



JACK GING

“... They Never Want Me Till They See Me Play”

Two Game Guys

Injury to one allowed the other to play and both proved they had the “heart” of champions. Size and service proved no insurmountable obstacles.

Good sports stories are not hard to come by. But sometimes they have a special touch . . . a spectacular fall or a tremendous comeback . . . a hard spill or a brilliantly executed maneuver.

Oklahoma witnessed more demonstrations of heart in the first three games of the 1953 football season than this reporter can remember in any similar period of time.

There was the story of how the team lifted itself by its bootstraps after being beaten by Notre Dame and being tied by Pittsburgh to soundly beat Texas 19-14 . . . and there were the stories of two boys—one who overcame the handicap of size only to fall before an injury; one who overcame a physical handicap in time to help polish off Texas.

The story of the team's rebound is old but interesting copy (see *Sooner Salutes*). The individual stories of the two boys will not grow old but will improve with each telling. Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, O.U.'s fine sports publicist, tells the following stories. . .

A GLOOMY GUY

“The gloomy little guy sat huddled in a seat of the big plane bringing the Okla-

homa football team back from the Pittsburgh game.

“His right arm was taped tightly to his body. There was hurt and shame and utter desolation in his face, a man's face on the body of a boy.

“‘I feel embarrassed,’ he said. ‘This is the first time in my life I ever got hurt playing football. I don't like to get hurt. It shows a weakness in a person.’

“He stared hard at the gray upholstered seat in front of him. ‘What makes me so mad is that everybody will say I got hurt because I'm little,’ he said, his low voice husky with emotion.

“All his life, Jack Ging, Oklahoma's swarthy little 157-pound senior left half-back from Alva, has had to struggle against that size handicap.

“‘Only I've never felt handicapped,’ says Ging. ‘I've always felt that I'm as good as the big boys. It always irritates me to hear that a guy is great because he's got a big body. I always thought it was more important to be a man without a big body than to have a big body and not be a man.’

“A twinge of pain swept him, stemming

from his shoulder separation, but he stifled it.

“‘I love football,’ he said simply. ‘It's the best game of them all. That's all I grew up for—to play college football.’

“‘But all my life they've tried to discourage me from playing. I've always had to prove myself to everybody. They never want me until they see me play.’

“None of the big schools offered Ging a scholarship the summer after he graduated. ‘You're too little for college football,’ he was told, kindly.

“‘Well, you're wrong,’ he always replied. ‘I'll play yet.’

“‘I wasn't discouraged,’ he added, shifting his seat on the plane to ease his injured shoulder. ‘I always knew that I'd play college football, that nothing was going to stop me from playing it.’

“After running and passing Alva high to the state class B finals, Ging made the All-State team only because Dean Simon, his coach, insisted on it. ‘They didn't want to pick me because they thought I was too little to play against the Mid-State conference boys in the highschool all-star game.’

“In the first scrimmage, he quarter-

backed the scrubs to a victory over the starting team. In the game itself he sold everybody, tackling solidly and setting up the winning touchdown with a long, twisting punt runback. And his performance at Oklahoma City was so impressive that he was added to the Oklahoma team playing in the Oil Bowl game. Later, Bud Wilkinson offered him a scholarship at Oklahoma. Every Oklahoma fan knows how Ging made good at Norman.

"In Oklahoma's rugged opener against mighty Notre Dame, the No. 1 pick for the national championship, Ging sold everybody.

"When he scored from five yards out on an off-tackle blast, Art Gleason, broadcasting the game coast-to-coast for Mutual, told his radio audience, 'If the south stands hadn't been there, that little guy would have been in Pauls Valley by now.'

"George Kirksey, former long-time sports editor of the United Press, wrote, 'I have never seen a little man put a fiercer tackle on anybody than Ging did on Worden late in the game.'

"In the Sooner plane droning back from Pitt, Ging set his jaws with determination, his splendid faith as bright as ever. 'I'll be back out there in three weeks. You just watch. I heal fast. My shoulder's going to knit. I know it's going to be all right.'"

