



BILLY VESSELS, senior halfback, had one of his greatest days against Texas. Here he skirts left end in the O.U.-T.U. clash. He has been touted for All-American honors.

Despite heckling at Colorado, the Pittsburgh, Texas and Kansas crowds have lent an attentive ear to Oklahoma's speeches about a national football title. Thus far the whistlestopping has been

## *A Triumphant Tour*

By Bill Goodner, '52ba

Oklahoma, moving relentlessly toward another Big Seven crown and a top rating among the nation's football powers, has just returned from a triumphant tour into Texas as this is written.

The O.U. machine, that sputtered to a 21-21 tie in the Colorado game in the season's opener, caught fire against a good Pittsburgh team to win going away 49-20 the following week. Then, with the most amazing demonstration of offensive power any Sooner team ever displayed, the Big Red walloped Texas, 49-20, October 11.

The first quarter of the Texas game will be replayed time and time again. In less than 11 minutes, Oklahoma scored four touchdowns and led 28 to 0.

After Texas, only two major foes were seen in the distance. Kansas was to be played the weekend following the Dallas

adventure and Notre Dame was on the schedule for November 8. Nebraska and Missouri both gave indications of testing Oklahoma but were not considered anything better than a long shot to upset the perennial Big Seven champs.

What kind of a team is this 1952 edition. One thing is sure. The squad packs a terrific offensive punch. Thus far O.U. seems to be a little weaker on defense than many of Wilkinson's former teams, but the offense takes up the slack. The impressive performances against Pittsburgh and Texas earned the Sooners a No. 5 rating in the nation after the third week of play.

As an example of the showing the backfield made on at least one Texas observer, consider the following remarks by Dick Peebles, sports editor of the *San Antonio Express*:

"The greatest magician since Houdini quit pulling rabbits out of a hat.

"That was Eddie Crowder, the Oklahoma Quarterback last Saturday (October 11).

"Crowder's now-you-see-it, now-you-don't shenanigans fooled not only the Texas footballers on the field, but the fans in the stands, the TV cameraman and the radio announcers.

"And like all good magicians, Crowder had a foil to take the attention away from him while he was doing the legerdemain.

"Most magicians use good looking babes in B.V.D.'s as attention grabbers. Crowder's assistant was a 200-pound crashing fullback by the name of Buck McPhail.

"Crowder's favorite bit of hocus-pocus, and the one that killed the Longhorns—but not from laughing—consisted of taking the ball from center, faking it to McPhail who

would go full speed ahead into the line, hiding the ball on his hip until his pass receivers got beyond the Texas secondary and then throwing to one of them.

"McPhail was a great actor on the play. His performance Saturday was worthy of an Oscar. The way he tore into and through the Texas line, he sure 'nuf did look like the ball carrier.

". . . The Longhorns weren't the only ones embarrassed and fooled. The TV announcer was too.

"McPhail takes a handoff from Crowder and goes through the center of the line for three, five, eight yards before he's brought down," said the announcer. Then . . . 'Oops, there's a pass far down field to Halfback Buddy Leake for a touchdown!'

"The Sooners worked the trick again for another touchdown, this time the pass going to End John Reddell, before the Longhorns got wise. In the second half, the deep pass defenders didn't come rushing up to get McPhail. They covered the Sooner receivers coming down field.

"It is doubtful if there ever was a college backfield that worked together any better in any one ball game than the Sooner quartet of Crowder, McPhail, Leake and Billy Vessels did Saturday.

"Not even Notre Dame's fabulous Four Horsemen of years gone by could have done a better job of mayhem on the Longhorns.

"The booming Sooners play as one. They know each other's every move. Their blind lateral is an instrument of destruction, that is uncanny in execution and amazing to behold. . .

". . . One of the amazing things about the game is that Oklahoma won by a 49-20 margin, but they still had some offensive tricks up their sleeves that they didn't try to work consistently. Those are the plays in which the halfbacks take pitchouts from



"WHO'S IN THERE?" The referee unscrambles a pile up in the Pittsburgh game. Oklahoma trimmed the Panthers 49-20 in Sooners' home opener. Pitt beat Notre Dame following week.

Crowder, run wide, and if the defense closes in, they throw passes over it.

"But the Sooners didn't have to reach any deeper into their bag of tricks than up to the wrist. Everything they did try worked. It was just one of those days. . .

"Maybe Texas could run the Sooners out of the stadium if they were to meet again. Maybe the Longhorns could—if Eddie Crowder had two broken arms, and

Billy Vessels, Buck McPhail and Buddy Leake had busted legs. . . ."

