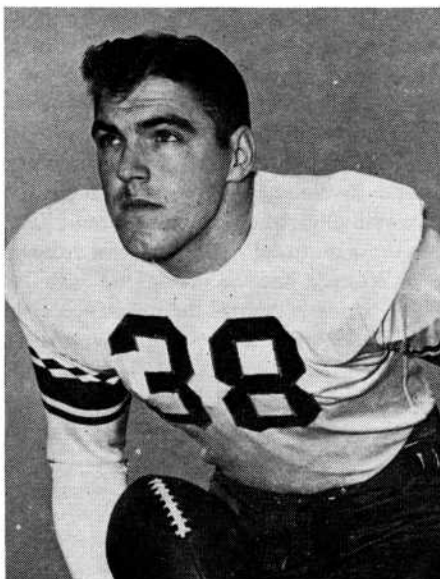
time offensively but pitched two touchdown passes for the alums to receive the Wilkinson trophy as the games outstanding performer.

But while the alumni were winning, discerning sports followers paid close attention to what the varsity displayed. Several of last years regulars—Buddy Leake, John Redell and Ed Rowland—didn't show up for Spring training due to participation in other sports or a conflict in academic work. (Rowland could not arrange a schedule that would permit participation.)

Yet the team that took the field showed a sharp and more experienced attack than last year's spring crew. Billy Vessels, stand-out halfback, appeared fully recovered from the leg injury that benched him for most of last season as he took the opening kickoff back across the alums' goal line. Eddie Crowder directed the experienced backfield of Buck McPhail, fb, Vessels, hb, and Merrill Green, hb.

The backfield looks strong anyway its observed with reserves that will push the starters at every position. In the line, the first string looks good but is lacking in top-quality reserves.

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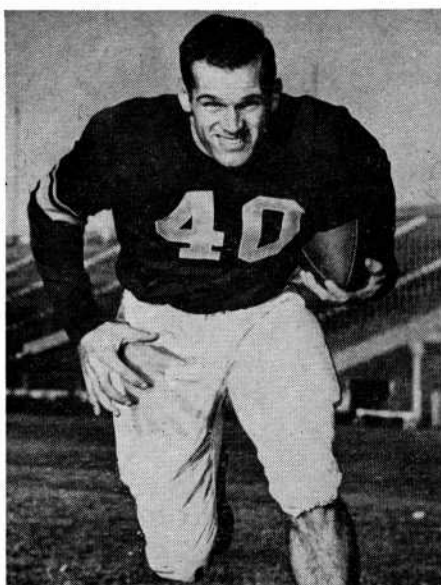
LINDELL PEARSON  
... Better Than Ever

the fabulous All-American from Southern Methodist, and Leon Hart, equally famous end and All-American from Notre Dame, will be cavorting for the Lions. Bobby Lane, Texas' great quarterback, will be pitching for the Lions also.

The game is sponsored by the Oklahoma Publishing Co. as an *Oklahoman-Times* Milk and Ice Fund benefit. Tickets may be ordered by sending a \$3.50 check per ticket payable to the Oklahoma Publishing Co. to Professional Football, Oklahoma Publishing Co., 500 N. Broadway, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Spring football practice came to an end April 5 with the full scale alumni-varsity football game. For the third year in a row the alumni turned back the clock and the varsity for a 27 to 20 victory.

Indian Jack Jacobs played only a short



LEON HEATH  
... Great Things Expected



GEORGE THOMAS  
... Indian on Warpath

lated areas in which most of us now live than it did in the more simple life of a generation ago. . . .

"It is obvious that one can render the maximum service only by sustained effort for so long as he lives. This thought comes to me with peculiar force just now because within a few weeks I am retiring from the University which I have been privileged to serve for 38 years. I look forward to retirement as the graduating student looks forward to Commencement—not as an end but a beginning. . . .

"Regardless of whether or not he ever attains wealth or fame, the man who devotes to the last his energies to unselfish service will never be afraid of life—or death. Because, as the shadows lengthen toward the east, until the time comes when he realizes that the final Great Commencement is at hand, he can look back without regret and forward with faith that this too is not an end but a beginning. The beginning of something finer and more beautiful than this world could ever give."

#### Dr. Cross

"It is not unusual for a graduate of the University of Oklahoma to become prominent in international affairs, but such recognition is not usually attained before the age of 40. Our final citation this evening goes to an alumnus who has had an amazing record in the diplomatic service well in advance of the age of 40. . . .

