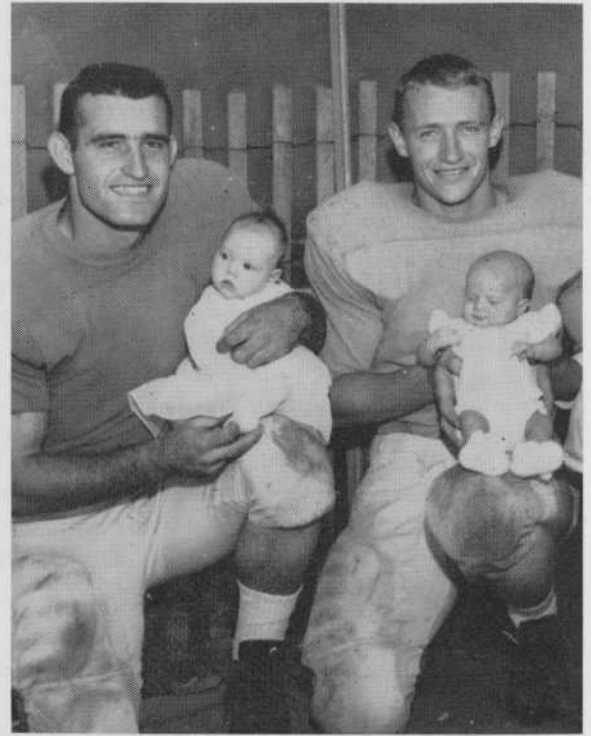




Allison the Athlete. Considered one of the finest ends ever produced in football at O.U., Allison also is a baseball star. In football, Allison won four letters, was All-Big Seven, and was picked as an All-American. He'll be head coach at Clinton next year.



Allison the Family Man. During football practice, Carl takes time out to pose with daughter Carla. With him is footballer Cal Woodworth and his daughter Caleta.

## Allison Talks on Athletics

Carl Allison, Oklahoma's great end, was invited for an interview with student editors of *Sooner Magazine*. Here is a report of the editors' questions and Allison's answers.

EDITOR: We have some questions about athletes and athletics in general at the University of Oklahoma that we would like to fire off the cuff. I'll open the discussion by throwing out the general topic of scholarships. First, Carl, what sort of scholarship do you receive, if any?

CARL: I'm on an athletic scholarship at the University. It consists of room and board, plus \$15.00 a month, plus our books. It also pays our fees. I'm on a married scholarship. It cuts out the room and board so they give me \$55.00.

ED: Do you all receive the same amount or do you have different scholarships for different sports?

CARL: Well, all scholarships are the same, except some sports have only partial scholarships, and therefore the players don't get quite as much. But, in football, all scholarships are the same. No matter if you are the last boy on a scholarship, you get the same thing as the one at the top.

ED: Are scholarships handed out in high school while you are a senior, or are

they given to the boys when they become active in any of the sports?

CARL: Well, scholarships are handled by a scholarship committee. To be eligible for a scholarship you have to be in the upper two-thirds of your high school graduating class, and the scholarships are usually given out in the summer prior to an athlete's coming to the University. Some boys come up here on their own and come out for football. After a season or two they convince the coaches that they are capable of playing, and then they receive a scholarship.

ED: Could you give us an example?

CARL: Well, Pat O'Neal is probably the best example of that. Pat came to the University without a scholarship, but he convinced the coaches that he was capable of playing here and received one. Another one of a few years back was Jim Davis. Jim came here without a scholarship; he worked for his room and board. After a couple of seasons he was given a full scholarship.

ED: Are there many requirements you have to fulfill to keep the scholarship? Do you have to make the first or second team or anything like that?

CARL: No, after you once have a scholarship there are only two ways that you can lose it. The first one is to mess up on grades and become ineligible. The other one is missing practices.

ED: What are the qualifications for remaining eligible scholastically?

CARL: An athlete has to pass 60% of the courses he is taking with a "C" or better and he has to be enrolled in 24 semester hours per year.

ED: You have mentioned only football scholarships. How do the scholarships of men going out for track or some other sport compare with football scholarships?

CARL: The scholarships are about the same for basketball and for all other sports. Like I said at first, some of the athletes in other sports receive only partial scholarships. If they receive a full scholarship in any sport, it is the same as football.

ED: Are the number of scholarships offered in other sports proportionate in number to the number for football players.

CARL: I think you will find they are proportionately the same.

ED: If you had a chance, what would you do about the scholarship program at O.U. for athletes? Would you leave it as is, or would you alter it in any way?

CARL: I definitely feel that scholarships are necessary. I know, thinking of my own case, I wouldn't have had a chance to come to school if it hadn't been for a scholarship. I definitely feel that scholarships have an important place. I know that on our team this year there are several boys that would not be in school today if it weren't for the scholarships. I'm definitely in favor of them the way they are now.