Such is the tribute coming in from all quarters about O.U.'s Four Aces. It's a good hand to hold. Statistically (after the first 3 games), the backfield shapes up like this:

Crowder: Rushing, -3 yards; Passing, at-

Continued page 23



BUDDY LEAKE, extreme right, gets ready to try for a conversion in the Texas game. The kick was good. After the Kansas game he had 18 straight conversions without a miss—a new O.U. record. Holding for Leake is Eddie Crowder, O.U. quarterback. Oklahoma beat Texas, 49-20.



WHEN GUY BROWN, '42ba, '48ma, assistant secretary of the Alumni Association, dropped by an Atoka drugstore recently, he found alumni company. Having cokes are Joe Ralls, '20, secretary of the Atoka Alumni club, and Charles Memminger, '14ba, '33Law, president. Standing are the owners of the drugstore — Robert G. Cates, Sr., '10, Robert G. Cates, Jr., '39pharm, and Mark Cates, '41. Robert, Jr., is serving as vice president of the Atoka Alumni club.

cia. The couple is living in Norman where Stringer is a graduate student at the University.

Don L. Wallace, '52geol, and Mrs. Wallace, Norman, announced the birth of a son born August 26. The baby was named David Richard. Wallace is doing graduate work at the University.

BALL-TERNEUS: Miss Catherine Ball, '50-'52, Norman, and John Terneus, '52ed, El Reno, were married August 31 in McFarlin Memorial Methodist Church in Norman. At the University, Mrs. Terneus was a member of Wesley Foundation, YWCA, a cappella choir, Kappa Phi, and Pi Zeta Kappa. Terneus was affiliated with Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Mu Epsilon, and Kappa Tau Pi. The couple is living in Dallas, Texas, where Terneus is attending Perkins Theological School and Mrs. Terneus is continuing her music work at Southern Methodist University.

WORSHAM-PIERCE: Mrs. Gayle Arnot Worsham and Melvin F. Pierce, '52Law, both of Oklahoma City, were married September 5 in the First Christian Church in Oklahoma City. The couple has established a home in Lubbock, Texas.

Charlotte Rice, '52journ, formerly of Chickasha, recently was employed in the advertising department of the *Henryetta Daily Free-Lance*, Henryetta.

ELLIS-WEST: Miss Mary Ann Ellis, '52h.ec, and Lt. Lee R. West, '52ba, both of Antlers, were married August 29 in the Marine base chapel, Quantico, Virginia. At the University, Mrs. West was a member of Chi Omega. West was affiliated with Phi Eta Sigma, Kappa Alpha, and was president of the freshman law class, and treasurer of the law school board of governors. The couple is living in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

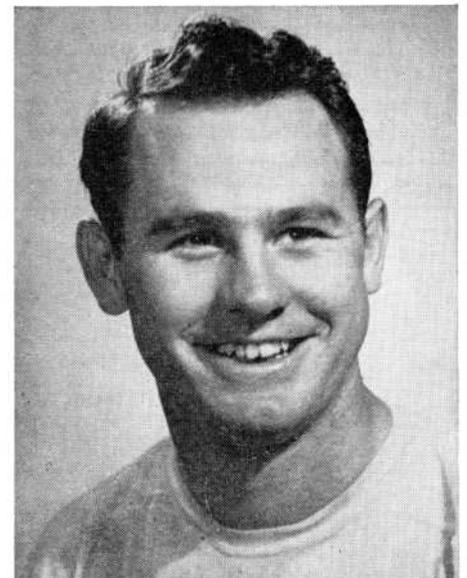
McKINNIS-CHAPMAN: Miss Barbara Ann McKinnis, '52ed, Memphis, Tennessee, and Lt. Gene Wilson Chapman, '52ba, Oklahoma City, were married August 16 in the Grand Avenue Methodist Church in McAlester. At the University, Mrs.

Chapman was a member of Alpha Phi, Pi Zeta Kappa, and Kappa Phi. Chapman was affiliated with Lambda Chi Alpha, Scabbard and Blade, Pi Gamma Mu, and the Men's Glee Club. The couple has established a home in Lawton where Chapman is stationed at Fort Sill.

HILL-EMMONS: Miss Vera Mae Hill, '52phys.ed, Norman, and Wesley Emmons, '50bus, Okene, were married recently in First Christian Church in Norman. At the University, Mrs. Emmons was a member of PEM Club. Emmons was affiliated with Alpha Phi Omega and the Accounting and Mar-



MELVIN BROWN  
... Fine Tackle



KAY KELLER  
... Defensive End

keting Clubs. The couple has established a home in Oklahoma City.

Richard N. Steed, '52Law, son of Congressman Tom Steed, has become associated with the law firm of Rex J. Spurr in Shawnee.

