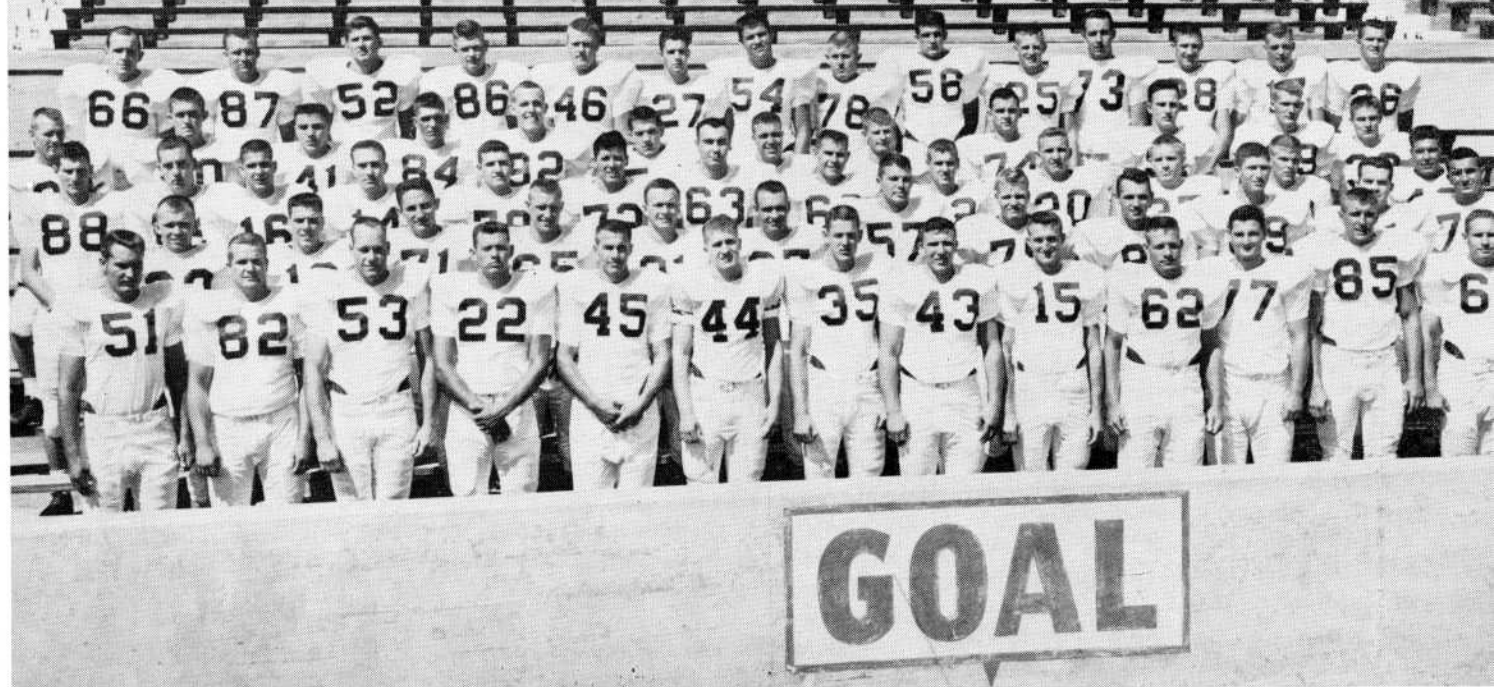


COLT-ACTION SOONERS

Will They Repeat as National Champions in '56?



Nearly all pre-season guessers think so from the AP to the popular magazines, but a few things stand in the road: Among the obstacles, Notre Dame and nine other football teams.

THE AIR had a bite to it. North winds pushed the lingering heat before it, smothering the steaming plains. All at once, it was cool. All at once, football weather returned.

In the dressing room of Owen Stadium, tanned, muscled bodies, whip-cord shape from summer diets, slipped into practice pads. The pop of leather, involuntary grunts, shouts of encouragement, broke the September air. The Sooners, defending national champions, were hard at work preparing for the title defense.