ED: Do people who have athletic scholarships have to do some sort of job at the University to keep their scholarship or is it granted on athletic ability only?

CARL: During their freshman year most of the boys have to work so many hours a week. And during their sophomore year, they umpire volleyball games or softball games and other intramural work like that.

#### WHY ATHLETES COME TO O.U.

ED: There is a lot of speculation as to why O.U. gets so much top football talent. A lot of authorities, as they may call themselves, say, "I know about O.U.'s sugar daddies and Cadillac convertibles." We'd like to hear your views on that.

CARL: Well, it seems like every place we go they start talking about our sugar daddies and how they give us Cadillacs to drive. But if any one is being given any extra help other than their scholarship, and if I am being given any extra, then someone else is surely taking it because I haven't seen any extra help. And I definitely haven't seen any Cadillacs.

ED: What kind of a car do you drive now?

CARL: I drive a 1947 Chevrolet and it has got 90,000 miles on it.

ED: While we are talking on this subject, why do you think O.U. attracts such athletes as yourself?

CARL: Well, I think that Oklahoma University is one of the top schools in the nation from an educational standpoint. And I think that that should be the number one reason that any athlete goes to a school. He should be able to major in his field of interest and get the best education possible. I think that Oklahoma is tops in educational facilities and I also think that it is tops in an overall athletic program.

One of the reasons that I wanted to attend the University was that I was really impressed with the friendliness and the sincerity of the coaching staff.

ED: Do most of the boys feel that getting training under Coach Bud Wilkinson will aid them in professional football or in coaching jobs when they leave the University?

CARL: Very definitely. If you have a recommendation from Coach Wilkinson it will go a long way in helping you get a job. I think a boy should think of that and decide to go where a coach can help him in the future years.

ED: Carl, is it true that a recommendation from Bud would help in other fields besides football, for example in business or something like that?

CARL: Yes, business people throughout Oklahoma and the southwest write Coach Wilkinson every year and ask him to recommend several boys. If he recommends a boy he usually gets a job.

ED: Carl, how much time do you devote to athletics and does it affect your study time?

CARL: Well, it seems to me that when football or baseball is in season that I seem to make better grades. I know that I have to bear down and keep eligible to play. It does take a considerable amount of time though, on the field. You practice approximately two hours and then you have a meeting besides that. It does take time, but I think that you will find that the boys, while they are participating in the sports, seem to make better grades.

ED: How many sports do you compete in?

CARL: I participate in football and baseball.

ED: Do you take your books with you on your trips, or how do you get in all the studying that you have to do?

CARL: In football we usually fly to all of our trips. We usually leave around two o'clock on Friday afternoon, and most of us are through by then so we miss very few classes. But in baseball we go on longer trips and lose more time. On baseball trips we usually take our books with us, and get an advanced assignment, and work on the trips.

ED: Do you have any time for recreation or fun on these trips?

CARL: Well, football is a more serious business and we don't have too much time because we fly. In baseball we have considerably more time since we travel by bus. We have fun on the bus. It is not such a hurried up trip and we really do have a good time.

#### AND ON THE SUBJECT OF GRADES

ED: Carl, I don't suppose you could find a college campus in this country where certain students didn't automatically say that all you have to do is be an athlete and you automatically make good grades. Do you know of any pressure that the athletic staff brings on the faculty for grades for athletes?

CARL: I have never heard of any coach or any member of the athletic staff bringing pressure on any member of the faculty. They do send around grade sheets once a month to see how the boys are doing, and the professor puts down the way the boy is doing in his class. Then the coaching staff talks to the boy, if the coach feels he should bring the grade up. But I have never heard of any member of the athletic staff bringing any pressure on the faculty members.

ED: What about pressure on the students? I mean the laggards. Does the coaching staff keep pretty much on their toes on that sort of thing?

CARL: Yes, they do. We have Coach Port Robertson, the wrestling coach, in charge of freshmen athletes and he makes sure that there is study hall every night. The second semester, if he has achieved a C average in everything, he is excused. But if he doesn't have a C in every subject he still has to continue with study hall.

ED: What kind of tutoring is available to the athletes?

CARL: An athlete that is having trouble with a course can tell a coach that he is having trouble. Usually a member of the coaching staff will be assigned to find a tutor. Usually tutors are available to members of the team. But I might point out that players of baseball or any other sport that are having trouble can be tutored likewise.

ED: Do you feel that the professors here on the campus give any special consideration to the athletes?

CARL: Well, some of them I know don't, and some of them might lean a little toward them. I really couldn't answer that question.

ED: You mean there are some that lean the other way.

CARL: There are definitely. I wouldn't want some professors to know that I am an athlete.

ED: Tell me, how do you keep them from knowing? What type of courses do most of the lettermen take? Are they easy courses? You hear a lot about the snap courses.

CARL: Well, I might point out while

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support has not been without control: "No, I don't think it wise that you spend for that. Are you sure you would do well in that major? And how have your grades been coming, not letting classes slide are you?"

