

Miami Game Will Mark Sooner's 7th Bowl Contest

WITH THE Maryland meeting January 2, Oklahoma will play its seventh bowl game. Beginning in 1939 when Coach Tom Stidham's injured and outmanned Sooners lost to Tennessee 0-17 in the Orange Bowl, the Sooners have produced four wins and two defeats.

The Gator Bowl extended Oklahoma a second bowl invitation in 1947. Under present Maryland Coach Jim Tatum, the Sooners met North Carolina State and won 34-13. From that time to the present league tie-up with the Orange Bowl, Oklahoma has been high on the bowl promoters' selections.

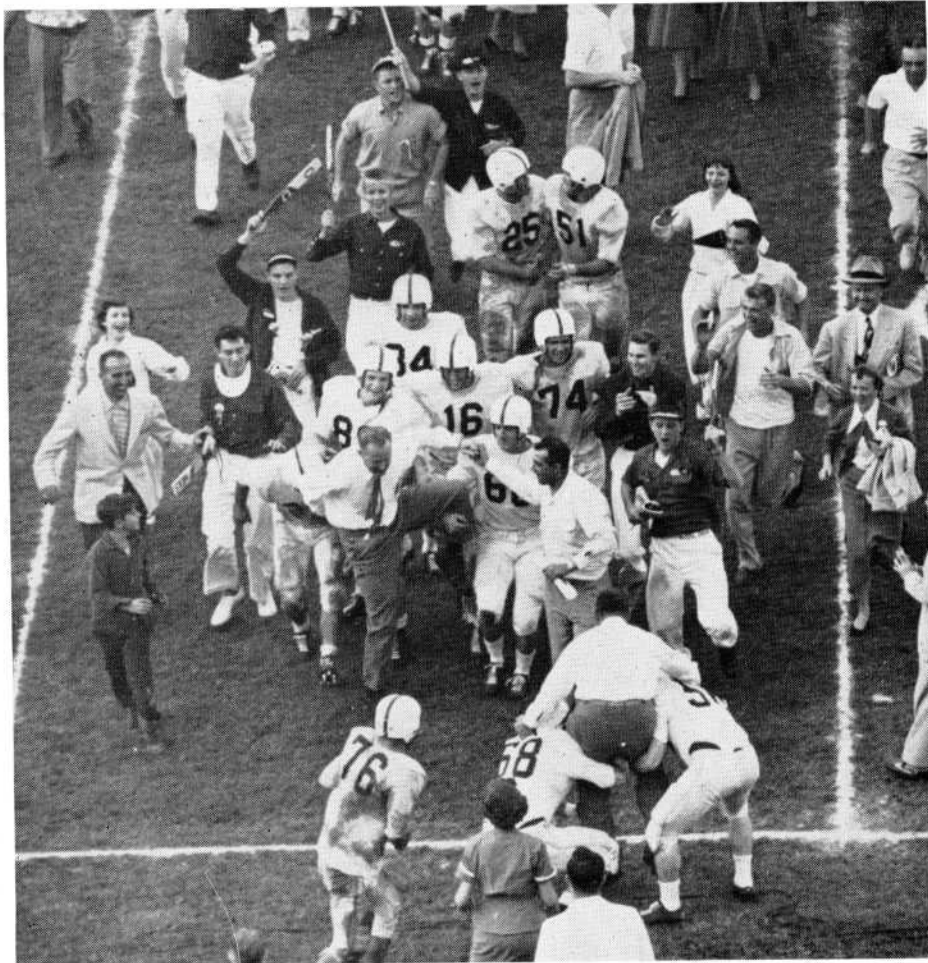
Bud Wilkinson has coached five bowl teams. He took his first bowl team to the Sugar Bowl in 1949. North Carolina and Charles "Choo-Choo" Justice were the opponents. Oklahoma won 14-6. The next year Leon Heath made a shambles of Louisiana State's defenses as O.U. won 35-0. Heath established several Sugar Bowl records in the game: 1) longest rush, 86 yards; 2) longest touchdown play, 86 yards; 3) highest rushing average for an individual, 11.3 net yards per rush.

In 1951 the No. 1 ranked Sooners lost to Kentucky, 7-13. Although the Sooners were prospective bowl material in 1952 and 1953, school and athletic authorities deemed it unwise to play bowl games each year. Prior to the 1954 bowl season, the Big Seven Conference established a tie-up with the Orange Bowl and the Sooners met Maryland in one of the day's headliners. Maryland was ranked No. 1 in the nation, but was upset by Oklahoma 7-0 in a fine defensive battle. Wilkinson's bowl record is three wins and one loss. This year's bowl game will mark the first time that Oklahoma has met the same opponent in a bowl appearance. It will be the third time that one of the opponents has been ranked No. 1 in the nation.



