

# The All-American Cooks

**Two Norman women have probably established a record for helping to develop sports stars. Their coaching is probably terrible but the food they serve at Jefferson House is delicious.**

Two Norman women, middle-aged and motherly, have played as vital a part in producing All-Americans at O.U. as Bud Wilkinson and his coaching staff. In their way, they may hold some kind of a record for developing All-Americans.

The two, Mrs. Nora Smalley, food supervisor at Jefferson House, and Mrs. B. L. Davis, assistant food supervisor, have been responsible for producing some of the brawn that has won many a battle for O.U.

This year's crop of All-Americans has swelled the number that Mrs. Smalley has prepared food for to 13 since she started her present job at the athlete's dorm in 1949. Mrs. Davis can add at least four other football All-Americans to her list. (She has been cooking at Jeff House since its cafeteria began functioning in 1945-46). The number both can claim is swelled by adding the "All" performers in other sports. Wrestling, for example, has produced several national champions.

Mrs. Smalley and Mrs. Davis have cooked during O.U.'s finest sports hour. The great football teams of 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 have all found a final resting place among the nations top ten teams and have appeared in three bowl games. Add two national wrestling championships and a national championship in baseball, and it's not hard to see why the two women may have set something of a record in helping to develop "All" athletes.

The two women supervise the feeding of about 280 boys in the Jeff House cafeteria.

At first glance, it would seem that cooking for a group of athletes would only require good solid food in elephantine quantities. At one time such would have been the case. But with intensified study of nutrition, special menus have been developed for different squads, depending on the type of physical activity.

Special diets for individual athletes is an additional problem. Some need to put on weight and others must constantly watch their affinity for fatty tissue. It

would be foolish to say that the two women find no difficulty in keeping the right dish before the right athlete at all times, but they do it, difficult as it may be.

It isn't hard to find athletes who are satisfied with the food. Eddie Crowder, All American quarterback, said, "There's no need to gripe. Their food is fine."

Mrs. Smalley says that the other athletes echo Crowder's sentiments. "We just don't have any griping," she said.

To keep everything running on an even keel that is suggested by the "no griping" plan requires a bit of doing. It would be incomprehensible for the housewife to contemplate either ordering, cooking or paying for one meal as served at Jeff House.

Steak dinners are served once or twice a week (the training table gets steaks more often) and requires 125 pounds of top

quality beef. "Of course, how much steak we serve depends on the season," Mrs. Smalley explained.

Other favorites are roasts and chicken prepared in many ways. Favorite desserts are peaches, ice cream and pie or cake. Pumpkin, apple and cherry pie never go begging, the cooks report.

To help in the preparation and serving of foods, Mrs. Smalley and Mrs. Davis have two shifts of six people each working with them.

The staff gets a work out Friday and Saturday evenings if the football team has a home game. A special pre-game dinner is prepared Friday, and Saturday is a day when guests are apt to eat with the athletes. Usually the guests are parents.

"You should see the smile on the face of those parents if their son has played any time at all that afternoon," Mrs. Davis said. "They always introduce their parents to us," Mrs. Davis added. "We can understand why the boys are so nice because their parents are grand."

There are many indications that the two women enjoy athletics as much as they enjoy cooking for athletes. They always attend home games and Mrs. Davis has been making an annual pilgrimage to Dallas for the O.U.-Texas game. "For out-of-town games, we glue our ears to the radio," they said.

The football All-Americans the two have cooked for since Jeff House cafeteria was opened include:



Mrs. CLEMMIE DAVIS and Mrs. Nora Smalley have the job of feeding 280 hungry athletes. Mrs. Smalley is food supervisor and Mrs. Davis her assistant at Jefferson House, athletes' dorm. Mrs. Davis has cooked for 17 football All-Americans since 1945-46 and Mrs. Smalley for 13.

1946: John Rapacz, Plato Andros, Buddy Burris

1947: Buddy Burris

1948: Buddy Burris, Jack Mitchell

1949: George Thomas, Jimmy Owens, Darrell Royal, Stanley West, Wade Walker

1950: Frankie Anderson, Buddy Jones, Leon Heath and Jim Weatherall

1951: Jim Weatherall, Tom Catlin

1952: Tom Catlin, Eddie Crowder, Buck McPhail, Billy Vessels.