If he has pulled his way hand-over-hand up the college rope, along with it juggling books and enough cash to eat on, the senior craves to catch onto the supporting rafter and work his way along that for a while. The edges may be sharp but his load has been heavy and he, at least, would enjoy a change.

Too, the student-professor relationship has lost its thrill. He has found them men, some greater, some less. And he's tired of

sitting, of receiving, absorbing; he wants to give out some of it—he wants to *do* something! Build something. Tear down something. Make something—anything—happen!

But he must wait out graduation, military service. So you watch him stroll along, books slung carelessly under an arm, hundreds of times a day, but do you know him, this Silent Senior? Do you understand him, what fears make his heart pound and his stomach clench into a dry knot? What makes him chuckle, tremble? Why is he the Silent Senior?

Why is he the Silent Senior?

## Allison Talks on O.U. Athletics . . .

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we are on that subject, that 93 per cent of the lettermen since Coach Wilkinson has been here have been graduating. Many of them are in the Business School, Geology, Engineering, and there are several of them in the Education School. On the average I think you will find most students are taking fairly hard courses. And I might point out that you have to be passing 60 per cent with a C and you have to be making normal progress toward a degree also to keep eligible.

ED: Do you carry a reduced course load most of the time?

CARL: No, I don't think that is true. I have been carrying 18 hours during football season and I think that most of the other boys have. There are some boys on our baseball team this year that are carrying 19. They need it to graduate and so they are taking that number. But I think you will find that most carry at least 16.

ED: Do most of the athletes graduate in a four year period?

CARL: Well, I wouldn't say most of them. A large percentage of them do but there is also a percentage that need an extra semester.

ED: With all the hours that you carry and all the time you spend on the field and off the field, what sort of grades do you make?

CARL: Well I have a little shy of 3.00 average.

ED: Just for the record what is your major field of study.

CARL: I'm one of the boys that is in the Education School. I plan to teach history.

ED: How about some of the other athletes that you know—do we have any outstanding scholars?

CARL: Yes we do. Bob Hillis is a boy that has had a 4.00 average for just about as long as I can remember. And he, I might point out, also, is a pre-med student. Robert Bell, a freshman on this year's

team also has a 4.00 average. We have had several boys since I have been at the University go to the Med School. We've had Kent Braden, Chet Bynum, George Cornelius, and several other boys that have made Med School since I have been here.

ED: What do most of the players major in? Is there one particular field?

CARL: No. We have a large percentage of our boys in the Geology School. We've had several in Engineering. Frank Silva was a boy that was in the Engineering School, and he made very high grades. We have a large percentage in the Business School. There is a smaller percentage in the Education School than one might imagine. We have them in just about every school on the campus.

ED: Do many boys drop out of athletics if they feel that sports are affecting their grades?

CARL: Well, we have had several boys drop out, and like I pointed out a while ago, if a boy doesn't make his grades to be eligible, he will be dropped from the squad.

ED: What about a boy that has exceptionally good grades and is so conscientious that he feels that athletics is hindering him?

CARL: We've had several boys do that. I pointed out Bob Hillis. I don't think that he could have improved his grades any, but he did drop off the squad.

ED: Walt Morrison—wasn't he one?

CARL: Walt Morrison was another boy. He was on the basketball squad, and he dropped out.

IS THERE A 12TH MAN?

ED: Carl, you hear a lot of talk about school spirit. From your personal standpoint at the games how does the student support or lack of it influence your performance.

CARL: Well, I think that student support is very important. I might point out that a few years back Texas A&M was

playing the University of Texas and the male student body was in the game so much that they called it the 12th man. We went to Texas A&M my freshman year and it was a constant roar the whole time. We were beaten. I think that school spirit and student participation really helps. I definitely feel that here at the University that the students are beginning to take part more and more every year and I think that it is a good deal.

ED: You are playing football and baseball here. Because support is stronger in football and less in other sports, how would that affect the fellows in each of the different sports?

CARL: I think some of the boys in sports other than football probably feel that the sport is treated like a minor sport. Myself, I feel that we are given support in both sports I play. I don't think that we are supported as much in baseball as we are in football. But I do feel that baseball is a major sport here. And I might point out that Oklahoma has been winning the "All Sports" trophy in the Big Seven for several years and football is only a minor part of what it takes to win. You take ten sports, I believe, and if you win first in any of them you are given a zero and on down till last place counts six points against you. So you see that football is only one-tenth of it, and we have been winning it every year. I think that we have the best over-all sports program that is available in the Big Seven.

ED: Do the players feel like the student body will only support a winner?

CARL: I think you will find throughout life that people want a winner. Myself, I like to be on a winning team and I like to go out and support a winning team. However, a team that is losing needs more support than a team that is winning. And I feel that we all should support a team that is having a little tough luck and maybe try to help them get back on a winning streak.