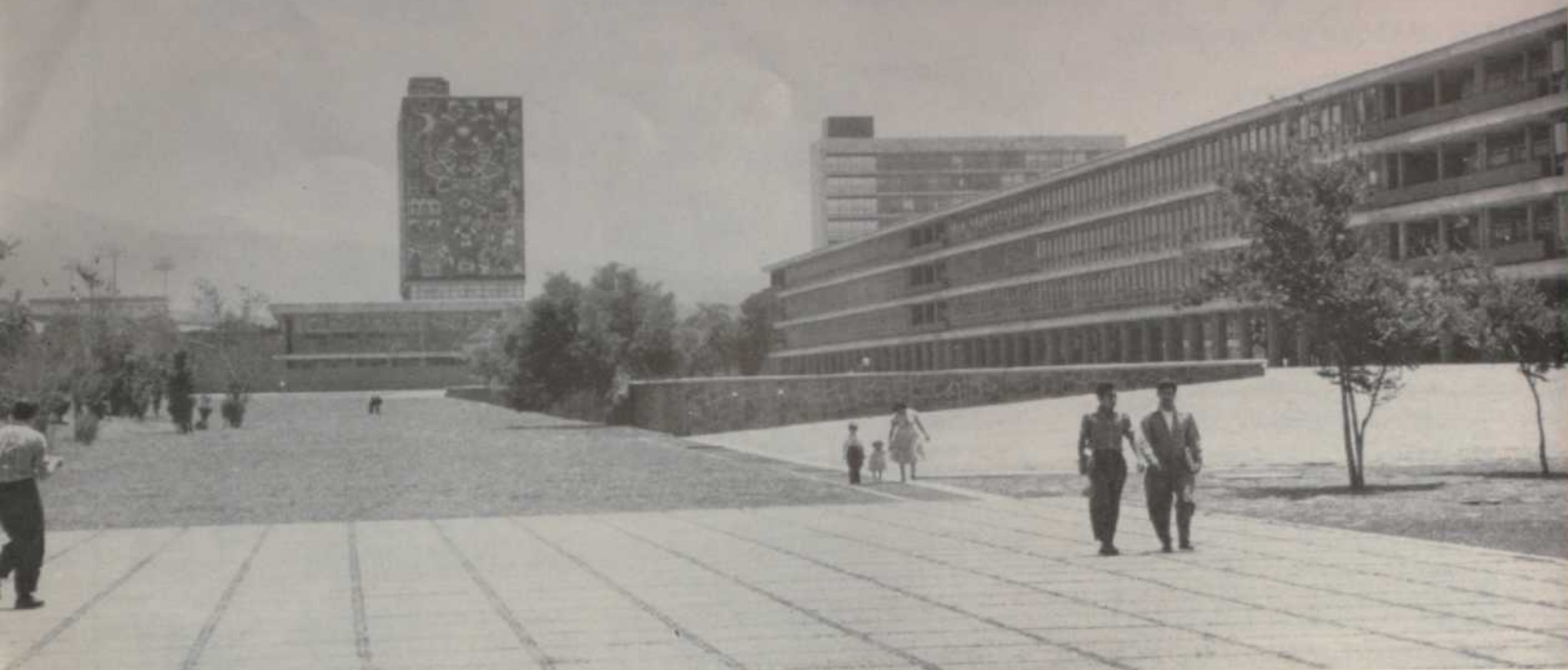


# Grid Neighbor Policy



About 25,000 students make up the enrolment of the University of Mexico's beautiful campus, featuring broad pavilions, Aztec-styled buildings.

Some Oklahomans visited Mexico City this summer. They journeyed there to help with football practice and to enjoy themselves. They crossed more than just one border.



Wilkinson wanders through University of Mexico campus, sweater worn against chill June afternoon, taking snapshots with stereo camera.

**T**HE CRIES of men rang across the lava-rock plateau on the edge of Mexico City. Grunts and dull, smashing sounds filled the warm air. Obviously some combative sport was in progress, but it wasn't bullfighting.

Football practice was underway at the University of Mexico.

In mid-June, head coach Roberto Mendez and his staff gave the Mexican team daily workouts in the shadow of the school's 100,000-capacity stadium. Any Oklahoma tourist who happened to drop by to watch undoubtedly did a double take: there, working alongside Mendez and Company, was O. U.'s head coach "Bud" Wilkinson, assistant athletic director Gomer Jones, trainer Ken Rawlinson.

For the past eight years O. U. and the University of Mexico have kept up a "grid neighbor policy." Mendez and his colleagues regularly come to Norman to observe and help out with spring practice.