Jack Foster, '52journ, and Mrs. Foster, Elk City, announced the birth of a daughter born August 20. The baby was named Jeric Coleen.

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## A Triumphant Tour . . .

tempted 15, 9 completed for 177 yards and two touchdowns.

Vessels: Rushing, 266 yards in 48 carries; Kickoffs returned, 6 for 90 yards; Punt runbacks, 2 for 56; Passing, attempted 4, two completed for 54 yards.

Leake: Rushing, 146 yards on 35 carries; Passing, attempted 9 and completed 3 for 61 yards and a touchdown; Pass receiving, 5 for 102 yards and a touchdown; Kickoff returns, 4 for 69 yards.

McPhail: Rushing, 412 yards on 55 carries; Punting, 12 for a 37.3 average.

Leading O.U. scorers: Leake 46 points on 5 touchdowns and 16 points after touchdown (he has set a new O.U. record for consecutive conversions—16 without a miss); Vessels 24 points on 4 touchdowns, and McPhail 19 points on 3 touchdowns and 1 point after touchdown.

From these figures it should be clear that the backfield is one of the most versatile foursomes O.U. has ever fielded. Comparisons with backfields of other years, including 1949's lineup of Royal, Thomas, Pearson and Heath, show this year's crop in a favorable light. Many people believe it to be the best backfield in the nation.

Defensively, the team has given up 61 points in three games. Considered too many for a Wilkinson team by fans' standards. The problem, if it is one, is within range of

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**GOMER JONES**  
... Great Line Coach

a solution. The key defensive unit, headed by such All-American candidates as Tom Catlin at center, Larry Grigg at safety, and Ed Rowland at tackle can play magnificently. Two defensive ends who do not receive much space in the press also have sparkled. They are Kay Keller and Gene Calame.

It is my opinion that very few defensive teams in the nation could handle Colorado, Pittsburgh and Texas without having their fingers scorched several times. By the end of the season, the points scored by the opposition will probably compare favorably with other O.U. defensive teams.

Between October 15, as this is being written, and November 10 when this issue will be in the hands of alumni readers, O.U. will have played Kansas, Kansas State, Iowa State and Notre Dame. The latter is a dream game that football followers of O.U. have dreamed of matching. This year's meeting will carry with it a great deal of national prestige for there is no better showcase for a team than to play in

South Bend. A Kansas victory would allow O.U. to reign supreme in the Missouri Valley.

If Oklahoma hurdles Kansas and Notre Dame, she should be assured of a place in the top three in national rankings.

All-American players are currently earning their 1952 selections every Saturday. Oklahoma has several solid candidates. Rated a sure bet: Tom Catlin. Ranked in the possible group are Vessels, McPhail, Crowder and Rowland.

After the Texas game, I heard a man who has consistently served as a critic of O.U.'s sports program say to a fan, "Say, where is Oklahoma in the national rankings?"

The second man replied, "We're fifth this week."

"Say that's swell," responded the critic. And so goes the football sport in Soonerland.

### The Good Indian . . .

gressman could serve, Stigler was on six.

He served the Choctaws as national tribal attorney seven years. However, he limited his appearances at hearings to avoid any suggestions of self interest.

Stigler was born July 7, 1891, at Stigler. His father, for whom the town was named, was the first postmaster. Bill Stigler attended Northeastern State college, Tahlequah, and earned a life teaching certificate which was never used. He studied law at the University and went to work for the state department of interior in 1915.

In 1917 he attended officers' training school and went to France as an infantry lieutenant. He participated in the battles of St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne. He remained in France with the army of occupation and attended Grenoble University at Grenoble, France.

Devotion to duty cost Stigler his life, Sen. Mike Monroney, '24ba, said.

"Knowing irreparable damage he was doing to his own health, Stigler stayed at

his important post of duty during the long hours of the last session to handle his appropriations committee work and his duties to his district," the senator said.

"He was faithful to his great Indian heritage for courage, faithfulness, and duty even at cost of fatal injury to his life."

He is survived by his wife, Ona, whom he married after his election to the state senate. Also surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Denyse Stigler Kilgore, '50ba, now living in Virginia, and Elaine Stigler of the home.

**Gen. Hal Moves Up.** Reorganization of the 45th Division of the National Guard in September brought Brig. Gen. Hal Muldrow, '28bus, to the command post.

The Norman insurance man, who has managed a successful military career on the side, served with the division in World War II as commander of the 189th artillery battalion and commanded all the division's artillery throughout its post war training and later in action in Korea.

A former football star at the University and a coach of the Norman highschool team, Muldrow received his R.O.T.C. commission along with his degree in 1928. He received his appointment as brigadier general in September 1946.

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