Few football teams have been as unanimously selected by the pre-season dopesters for a national championship as the Sooners. What made the seers seem safe was a combination of factors: Oklahoma's speed, experience and tradition.

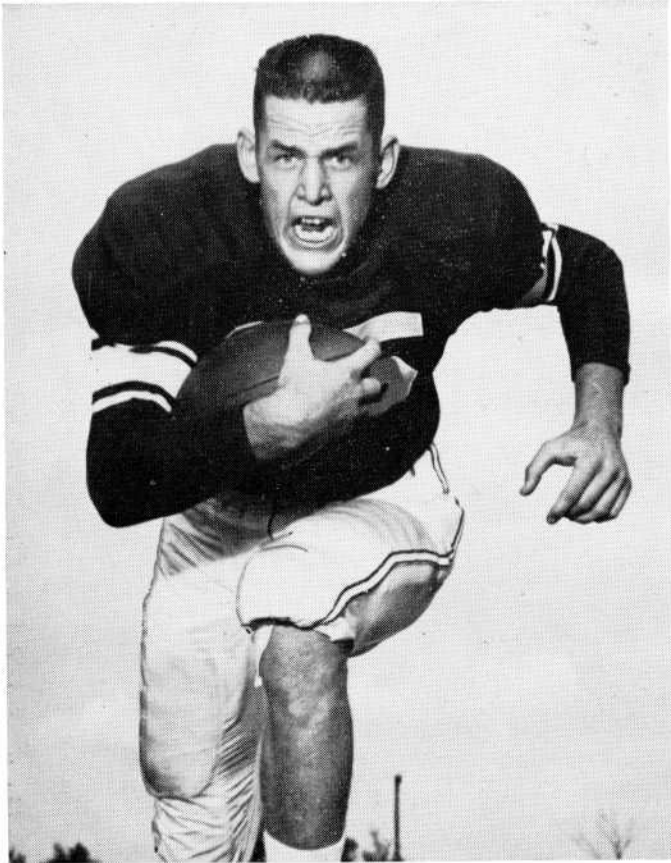
Many would say that a tradition cannot be founded in the brief span of nine years; that the football tradition at O.U. dates back to Bennie Owen and his arrival on the O.U. campus in 1906. Few would argue the point. But the tradition has been whetted to a fine edge by the antics of teams coached by Bud Wilkinson. Consider his O.U. record of the past nine years:

His teams have won 80, lost 7, tied 3 for a winning percentage of .919. His bowl record stands 4-1. He has coached two national champions, 1950 and 1955, and has seen his teams ranked in the AP top ten the last eight years. Oklahoma has placed in the AP's top five teams in seven of the last eight seasons. No other team can approach that record. Oklahoma is working on a national record of 106 consecutive

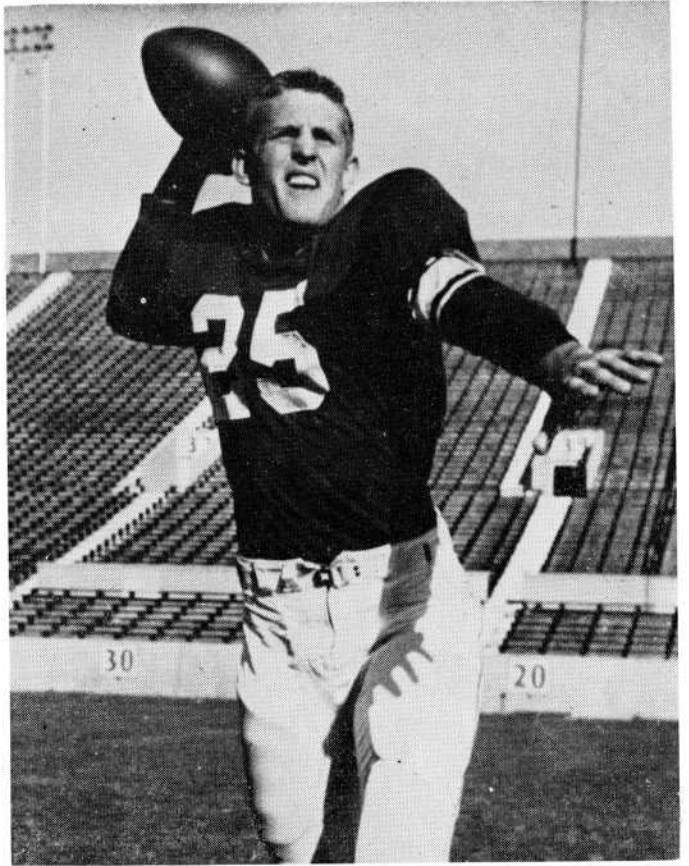
football games in which the Sooners have scored. Oklahoma's modern times record of 31 straight football wins established in 1948-49-50, is being threatened again this year by Oklahoma. With 30 straight wins leading to the season opener, Oklahoma can break its own record with a win over North Carolina and Kansas State.