(At press time, the length of Ging's absence was still undetermined.)

A GOOD DAY'S WORK

"After a four-year wait, part of it in Korea, Tom Carroll finally started his first football game for Oklahoma last week.

"Against Texas before 75,000 in the Dallas Cotton Bowl and several millions more over the national telecast, the 178-pound Carroll played with lots of poise.

"He was the game's top rusher with 69 net yards in 10 rushes. He started Oklahoma off in front by sweeping in from his defensive halfback position and intercepted a Texas lateral with one hand. He climaxed a good day's work by spurting 48 yards to Oklahoma's third and decisive touchdown.

"Just before he scored that touchdown, his legs cramped and Trainer Ken Rawlinson had to come out onto the field and pump them. But Carroll stayed in.

"It's been a long uphill pull for the leathery-faced petroleum engineering student from Okemah, who left his speed overseas and has never quite recovered it.

"'I can run as fast as ever for 20 yards, then I slow down,' he says. He didn't seem to slow down much the last 28 yards of that thrilling run against Coach Ed Price's battling Steers.

". . . Carroll and Billy Vessels, two sophomores, were slated for starting duty

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MERRILL GREEN, halfback, kicks the dirt on the 50-yard line in Cotton Bowl as he romps 80 yards for a touchdown on a punt return. He broke up the Colorado game with score tied 20-20 in last 44 seconds of game with 51-yard t.d., and scored on 60-yard punt return against Notre Dame. Green's being referred to as an All-American substitute. (Below) One of the best photos to come out of Notre Dame game is this one of Carl Allison eyeing Notre Dame tacklers. Allison had just caught a pass from Buddy Leake. Play was good for 62 yards.



ing in her spare time. She had held government positions in Germany, Korea, and Japan prior to accepting the London job.

CAMP-ASHER: Miss Jeanne Marie Camp, Oklahoma City, became the bride of Forrest Dean Asher, '53bba, Great Bend, Kansas, on September 26. The couple was at home in Great Bend until November 1 when Asher reported to Fort Benning, Georgia as a lieutenant in the infantry.

H. Wesley Whitlock, Jr., '53journ, and Mrs. Whitlock, Oklahoma City, have chosen the name Lucina Lynn Whitlock for their daughter born September 21.

CLARKE-HOWARD: Miss Caroline Kate Clarke, '53bfa, Oklahoma City, became the bride of Lt. William Fuller Howard, '53eng, McAlester, September 28 in the home of her parents. While attending the University, Mrs. Howard was affiliated with Kappa Alpha Theta, and Lt. Howard was a member of Beta Theta Pi.

MOUNGER-DYKEMAN: Miss Marjorie Mounger, Oklahoma City, became the bride of W. Samuel Dykeman, '53Law, Oklahoma City on August 22 in the chapel of the First Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City. The couple is now at home in Fort Hood, Texas, where Dykeman is stationed with the armed forces.

WEST-MILLER: Miss Margaret Mary West, '52ba, Oklahoma City, became the bride of James Henry Miller, '53geol, Wichita, Kansas, on August 21 in St. Luke's Methodist Church, Oklahoma City. Mrs. Miller is a member of Delta Delta Delta social sorority and Miller belong to Phi Kappa Sigma.

RUTLEDGE-HARRIS: Miss Harriett Nell Rutledge, '53ba, Norman, became the bride of Wendell V. Harris, Oklahoma City, on August 24 in the Community Church of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado. The couple is now at home in Norman at the Niemann Apartments.

CLAYTON-WELSH: Miss Mary Louise Clayton, Oklahoma City, became the bride of Cleveland Maynard Welsh, '53bba, Holdenville, on August 23 in All Souls Episcopal Church, Oklahoma City. After a wedding trip to St. Louis and Chicago, the couple is now at home in Norman.

McDOWELL-LITTON: Miss Rita F. McDowell, '53bs, Oklahoma City, became the bride of Jimmie L. Litton, '53bba, Oklahoma City, on June 5 in St. Luke's Methodist Church, Oklahoma City.

