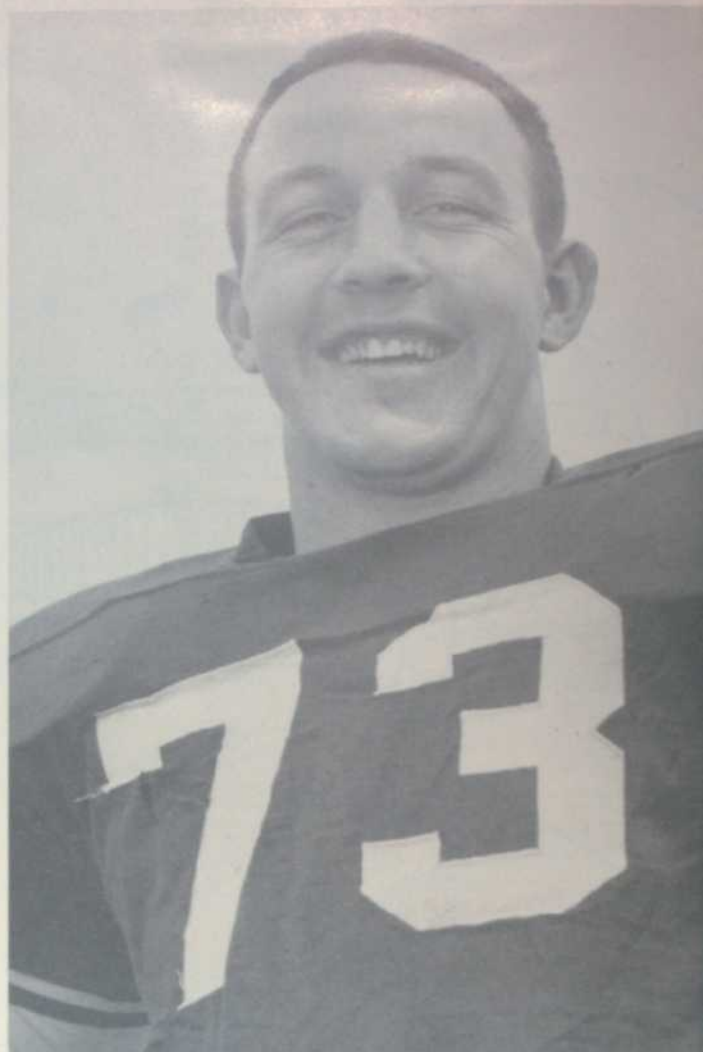


TOM McDONALD
... "I Thought Nobody Wanted Me"



ED GRAY
... "I Wanted to Play on a Winning Team"

WHY THEY CAME TO O.U.

WHY do outstanding football players attend the University of Oklahoma? To get the story, four members of the 1955 National Championship team were asked to explain the reasons for their decisions to attend O. U. All four mentioned they were impressed by the following points:

1. "Mr. Wilkinson told me when I visited the campus to see about going to school at O.U. that football is for four years and education was for life. He said education would have to come first and football second." The author of that statement is Tom McDonald, Albuquerque, New Mexico, All-American halfback.

2. "I was interviewed by about 10 other major colleges. None of them put as much stress on getting an education as Oklahoma did. One of them hinted that all

I'd have to do would be to go to classes if I enrolled at their school," said Jerry Tubbs, All-American center from Breckenridge, Texas.

3. "I was tired of losing. I never did play on a winning team and I wanted to," Ed Gray, Odessa, Texas, tackle, said. He was seconded by Clendon Thomas, Oklahoma City halfback. "I would have been satisfied to make the traveling squad to play on a winning team," Thomas said.

4. All said they were impressed with the coaches. And all underscored the decisive part their immediate predecessors played. Gray—"When I came to the campus, all the players I met were friendly and nice guys. It made a difference."

So much for generalities. Let's take a look at some personal stories. What fac-

tors caused outstanding Texas high school players like Tubbs and Gray to come to Oklahoma?