Oklahoma has also played 53 consecutive Big Six and Big Seven conference games without defeat. In the nine years Bud Wilkinson has coached at O.U., the Sooners have rated 23 All-American selections. Of such material, traditions are shaped.

Speed, long emphasized by Bud, will be available in abundance this year. Long-noted for light, but fast, linemen, and breakaway backs, Wilkinson employed the overall team speed to devastating advantage

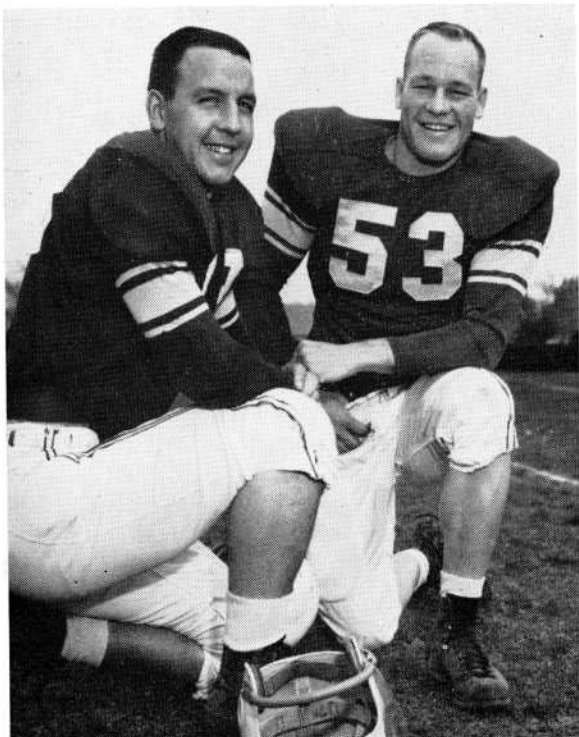


Clendon Thomas, halfback from Oklahoma City, will be starting his first year as a member of the varsity, but as a potent member of second string last year he established himself as possible great. His soph record: 487 yards rushed for a 6.9 average per try; punted 16 times for 37.8 average; led squad in punt runbacks with 199 yards in 10 carries. He's big, 195.



Tommy McDonald, flashy halfback from Albuquerque, already an All-American, will be back at left half. A fiery performer and a hustler, he'll be trying to improve on his '55 figures: He completed 17 of 24 passes, for a total of 265 yards; he was one of Big Seven's rushing leaders; he averaged 18.8 net yards per punt runback in the '55 season.

The All-American Candidates



Jimmy Harris, the Terrell, Texas, quarterback, will continue leading O. U. team. He should have confidence of team: he has never quarterbacked a losing game. A fine runner, he has averaged 4.8 yards per carry on keepers.