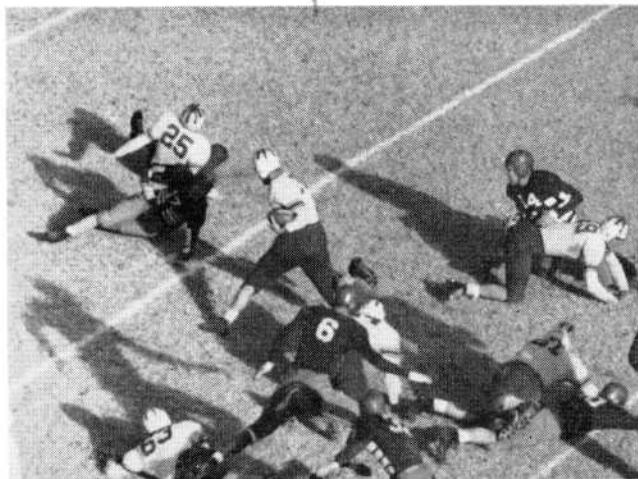
Seldom has a touchdown brought more delight to Sooner fans. Larry Grigg scores the only and winning touchdown in the 1954 upset of Maryland, 7-0, in the first meeting of the teams.

After the Orange Bowl victory, players prepare to carry Gomer Jones (foreground) and Bud Wilkinson off the field. As picture was taken, players had Bud at a temporary disadvantage.





Bob Seymour, Oklahoma's fullback on 1939 Orange Bowl team, gains against regular season opponent. Team lost to Tennessee, 17-0.



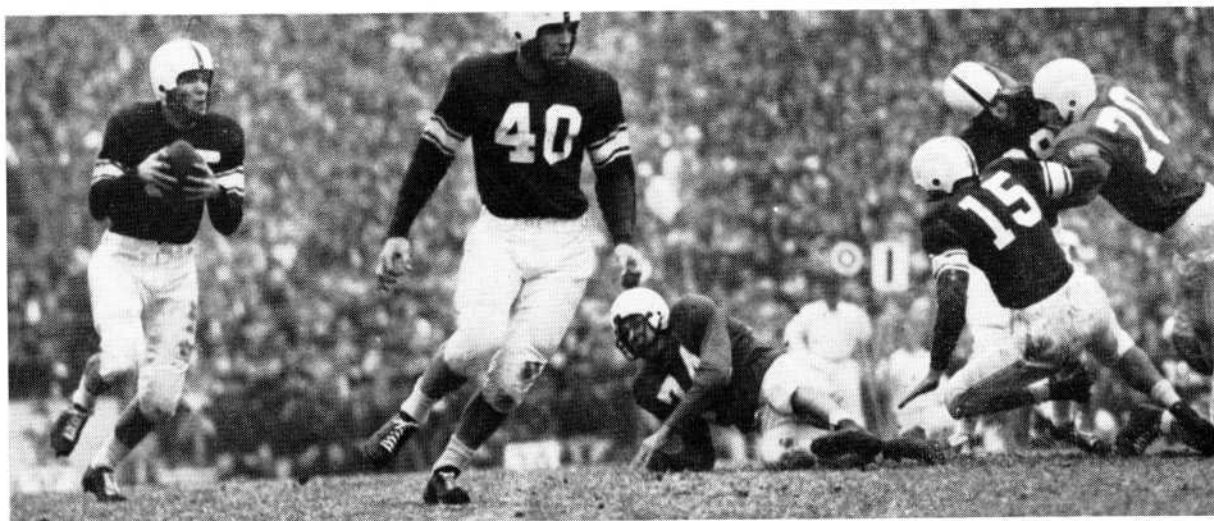
Darrell Royal circles end for 21 yards against Texas in 1946. Team played North Carolina State in Gator Bowl and won, 34-13.



Leon "Mule Train" Heath lived up to billing in 1950 Sugar Bowl. Sooners mauled Louisiana State, 35-0.



Jack Mitchell, Oklahoma's quarterback, cut inside right end to score first touchdown in 1949 Sugar Bowl game against North Carolina. Oklahoma won, 14-6.



Heath, No. 40, prepares to serve as a blocker for Billy "The Kid" Vessels in the 1951 Sugar Bowl. The Sooners entered the game as the No. 1 team in the nation. When the final gun sounded, Oklahoma had lost to Kentucky 13-7—Bud's only bowl defeat.