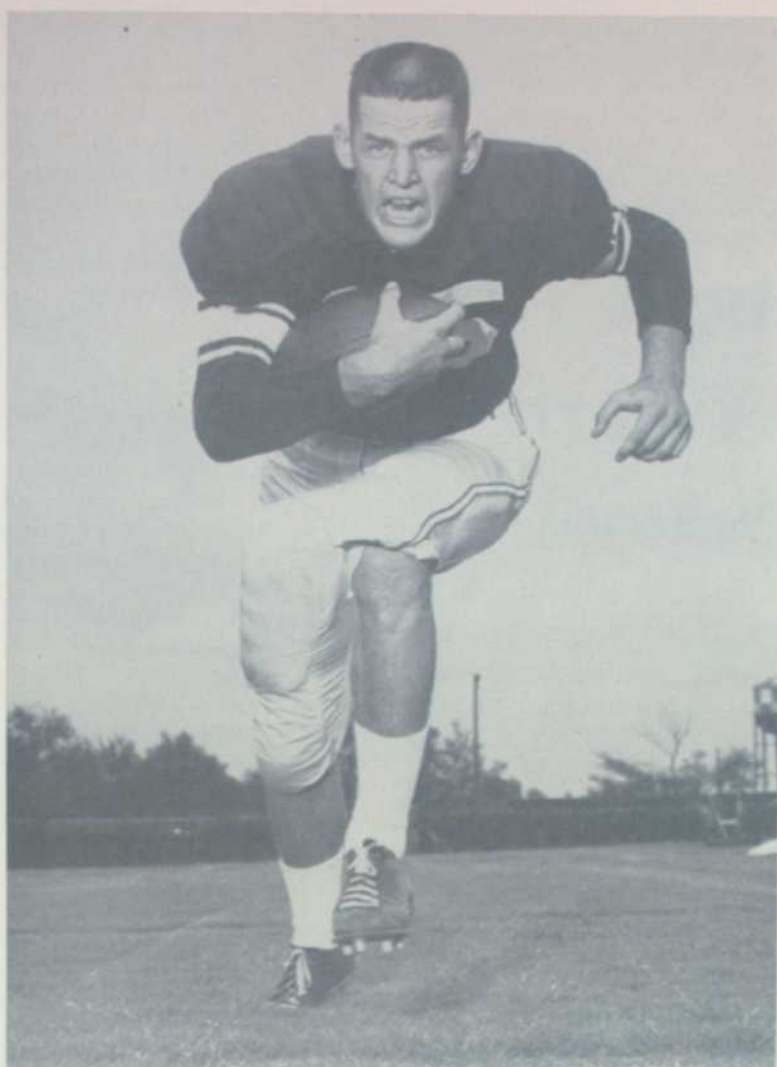
Tubbs settled his long form into a chair. "I'm lazy, you know, and I wanted to go to a school that would make me work for an education." Majoring in economics, a subject not for the lazy, Tubbs continued, "My parents didn't want me to go to school up here. They wanted me to stay in Texas and so did most of the people from Breckenridge. My high school coach told me to make up my own mind. No one from O.U. high-pressed me. Some of the other colleges tried it but I didn't much go for that. Now about everyone in town is glad I came to O.U. Breckenridge is becoming an O.U. town."

Gray, relaxing after dinner in Jeff House,



JERRY TUBBS

... "I Was Impressed With Oklahoma's Record"



CLENDON THOMAS

... "I Just Hoped They Wanted Me"

Four outstanding football stars, three from out of the state and one Oklahoman, explain their reasons for attending the University. Sample comment: "You know, I'm lazy, and I wanted to go to a school that would make me work for an education."

agreed with Tubbs about the pressure of his home community to keep him in Texas. He also reports the same changed attitude as a result of his fine play at Oklahoma. "Folks like a winner, you know." Gray also singled out lack of high-pressure recruiting tactics as one of the reasons he chose O.U.

Thomas, the only Oklahoman to be interviewed, indicated that the state pride that works against the recruitment of out-of-state players figured strongly in his decision to attend O.U.

"You know," he said, "I went to school at Southeast in Oklahoma City. I always wanted to play for O.U. I just hoped I was good enough to make it." Thomas received offers from six other major universities but declined when the invitation to try for the Sooner team came along.

McDonald feels lucky that he even got a chance at O.U.

"You know, I almost missed out. One of the coaches came to Albuquerque to talk with a lineman. He asked to see some film of our team in action. After he visited the lineman, he came around to see me. Said he had seen me in the film. Boy, was I glad he had seen that film."

Did he have lots of other schools interested in him as a prospective athlete? "I thought for a while nobody wanted me. As it was, only two schools contacted me about playing for them," McDonald said.

What about pressure to stay in New Mexico? "My mother, in particular, wanted me to attend Oklahoma. Some of the businessmen tried to talk me out of it by telling me that it would make a difference if I wanted to live and have a business in

Albuquerque after college. That kind of talk has just about died out.

"Boy, am I glad the coach saw that film!"

Talking with the four boys, it became increasingly clear that they are proud to be members of the Sooner team but that they are also a bit awed by it. The word "Team" holds special significance worthy of respect.

What was the factor that decided each of the four boys to make Oklahoma their choice. Certainly the out-of-state players faced pressure to remain in home localities. The four players offered a variety of reasons for their decision—from lack of high-pressure recruiting to hard-headed talk of education. But if any one major reason can be culled from their statements and attitudes, it is this: Each of the four wanted to play football for a proud team.