Ed Gray, tackle, and Jerry Tubbs, center, are team co-captains—giving Oklahoma two Texas leaders. Gray is from Odessa and Tubbs is from Breckenridge, Texas. Gray has started in every Oklahoma game since his sophomore year. Tubbs is a fierce linebacker and pass defender. Tubbs looks like an excellent bet for line-man-of-the-year this season.

against Maryland in the Orange Bowl. The speed with which the team ran off plays, delighting the spectators and confusing the opposition, has been hailed as a new football tactic. Oklahoma will again use the fast break to upset the defense, although the more deliberate style of offensive play will also be employed.

To go with the tradition and speed, Oklahoma has experience. Although five starters were lost from the 1955 squad, the Sooners return 28 lettermen—none of whom has played in a losing game for O.U. Among this number are five All-American possibilities.

The five and the order in which their chances are rated in a pre-season guess are Jerry Tubbs, center; Tommy McDonald, halfback; Ed Gray, tackle; Jimmy Harris, quarterback, and Clendon Thomas, halfback.

McDonald, the fleet pitching halfback from Albuquerque, has been called the most complete halfback in college football last year. Here's why:

1) He is the only back Oklahoma has ever had who rushed for at least one touchdown in every game on the schedule, including the Orange Bowl battle.

2) He completed an astounding 70.6 per cent of his running halfback forward passes last year without yielding a single interception. He hit 17 of 24 passes for 265 net yards.

3) He had a fine year as a defensive back.

4) He averaged 18.8 net yards per punt runback.

Jerry Tubbs, a man who describes himself as "lazy," plays in the great tradition of his two predecessors, Kurt Burris and Tom Catlin. Last year he won the AP Lineman-of-the-Week Award for his play in the Texas game. Wilkinson, who usually refrains from comment about individual players, commented after the game, "Jerry played a great game. He was very alert on pass defense. You win or lose games today on pass defense . . . And that's the first time this year I've said any man on our team looked good . . ."

Bud could afford to be expansive. Tubbs had just succeeded in intercepting three Texas passes and tackling Texas backs all over the field. Tubbs was switched to fullback in his sophomore year from his usual center position and played the position so well he averaged 6.1 yards per rush. He was switched back to center last year and will operate from that position this year. He's co-captain and is from Breckenridge, Texas.

Ed Gray holds an impressive distinction on a distinguished roster. He is the only

man on the squad who has been a starter in every game, as a sophomore to the present. A fine blocker, Gray is remembered for the play he made last year against Colorado. The Buffaloes quick-kicked. The ball was rolling dead. Suddenly, Tommy McDonald grabbed it up and began to run down the sideline. Gray took two Buff tacklers out of the play on a single block and McDonald went 37 yards to set up another Sooner touchdown.

Gray, 6-3, 205, is from Odessa, Texas. He's co-captain with Tubbs.

Harris, senior from Terrell, Texas, is one of the finest running quarterbacks to play for Wilkinson. His career rushing record hung up in 1954 and 1955 is 825 net yards with an average of 4.8 yards per carry—not outstanding for a halfback but sensational for a Split-T quarterback. He's a capable field general and an excellent defensive man. He's 21 years old, weighs 170, stands 6-1.

Clendon Thomas, the second-string halfback of 1955, moves up to the starting eleven where he will add tremendous pressure to the defense. A big boy, about 195 and 6-2, Thomas is unusually big for a Sooner halfback. Fast and a picture runner, Thomas was responsible for the early season punch of last year's second team. As a second stringer, Thomas rushed 487 yards for an average of 6.9 per carry, punted 16 times for 37.8 average and led the squad in punt runbacks with 199 yards in 10 carries. He scored nine touchdowns. He's from Oklahoma City.

Other standout performers who will be playing on the first team include John Bell and Don Stiller, ends; Tom Emerson, tackle; Bill Krisher and Ken Northcutt or Joe Oujesky, guards.

The second unit will have many experienced hands available to make it even a more formidable force than a year ago. Jay O'Neal, aggressive quarterback, will again lead the team. He can count on Dennit Morris at fullback and a half-dozen halfbacks who are still trying for the team, in-

cluding Carl Dodd, who played right half a year ago.