The Oklahomans go to Mexico City for the southern university's summer practice.

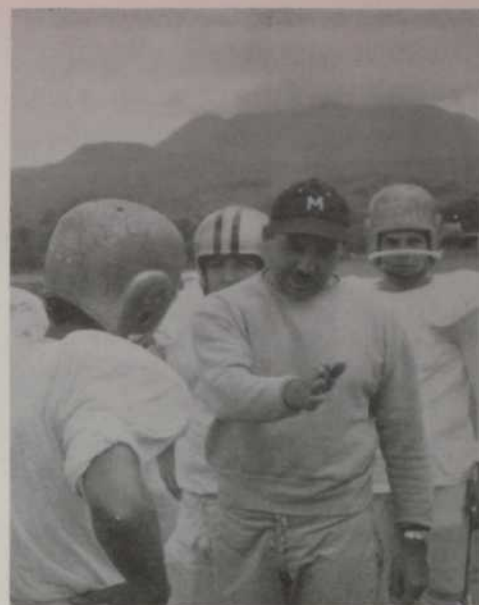
This year marked Wilkinson's second trip south, Jones' fourth. It meant an enjoyable break for them in the American summer football slump, and a bridge between their own spring and fall work. It also meant downright good international relations.

Following them, camera in hand, was Ned Hockman, O. U.'s supervisor of motion picture production. He watched—and snapped—action on the practice field, the sight-seeing, the visits in the home of Mendez and his charming wife.

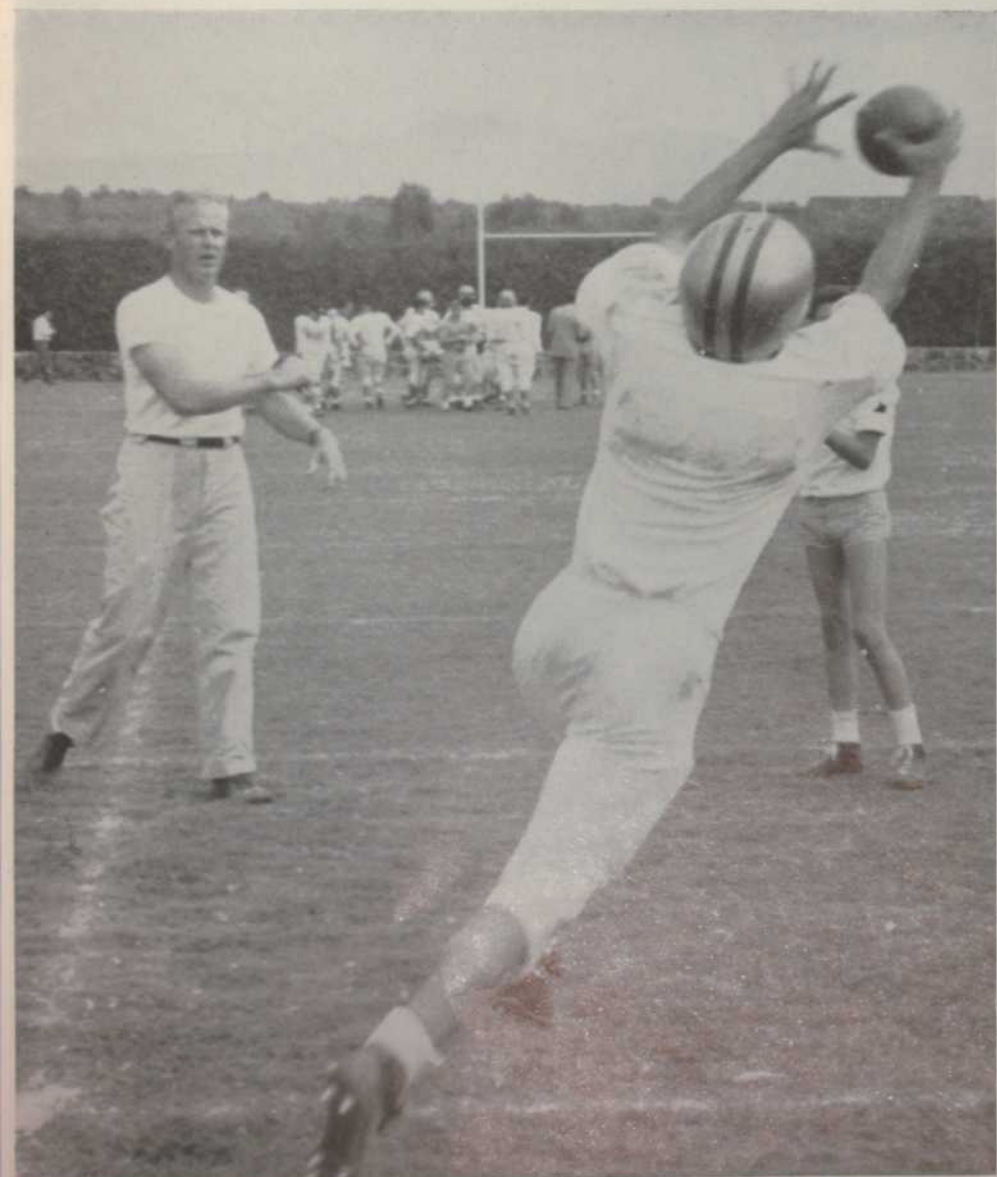
But the practice field required the most attention. Through the afternoons—which turned from hot to chilly under the mountains—Wilkinson and Jones gave Mendez ideas, which had to be translated into Spanish directions to the players. Sometimes verbal instructions weren't enough, and illustration was necessary.