Both women's jobs are made easier by the appreciation extended them by their boarders. "They're the very best," the two women believe. And from the other side of the table comes the compliment that's trite, but one all cooks like to hear.

Freshman athlete Gary Hancock remarked, "Their food is just as good as mother's and sometimes it's better."

Satisfied stomachs can aid in the physical development and performance of any person. For athletes intent on making All-American rolls, they are essential. To this task the cooks at Jeff House, superintended by Mrs. Smalley and Mrs. Davis, have brought their considerable talents.

As you read this, the two women are cooking for several prospective All-Americans—freshmen and sophomores who are developing their physical capabilities at a Jeff House cafeteria table.

## Vessels Credits Two Coaches for Selection as Football's Best

Billy Vessels, senior halfback, received the Heisman trophy in New York City December 2. The Heisman award goes annually to the football player selected as the year's outstanding performer. On the eve of the presentation, the *Oklahoma City Times* carried the following story by reporter Gene Kinney, '49journ. (Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree is a 1923 graduate.)

"When they hand the Heisman trophy to Oklahoma halfback Billy Vessels in New York Tuesday night, an Oklahoma City mother will be sitting quietly at home—away from the cheers but proud of her part in bringing him recognition as the outstanding college football player of 1952.

"And the part she played, according to Vessels himself, was just as important as that of Oklahoma head coach Bud Wilkinson, acknowledged master of the split-T.

"She is Mrs. C. R. Rountree, a vivacious strawberry blonde, whose husband is a prominent Oklahoma City doctor.

"'My second coach,' the 21-year-old Vessels called her. 'She knows more about football than most men.'

"Vessels grew up amid modest surroundings at Cleveland, Oklahoma, one of a family of five children. Since his enrolment at

the University of Oklahoma in 1949, he has made his home with the Rountrees here.

"'Billy came home from summer camp at Lake Hubert, Minnesota, four years ago with Charles and Joseph (her sons, 17 and 14), and has been with us ever since,' Mrs. Rountree explained. 'I love him and so do the boys. We've never been sorry.'

"Charles admits that Wilkinson, who was assistant director of the camp, saw Vessels' possibilities, but he likes to think he discovered him.

"When Vessels was notified of his selection for the Heisman trophy, he was quick to give all credit to Wilkinson and Mrs. Rountree.

"'They made me what I am—both on and off the field,' he said. Wilkinson takes charge during the season, and his 'second coach' the rest of the time.

"Mrs. Rountree describes herself as a hard taskmaster, with a lively gridiron interest that began 30 years ago as a Sooner coed. Now vice-president of the Alumni Association, she has held the same stadium seats since 1923.

"'I just love the game,' she says, 'and Billy is a wonderful natural athlete. I set high standards in morals, sportsmanship and scholarship, and he's lived up to them. During his freshman year I saw that he studied and went out only on Saturday nights.

"'I made him work out during summers, too, so that he was never out of condition. And when he'd come home aft-

er a game in which he'd made two or three touchdowns and ask my opinion of his performance, I'd ask him:

"'What about that pass you dropped? What about that first down you didn't make?'

"It was under such tutelage that Vessels reached the top in college football; recipient of the outstanding individual award, leading Big Seven conference scorer with 18 touchdowns, one of the nation's rushing leaders with more than 1,000 yards.

"To Vessels, an education major, the award is 'what every football player dreams of.' Mrs. Rountree wishes, however, he could concentrate more on classwork and less on football in order to graduate next spring or summer.

"'The excitement of football the last month has caused him to think of little else,' she said. 'But he'll buckle down. I'll see to that. And he can do anything he wants to—anything—whether it's football or something else. The teams he's played against can tell you that.'

## Four Named All-American

O. U.'s 1952 football team performed well enough as a squad on Saturday's to fashion an 8-1-1 season, losing to Notre Dame and tying Colorado. Final standings in the Associated Press and United Press polls brought a unanimous rating—4th in the nation.

As individual performers O.U.'s players

BILLY VESSELS, recipient of more football honors than any other Oklahoman ever received, shakes hands with Dr. C. R. Rountree, and they both smile admiringly at Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, '23ba, after Oklahoma A&M game. Billy calls Mrs. Rountree, "My second coach."