Moving up from the freshman team of '55 are several outstanding prospects. Among the best looking in pre-season practice are halfbacks Jakie Sandefer, Keith Lewallen, Dick Carpenter and John Pellow; quarterback Lonnie Holland; ends Steve Jennings and Joe Rector; center Bob Harrison. Sandefer and Harrison are expected to move into the second team lineup, and others may make it before the season opens.

The O.U. picture is a rosy one. The team has depth, experience and desire. And what is the scene in the opponents' camps? Here is a capsule preview:

North Carolina at Norman, Sept. 29—The Tar Heels have a new coach, Jim Tatum, and much the same team that held Oklahoma last year 13-6. Twenty lettermen returned, causing Tatum to be optimistic during spring practice. This is the game that drew the comment from Bud, "I don't mean to discount Notre Dame and Texas, but our opener with North Carolina . . . will be as hard a game as we play all year . . ."

Kansas State at Norman, October 6—Wildcats are not expected to be stronger than in '55 when Oklahoma won 40-7. Light on lettermen, the Kansans will be green when they come to Norman.

Texas at Dallas, October 13—If there is one game on the schedule that doesn't follow form it is the annual Longhorn encounter. On paper Texas looks inexperienced with 15 lettermen returning. By time of game, however, some experience will have been added. Texas plays Southern Cal, Tulane and West Virginia before Oklahoma. Texas, tired of losing four straight games to the Sooners, will be tough.

Kansas at Lawrence, October 20—One of the Big Seven's most improved teams last year, Kansas scored first on Oklahoma before losing 44-6. Sportswriters and coaches expect continued improvement under Coach Chuck Mather. Twenty lettermen back and reserves are deeper this time 'round. Kansas is expected to move up in Big Seven standings.

Notre Dame at South Bend, October 27—Pre-season outlook for Notre Dame indicates a lack of experience. Only 14 lettermen return, headed by All-American Paul Hornung at quarterback. However, greenness is not expected to help Oklahoma. By time game is played, Notre Dame will have met Southern Methodist, Indiana, Purdue, Michigan State—all sure cures for inexperience. The TV game-of-the-day, the nation-



BUD WILKINSON

. . . '56 May Be Finest Season

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Say I Taught Thee . . .

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Miss Marilyn Ann Christy, '55ed, Oklahoma City, and Carl Austin Smelser, '53bus, Roosevelt, were married June 22 in Oklahoma City. Smelser received his discharge from the Army, in which he served as a lieutenant, in the spring. The couple live in Roosevelt.

Miss Mary Martha Harreld, '55ed, Oklahoma City, and Howard Ward Olinger, '56eng, Wichita Falls, Texas, were married in early June in Oklahoma City. They now live in Midland, Texas.

Miss Laura Yvonne Jones, '55journ, Lawton, and Kenneth E. Holmes, Rockledge, Georgia, were married June 28 in Altus. They live in Lawton.

Miss Frances Edens, '55ed, Oklahoma City, and Lieut. Warren Summers, '55eng, Norman, were married June 27 in the Division Artillery Chapel, Fort Polk, Louisiana. He has been with the Army since June 1955. The couple lives in De Ridder, Louisiana.

BIRTH: Keith Kashwer and Mrs. Kashwer (the former Frances Fish, '55ba), Oklahoma City, have chosen the name Cinda Kay for their daughter born June 22 in Oklahoma City.

DEATH: Lieut. Scott D. Nickson, '55bus, Shawnee, was killed July 30 when his Air Force plane crashed in an Arizona desert. He was making a solo mission from Marana Air Base when the accident occurred. Survivors include his mother, Mrs. Grace Nickson, Redwood City, California, and his wife of a few weeks, Magdalena.

