

The Sweetest of All Time

Many Oklahoma football followers consider the Orange Bowl win the Sooner's finest football hour. It certainly deserves consideration for the honor.

Seated in front of a TV set in Oklahoma City, five people watched intently. On the screen trouble was brewing and each reacted as if the trouble were his own.

The situation: a poor kick had caught the Oklahoma Sooners deep in their own territory. The place: Miami's Orange Bowl extravaganza. The time: early in the first quarter. The opposition: Maryland's national champions.

While fingernails flew in Oklahoma City and tension mounted in Miami, the Marylanders moved the ball with finesse and precision to Oklahoma's 4-yard line for a first down. The breaks were making an early reckoning.

"Oklahoma will never hold," one viewer decided. "Let 'em have the touchdown and let's get on with the game." His temporary pessimism blended with a firm belief that Oklahoma would prevail eventually.

On the first play from scrimmage Maryland made a slight gain. A shout from one of the TV watchers—then, "we'll never hold."

On the second play, Maryland added a few feet to her position.

"If we could just do that a couple of more times." . . . "Hell, don't expect any miracles." . . . "Watch that line work."

Third down and about two yards to go. Maryland moved to about the 1-yard line. It was hard to tell. The TV camera might be playing tricks. Anyway, there was some space between the ball and the goal line.

Silence sat with the television watchers.

Maryland's center moved over the ball. Substitute quarterback Boxold crouched behind him. The ball snapped. Bedlam broke loose in the Orange Bowl stadium and in the Oklahoma City home. Oklahoma had held.

That was pretty much the story of the Orange Bowl game. With its back squarely to the wall in the early moments of the game, the Big Red line of Oklahoma demonstrated that it could take all the punishment that Maryland could dish out and still stay on its feet to fight another time.

In the second quarter, Oklahoma's Larry Grigg scored with an end sweep. Tackled by a Maryland defender almost within reach of the goal line, Grigg showed the

same determination that marked play throughout and wiggled his way across for the score. Buddy Leake converted. The final score, Oklahoma 7, Maryland 0.

Other highlights: The fine play of reserve quarterback Jack Van Pool in the last half when he had to carry the load after Gene Calame was injured; Jack Ging's running in the closing four minutes of play that succeeded in picking up first down yardage that kept the ball in Oklahoma's possession and ruled out a Maryland tie.

But the story of the day was the play of Oklahoma's two lines. Alternating them

frequently, Bud Wilkinson got every ounce of fight out of each of them.

Many Oklahomans felt that the win was the sweetest of all time. It deserved consideration for the honor.

If beating the national champions at their own game—stout defensive play—didn't provide enough satisfaction, there were several other factors that caused Oklahoma hearts to be happy.

Maryland coach Jim Tatum provided most of the other factors. Beginning with quotes that might have come from Tatum

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MIAMI BOUND. The expressions of confidence indicated by Larry Grigg, President George L. Cross and Roger Nelson as the team left for Miami was fully justified by the game's outcome.

The Sweetest of All Time . . .

in an "expose" of "700 Oklahoma millionaires" in *True* magazine several years ago, Tatum has managed to make himself something less than a popular idol among Oklahoma sporting fans.

Last year following the Notre Dame-Oklahoma game he was quoted as saying that the only players from either squad that he could use at Maryland were Johnny Lattner and Billy Vessels. Several adherents for both sides thought his remarks somewhat less than accurate.

Prior to game time in the Orange Bowl he had succeeded in incurring the wrath of most of those Sooners already unmoved by his quotable quotes. Since Wilkinson was his assistant at Oklahoma in 1946—his one year of coaching at O.U.—Tatum saw no reason to soft-pedal the fact that once he had been teacher of the split-T and Wilkinson his pupil. Nor could he resist preparing an alibi for himself by publicly bemoaning the loss of his entire team when his much-heralded quarterback, Bernie Faloney, was injured. No one else was injured. Just Faloney. But there went his team.

There were hundreds of other quotes and none of them sounded too good to Oklahoma ears. One of Tatum's most voluble critics in the midlands was John Cronley,

the fine sports editor of the *Daily Oklahoman*. His reporting on Big Jim has caused many an Oklahoma partisan to chuckle. On December 30, after Tatum had disallowed members of the "unfriendly" or pro-Oklahoma press from Maryland's pre-game scrimmages, Cronley wrote:

"... Partially because of the charming personality and endearing mannerisms of M.U. coach Jim Tatum, the Sooners have been adopted as this winter playgrounds' hometown team.

"There are other contributing factors, of course.

"For one thing all the sports world loves an underdog, and that O.U. is by a touch-down.

"Too, Miami has a strong liking for the Southwest's kind of football as offered previously by such fine teams as Texas.

"The gracious and obliging manner of Bud Wilkinson as compared to Honest Jim's baiting of the writers here has done quite a bit to fan the anti-Tatum flame. Even fans from his own area would like to see his ears pinned back.

"... Because this bureau cannot be classified as Tatum's "friendly" press, it is not allowed to see what makes the Marylanders such wonder boys and world beaters.

"It is a pretty stunning blow not to exchange warm pleasantries with Honest

Jim—who even during his one-year stand at Norman did all he could to operate behind a controlled press. . .

"(As for Honest Jim's banning from practice of this admirer, I have countered with a hotel room sign which reads: off limits to anyone happening to be head football coach at College Park.)"

Just an example of the warmth Cronley radiated for days towards Tatum.

Nor was Cronley the only disaffected admirer of Tatum's. The members of the Oklahoma team caught the same spirit, making this the first game when the slogan "Win for Bud" could have been plastered inside each of their helmets.

And so the story goes and goes and goes. It will take a long time to lay it to rest. For this was one of Oklahoma football's finest hours.

In another holiday sporting event, a team representing O.U. made a fine showing, also. In the Sugar Bowl track meet, O.U.'s mile relay team, defending champions, pulled an upset victory. Running without the services of J. W. Mashburn, one of the nation's leading quarter-milers and the runner that would have made them the favorites to repeat, Oklahoma won by a 5-yard margin. (Mashburn announced during the holidays that he is transferring to Oklahoma A&M for the second semester.

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Activities when a student in O.U. (Membership in social and honorary fraternities, student publication staff, stage presentations, student government, class activities, clubs, any kind of positions held, awards or honors received—any interesting phases of student career:

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His reason: Big Seven rules would not allow him to run in many invitational meets.)

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Subjects of Dissertations . . .

James Edward Sublette. Zoology. Dissertation—"The Ecology of the Macroscopic Bottom Fauna in Lake Texoma." Directed by David Ross Boyd Professor Asa Orrin Weese.

William F. Tanner. Geology. Dissertation—"The Geology of Seminole County, Oklahoma." Directed by Associate Professor George Garrett Huffman.

Norman Walter. Psychology. Dissertation—"A Study of the Effects of Conflicting Suggestions Upon Judgment in the Autokinetic Situation." Directed by Professor Milbourne Otto Wilson.

James Robert Wilson. English. Dissertation—"The Narrators of Jonathan Swift." Directed by Professor John Marlin Raines.

Byron Lee Williams, Jr. Chemistry. Dissertation—"Isolation and Identification of Flavonoid Compounds From Selected Natural Products." Directed by Professor James Canfield Colbert.

John Robert Willingham. English. Dissertation—"The Whitman Tradition in Recent American Literature." Directed by Associate Professor Victor A. Elconin.