On the practice field, difference in languages was a handicap, but not an insurmountable barrier. First step consisted of Wilkinson explaining play to Coach Mendez in English. Next step is at right.



Mendez takes the ball, explains ideas of O. U. coach to team members in their own language.



Practice gets hot. Everyone perspired in early afternoon heat. However, within three hours, air turned cold, moving off nearby mountains.

Wilkinson heaves one to Mexican player, observing his foot action and attitude as he goes after it. Both learned from working together.





Gomer Jones, O. U. assistant athletic director, chooses bodily illustration technique, crouches for a block . . . .

. . . . and brings his point across by smashing into opponent and lifting him off the ground. Illustration was effective.

## Part of It Wasn't Work

THE SEVERAL DAYS spent with Mendez and company did not prove to be all work for the Oklahoma group.

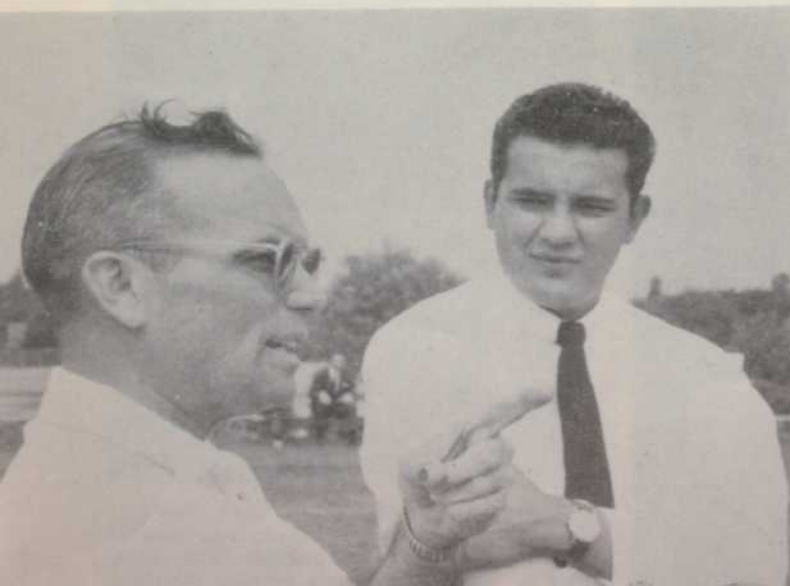
For about three hours per afternoon they aided as they could, watching the gruelling run-throughs or getting right into the thick of the practice routines themselves. Such afternoons began hot, gradually turned chill as clouds moved off nearby mountains.

But mornings and late afternoons were for sightseeing and taking snapshots on the fantastically beautiful campus. Great mosaic buildings, outside murals and imaginative architecture—a sort of cross between Aztec and pure modern—overlook Mexico City, and the grounds are dotted with statues erected by different sculptors who flocked from all over the country to help build the institution.

Evenings were informal, for renewing acquaintance, for chatting over meals. Everyone had a fine time.



Trainer Ken Rawlinson, Oklahoma, and University of Mexico team doctor get together for chat about methods of preventing and treating injuries.



Photographed by  
NED HOCKMAN



Sight-seeing. Wilkinson pauses behind arena for another favored Mexican sport—the bullring. The structure is decorated with statues of famed bullfighters, like the one shown above. Each statue shows fighter executing his own personal "pass" with a cape.



One of the finest statues on the Mexico campus is winged man, caught in flight. Dedicated to youth, the modern piece of sculpture stands before pool.



Evenings the Oklahomans visited the Mendez home. Coach and Mrs. Mendez and Wilkinson admire fruit centerpiece above. Photo on wall is of Mendez.