1956

MARRIAGES: Miss Eugenia Marie Ware, '56ba, and Kenneth Milton Jones, '55bus, both of Oklahoma City, were married July 14 in Oklahoma City. Jones reported in August to Indianapolis, Indiana, as a second lieutenant in the Army. Their home was established in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Miss Sameera Adeeba Hamra, '56h.ec, Lawton, and Mr. Joy N. Massad, '53, Tyler, Texas, were married June 24 in Lawton. They live in Austin, Texas, where he is following a pre-medical curriculum at the University of Texas.

Miss Kay Ann Fentem, '56, Ada, and H. Lanier Hickman, Jr., '56eng, Healdton, were married July 20 in Ada. They live in San Francisco, California, where he is an officer of the Public Health Service.

Miss Marilyn Jane Swift, '56ed, Marietta, Georgia, and Donald Wesley Irby, '55, Oklahoma City, were married July 28 in Oklahoma City. They live in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he is a student in the School of Medicine at Tulane University.

Miss Victoria Jane Yarberr, '56h.ec, and Jack Paul Clayton, '56, both of Mangum, were married August 14 in Mangum. He is now a junior at O.U., majoring in geology. They are living in Chickasha.

Miss Wynona Rae White and Jerry Bart Donaghey, '56ed, both of Ada, were married August 17 in Ada, where they make their home. Mrs. Donaghey is a graduate of Oklahoma A&M College.

Miss Paula Kathrina Hargraves, '56journ, Tulsa, and David Stewart Love, Cushing, were married July 15 in Cushing. Mr. and Mrs. Love are living in Cushing.

Miss Anita Marie Howard, '56ed, Waurika, and Van Norvel Nichols, '56, Houston, Texas, were married June 23 in Waurika. She is a former O.U. Independent Students Association queen. The couple is living in Dallas, Texas.

Miss Nancy Hawkins, '56ba, Bartlesville, and Robert Chalmer Shank, Idaho Falls, Idaho, were married June 9 in Bartlesville.

lowed Tompkins to enter the archives.

In 1940 Tompkins' book *Russia Through the Ages* was published. Two later works, *Alaska: Promyshlennik and Sourdough* and *The Russian Mind* were published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

A careful, patient man, he keeps one eye cocked toward the sky ("Yes, I'm a bird watcher"), but just try and get him to talk about his hobby: he'd rather talk about history. In fact, retirement from O. U. simply means more discussion of history for him, for he's returned to the University of Toronto as a Special Lecturer.

The fifth man, Lowry Doran, had rather use his retirement for writing about government. Political parties and state government constitute his preferred field, but 40 years ago he was planning something different.

"I started into law, he said, "but after one year I switched to political science. I concluded that my mind was better adapted to it than to the technicalities of the other field."

Doran taught high school in his home town of Springfield, Missouri, before pushing on to the University of Chicago for his doctorate. For two years, then, he taught at the University of Maine, and for another at State Teachers College in Tennessee.

Along about this time he decided to take a year off "for cultural purposes and fun. I'd taught courses in history for a while," he explained, "and I wanted to see the places I'd been talking about."

All in all he saw about 40 countries in Europe, North Africa and Southwestern Asia. Particularly catching his fancy were the cities of Istanbul, Rome, Jerusalem and Athens. However, the celebrated spots soon were just as far away as previously they had been, and Doran came to O. U., an Assistant Professor of Government. In the 26 years which followed, he taught an estimated 8,000 students, and he watched the collegiate type change with the calendar.

"For example," he said, "years ago students would sometimes have fights right in the classroom; it doesn't happen today. Or a cow would mysteriously turn up in a professor's room, or a buggy on top of a building. Today there's not quite so much horseplay. Extra-curricular activities are a little more refined."

Has the teaching of government become easier through the years?

"No," said Doran. "In Oklahoma the teaching of government hasn't been prop-

erly enough emphasized in high schools. But it depends a great deal on the student, too. A lot of girls and boys don't read the newspapers. An interest in current news would help."