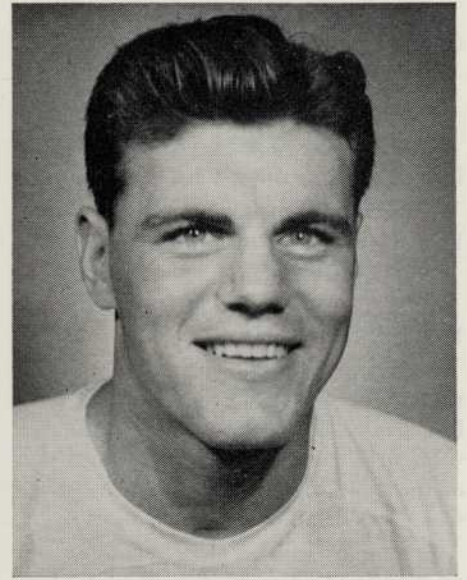




EDDIE CROWDER



BILLY VESSELS



BUCK McPHAIL

... All-American Backfield Trio

attracted a great deal of national attention. Billy Vessels was selected as AP's back-of-the-year, and the UP's player-of-the-year in addition to winning the Heisman trophy. Tom Catlin came in second in AP's balloting for lineman-of-the-year.

Eddie Crowder battled fellow quarterbacks Don Heinrich of Washington and Jack Scarbath of Maryland in every All-

American selection. And Buck McPhail contended for fullback on every listing.

All were named to one or more All-American teams as of December 15. The record thus far:

Vessels: *Look* magazine, Central Press, Associated Press, United Press, Players All-American, NEA Service, *The Quarterback*, All-American Board, *Sporting News*,

International News Service, Movietone News and Athletic Publications, Inc.

Catlin: *Players' All-American*, *Look* magazine, All-American Board, NEA Service, *Sporting News*, Athletic Publications, Inc., International News Service, Movietone News and *The Quarterback*.

Crowder: Central Press.

McPhail: *Collier's*.

# On the Sooner Scene

By BOYD GUNNING, '37ba, '37Law

A week that will long be remembered on the campus of the University of Oklahoma is the first week of February, 1953, for it is at this time that the completion of 60 years of service by the University of Oklahoma and the tenth year of the presidency of George L. Cross will be observed.

The keynote of this observance will be stated on a 17-ton Oklahoma granite obelisk on which will be inscribed the following: "THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA. This is our heritage, the traditional Sooner spirit born at the crossroads of frontier migration with its faith in the common man, its optimism for the morrow, its respect for the open mind, and its reliance on Divine leadership. To it the faculty of the University of Oklahoma rededicates itself on the sixtieth anniversary

of the founding of the Institution."

The stone and the transportation of it will be provided by the friends of the University. All other expenses, in connection with this anniversary marker, will be paid by the members of the University faculty. It will be located in the center of the South Oval near Lindsay street.

Dr. Laurence Snyder, dean of the Graduate School, will serve as general chairman in setting up the plans for the multiple activities of the week. Participating in the celebration will be alumni, faculty, students, state and national officials, visiting lecturers, and other friends of the University. It is anticipated that many readers of the *Sooner Magazine* will wish to attend one or more of the ceremonies of the week.

On Monday, February 2nd, 1953, Student Services Day will be observed during the course of this day, and the following ceremonies are planned. There will be a ground breaking exercise for a new University Chapel. The chapel will be erected at the southwest corner of the South Oval, directly across the street from the Women's Quadrangle. Also on this day there will be a dedication by the faculty of the memorial stone at the south end of the South Oval. On this stone will appear the inscription stated above. The auditorium in the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building will be

named in memory of the late Dean E. D. Meacham of the College of Arts and Sciences in recognition and honor of his many years of faithful service to the University and its students. The remarkable DeGolyer Collection on the history of science will be on exhibition at the University Library throughout the week. A special list of all publications included in this collection will be available. The first DeGolyer lecture on the subject "Science and Its Impact on Society" will be delivered on Monday evening by the distinguished scientist, Dr. Arthur H. Compton, Chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Compton is one of the leading scientists of the world and has played an important part in the development of the knowledge we have of atomic energy.

Tuesday, February 3rd. This will be Business and Engineering day. Two visiting lecturers will appear on the program Tuesday morning, one an outstanding industrialist and the other an eminent engineer. In the afternoon there will be a dedication of the Aeronautical Engineering building located on the north campus at Max Westheimer field.

Wednesday, February 4th, will be Education Day. On this day the new Graduate Education Building will be dedicated and

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