FIELD-SCHEIRMAN: Miss Wilda LaVelle Field, Tulsa, became the bride of Charles Cass Scheirman, '53eng, Oklahoma City, on June 14 in the Southminster United Presbyterian Church, Tulsa. Lt. and Mrs. Scheirman are now at home in Fredericksburg, Virginia while Scheirman is stationed at Quantico with the Marine Corps.

BULLIS-STEWART: Miss Margaret Jamae Bullis, '53, Hennessey, became the bride of Jack Garvin Stewart, Hennessey, on March 1 in Westminster Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City. The couple is now at home in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Donald K. Reece, '53journ, has begun work for Dowell, Incorporated, Tulsa subsidiary of Dow Chemical Company. Reece is doing industrial advertising work.

HARGRAVES-BRADFORD: Miss Conita Ann Hargraves, Lawton, and Reagan Howard Bradford, '53chem, Lawton, were married August 13 in Lawton's Central Baptist Church. At O.U. Bradford was affiliated with Alpha Sigma and Phi Lambda Upsilon, chemistry fraternities.

Ruth Cook, '53soc.wk., is now employed in Oklahoma County as a juvenile officer. Her work was featured recently in an article in the *Daily Oklahoman*.

RICHARDSON-LOWE: Miss Thelma Irene Richardson, '53bus.ed, Tyrone, and Richard Rabael Lowe, Snyder, were married May 10 in the First Baptist Church, Lawton. At O.U. Miss Richardson

was affiliated with Pi Omega Pi, national honorary fraternity.

FOWLER-MILLER: Miss Mary Adeline Fowler, Oklahoma City, became the bride of Floyd Freeman Miller, '53ba, Skiatook, on August 16 in the Crown Heights Methodist Church, Oklahoma City. While at O.U. Miller was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Phi Omega, Scabbard and Blade and Phi Kappa Sigma.

THOMAS-MARKS: Miss Janette Ann Thomas, Norman, became the bride of Frank M. Marks, '52ba, Edmond, on March 6 in the First Baptist Church, Norman. The couple spent the summer in Norman, and left in August for Berkeley, California where Marks is attending Golden Gate Southern Baptist Seminary.

RINE-JOHNSON: Miss Kathleen Rine, Norman, became the bride of Robert A. Johnson, '53bs, Lawton, on August 22 in the Community Church at Green Mountain Falls, Colorado. After a wedding trip to Twin Lakes and Aspen, the Johnsons are now at home in Oklahoma City.

ARNOLD-CROWDER: Miss Jean Arnold, '53, and Edwin Burba Crowder, '53, both of Muskogee, were married during August in the chapel of the First Presbyterian Church, Muskogee. The couple has established a home in Edmonton, Canada, where Crowder, former quarterback with the O.U. team, is playing professional football.

Two Game Guys . . .

at halfback (1950). But Carroll never got to play. When the Communists invaded South Korea, Carroll was called to duty with the Oklahoma National Guard and spent the next two years in the swamps

of Louisiana and later overseas in Japan and Korea.

"I didn't do any running in Korea," Carroll explained. "I was a sergeant in a communications company and rode everywhere in a jeep. We were an all-vehicle outfit."

"When he returned to Norman just before the 1952 season began, Carroll was soft. He had missed spring practice. His legs were gone. He played only a few minutes as a sub, carrying the ball twice for a total of seven yards.

"Disappointed, he went to work trying to regain that speed. All winter long he reported to Track Coach John Jacobs, ('16 ba) who poured him over the hurdles and down the dash lanes. During spring practice, he ran the stadium hundreds of times. All summer he came home from working as a roustabout in the oil fields and did striding and sprinting in the heat.

"His perseverance paid off Saturday."

Neither story is complete. Ging's determination may pay off once more and he may strengthen the team before the season is done. Carroll's story is just the beginning. With another year's eligibility remaining, he looks like a rising star.

And while two of its individual players were writing compelling stories, the team was giving every appearance of moving towards yet another Big Seven crown.



TOM CARROLL

. . . Perseverance Paid Off Against Texas