Current events, incidentally, claim a portion of each of Doran's days. Visitors to his office remember high stacks of newspapers and journals in the corners, and the head of the department used to joke with Doran about his reading matter constituting a hazard to the passerby.

Today Doran and his four retiring colleagues have more time for the newspapers. More birds will be watched, more trains boarded, more long-overdue books written. They have reached, it seems, what Bertrand Russell called "the last product of civilization": the filling of leisure intelligently.

Colt-Action Sooners . . .

Continued from Page 14

al championship will probably be settled with this one.

Colorado at Boulder, November 3—Twenty lettermen return from a squad that won 6 and lost 4 in '55. Coach Dal Ward has added the multiple offense to what was once a straight single wing offense. Two factors keep this game from being put in the safe column for the Sooners: 1) Oklahoma has never beaten Colorado at Boulder by more than one touchdown, and 2) game comes on heels of tough Notre Dame battle. This game has the possibility of ambush written all over it.

Iowa State at Ames, November 10—Team returns 14 lettermen but is described by Coach DiFrancesca in these terms, "We have hopes this will be the best team we've had in our three-year stay."

Missouri at Norman, November 17—Missouri is being touted as the best prospect for an Orange Bowl berth in Big Seven Conference. Eight starters from last year's team are back, headed by brilliant quarterback Jim Hunter. Coach Don Faurot also will have help from an undefeated freshman team. This game will be doubly tough if Missouri is still in the running for the Orange Bowl trip.

Nebraska at Norman, November 24—Nebraska, with new coach Pete Elliott, is opening the season with a mystery team. Fifteen lettermen are back but entire team will need time to adjust to new coach's system. Speed and experience are lacking as season opens. Still, Nebraska figures to be in Big Seven battle for Orange Bowl behind Missouri and possibly Kansas.

Oklahoma A&M at Stillwater, December 1—Outlook is for more speed, more depth and less experience than any Oklahoma A&M club since 1948.

These are the teams Oklahoma will meet. If the Sooners are to continue their impressive string of wins and other records, they will have to perform at top form throughout the season. A let-down against any opponent could provide an upset. Teams rated the best chance of doing it are Notre Dame, North Carolina, Texas and Missouri.

This season could be Coach Wilkinson's finest coaching hour. If his Sooners fulfill their potentialities, he could have his third national championship.

Shake-speare . . .

Continued from Page 11

of an anniversary. We have already learned from Leslie Hotson that Sonnets 104, 107, 123, and 124 were composed late in the year 1589. The birthday of Essex was on November 19; cold weather had no doubt set in by November 19, 1589, which would have fulfilled all the requirements of Sonnet 104 and would place the composition of Sonnet 1 in April 1587. The expressions in Sonnet 104 "Since first your eye I eyed" and "Since first I saw you fresh" mean *since the day I discovered my love for you*. Elizabeth had known Essex as a child, but April 1587 was the first time she had met the man Essex, the warrior returning from the Lowlands campaign.

Elizabeth and Essex were parted on several occasions during the three-year interval 1587-89. Sonnets 26-32, Sonnets 43-52, Sonnets 56-61, and Sonnets 97-99 were written during periods of absence. Late in the year 1590, the Earl of Essex secretly married the widow of Sir Philip Sidney. When Queen Elizabeth found out about the marriage she was exceedingly angry, but was somewhat mollified when Essex consented that his wife should live "very retired in her mother's house." E. K. Chambers suggested that Shake-speare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* because of a perturbing love experience through which he had just passed. From the London earthquake reference we can fix the date of the composition of *Romeo and Juliet* as 1591, the next year after Essex's marriage.

The reference to Shake-speare's lameness in Sonnets 37 and 39 may be explained as meaning the sore on Elizabeth's leg that bothered her for a number of years. On July 1, 1570, De Spes, the Spanish Ambassador, in a letter to Madrid reported that "The illness of the Queen is caused by an open ulcer above the ankle, which prevents

her from walking." Sonnet 37, however, may refer to a more lamentable lameness. Ben Jonson's story to a tavern friend that the Queen ". . . had a membrana on her, which made her incapable of man, . . ." finds a striking parallel in Sonnet 37, which strongly suggests sexual lameness.