"He studied physics and geology at the University of Oklahoma, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1933. . . . He held membership in Phi Beta Kappa and was elected Rhodes Scholar from Oklahoma in 1933. . . .

"It was in 1941 that he began his distinguished career in public service. . . . World War II interrupted his career and he served as a naval lieutenant. After the war he returned to Washington where he accepted an appointment with the State Department serving as Co-ordinator for Aid to Greece and Turkey. . . . As he demonstrated his ability, his responsibilities increased, and in December, 1951, he was named Ambassador to Turkey. It gives me great pleasure to present this certificate to George C. McGhee."

#### Mr. McGhee

" . . . I regret exceedingly not to be with you in person to receive this award. Were it not for the serious problems facing both our country and Turkey at this critical juncture, and the great distance involved, you can be assured that I would have arranged to be present. I greatly appreciate the courtesy of the University in asking my mother to receive the award in my behalf and to make this statement for me."

"I have a genuine affection for the University, and a keen appreciation for the contribution it made toward my own development. I have on this occasion given particular thought to the principle ways in which I feel that the University has influenced me in a constructive way. . . .

"First, the University gave me excellent training in a practical subject which was related to the environment of our great southwest and to the problems which I was to face later in life. . . .

"Secondly, the University gave me a very real sense of democracy, at its best, as we know it in America. In no other place have I encountered such democratic relationships among students from all walks of life, and between the students and their professors, as we have in the University of Oklahoma. . . .

"Third, there was inculcated in me in the University a conviction that public service, service to the state or to the people as a whole, is the highest calling to which a man can aspire. . . .

"I want to express again my sincere appreciation to the University of Oklahoma and for the values for which it stands, values for which I am sure it will continue to stand in the future."

In closing Dr. Cross said (the award winners) "have demonstrated to their fellow Oklahomans what can be done if one is willing to serve society with energy and devotion. May their achievements provide inspiration for others, especially the young men and women who are about to begin their lives of service."

## Sports . . .

It is much too soon to size up O.U.'s 1952 football offering but a good guess is it will be slightly stronger than last year's squad, even with the loss of All-American Jim Weatherall and line-backer Bert Clark.

**There was no** guessing about the effect of the University Regent's action in offering Bud Wilkinson a 10-year pact to stay at Oklahoma. It was an extremely popular move.

The terms of the contract provide that Wilkinson will remain as athletic director and coach and that anytime he wishes to retire from coaching he may retain the athletic directorship and name his successor. In addition the contract forbids Wilkinson's ever leaving Oklahoma to coach at any other school during the 10-year period.

**Just at press time** it was learned that the University of Oklahoma was consciously violating a Big Seven ruling concerning the recruiting of athletes.

President George L. Cross reported that

at the Big Seven's spring meeting the representatives of other conference members were notified that O.U. was not conducting its business on the conference standard.

The violation occurred over a rule that forbids coaches to initiate contact with highschool athletes but permits alumni to do whatever they like toward recruitment with minor reservations.

Since other conferences and independents in the area were not bound by a similar rule, O.U. decided to break it.

The violation will last only until September when even stricter regulations of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary schools will go into effect.

Dr. Cross pointed out that under the Big Seven ruling O.U. was being penalized but under the North Central regulation all schools in Oklahoma and the surrounding states would be operating under the same plan.

**Oklahoma's two** national wrestling champions, Billy Borders and Tommy Evans have qualified for the Olympic wrestling team. A third Sooner, Jack Blubaugh, a member of last year's NCAA tourney team, also qualified in the Olympic trials.

Borders was the only first place winner but Evans and Blubaugh took runnerup honors. All three will report to Annapolis for preliminary skirmishes before sailing to Helsinki, Finland. No one knows yet which of the Olympic qualifiers will get to face actual competition. The U.S. representative in each weight will be determined by a best two out of three bouts between the winner and runnerup in each weight. Since Borders and Blubaugh are in the same class, O.U. will be represented by at least one representative. Evans must take his opponent two out of three times to get the starting berth.

## Covering the Campus . . .

island just 103 miles from the north pole to establish a weather station.

The idea for the station was originated by Fletcher when the island was discovered by a weather flight several months ago. It will serve as the first continuous source of information on polar weather, which is necessary for accurate forecasting in the northern hemisphere.

Fletcher, now 31 years old, has been engaged in meteorological research for the Air Force since 1941 when he received his B.S. in engineering physics from the University. He took basic flight training at Westheimer field before the war.

The island on which Fletcher and his party are working has been officially named Fletcher's ice island. It is nine miles long and is drifting in a circular pattern at the rate of one mile a day.