"So I, made lame by fortune's dearest spite,
Take all my comfort of thy worth and
truth."

Lytton Strachey in his *Elizabeth and Essex* informed the public that Elizabeth and Essex contended "like school children" in the realm of learning and literature. The sonnets were Elizabeth's part of that contention, which was echoed centuries later when another poetess wrote *Sonnets from the Portuguese* to her younger love, Robert Browning. The writer of the sonnets was also the writer of the thirty-seven plays and the two long poems. There is too much parallelism of thought, word, and style between the sonnets, *Venus and Adonis*, *The Rape of Lucrece*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *King Henry VI*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King John*, and other plays for there to be any doubt on this point.

Somerset Maugham points out that involved expressions in letter writing do not predicate involved play composition: ". . . English prose is elaborate rather than simple. It was not always so. Nothing could be more racy, straightforward and alive than the prose of Shakespeare; but it must be remembered that this was dialogue written to be spoken. We do not know how he would have written if like Corneille he had composed prefaces to his plays. It may be that they would have been as euphuistic as the letters of Queen Elizabeth."

WHEN WOULD a busy queen have time to write plays? We might well ask: When would a busy actor, memorizing play after play, have time to write? It is a well-known maxim that you go to a busy person to get things done. The very fact that there are no plays with Elizabeth as authoress creates the suspicion there must be hidden plays of hers. A born competitor, she was bound to experiment with every type of writing, and she surely would not completely neglect the most popular narrative medium of her age, namely, the drama. She was keenly interested in the development of the play medium from the moralities through the blank verse of *Gorbuduc* and up through the finished product of the University Wits. She witnessed the beginnings and gradual development of the

drama: she probably saw more plays than any person in her time. She fought the Puritans to keep open the theatres. Elizabeth liked what the people liked and what Shake-speare liked. John Middleton Murry explains how she made possible Elizabethan drama:

"In so far as Shakespeare had to please the Court—which he had to do—it resolved into pleasing the Queen. Not because of the money-reward earned by Court performances, but because the very existence of the players directly depended upon the royal authority. It was the royal countenance which enabled them to establish themselves in the outskirts of London in spite of the bitter opposition of the puritan authorities of the City. The queen liked to be amused, but she did not like to pay for her amusement. It was a blessed conjuncture for the Elizabethan drama. The Privy Council issued warrants for the players during the plague on the ground that 'they may be in the better readiness hereafter for her Majesty's service whensoever they shall thereupon be called.'

"To please the people, to please the Queen, and to please himself—these were the driving motives of the period of Shakespeare's career which culminated in *Hamlet*. And he was the kind of man to be able to do all at once: and the Queen was the kind of Queen to make it easy for him, because she had fundamentally the same tastes as the people. She liked the plays they liked; and they liked the plays she liked—at bottom."

We see in Shake-speare Elizabeth's twin. Their myriad intellects neither clashed nor diverged; they always saw eye to eye. The political propaganda in the plays never came in for any act of censorship because it was written exactly as Elizabeth would write it. Their philosophy was the same, their religion was the same, their intense patriotic devotion to England was the same, their desire to instruct while amusing was the same. Tucker Brooke writes of Elizabeth: "With whom are we to match her? With whom but with the man of Stratford, the greatest of all her subjects, her mightiest colleague in building the age we know alternately by both their names? . . . And at the end there are no better words to apply to Elizabeth than those Arnold addressed to her poet:

"Others abide our question. Thou art free.
We ask and ask: thou smilest and art still,
Out-topping knowledge."

J. E. Neale writes, "Elizabeth had no intention of surrendering her powers, or acquiescing in men's views of women. She had a great longing, she said, 'to do some act that would make her fame spread abroad in her lifetime, and, after, occasion memorial for ever.'" We are on firm ground when we assume that Elizabeth, in