

# Sooner Scene

**E**XPERTS on O.U. football are hard to find these days. Knowledgeable followers of the team, who in former years had ready answers, are now hesitant to say who will play at each position, how many and which games will be won or lost, what changes should be made in the formations and strategy. It will take only a good win over Notre Dame to put everyone back in the sideline coaching business. In the meantime, interest in the welfare of the Big Red continues to run high and ticket sales are up to the usual level.

Alumni clubs of Oklahoma City and Tulsa together turned out more than a thousand fans at their meetings this week to hear Coach Bud Wilkinson talk about the coming season. In this issue of the *Sooner* you will find David Burr's fearless forecast. Over the years David's September predictions have had a high degree of reliability. You will enjoy reading what he has to say about the 1961 Sooners.

In August Harold Keith wrote an analysis of prospects for the coming season for the alumni. This story was used as a part of an alumni membership drive and a few copies were held back to fill special requests. If you would like to see Keith's forecast, just send a post card to the Alumni Office and it will be mailed to you without charge.

Bud Wilkinson and Gomer Jones have been the greatest coaching team in America for fourteen years. They are well-known to you who have followed their careers, and the record they have made in collegiate football may stand for all time. This summer Wilkinson has been on leave from the University, serving as President Kennedy's special consultant on physical fitness.

Gomer Jones has spent his summer in Norman except for coaching clinic assignments. He has authored a new book on line play that is already a best seller.

The other coaches play an important part in the O.U. football picture and here is some information about them:

Port Robertson has worked with freshman football fourteen years and has been in charge of the program for nine of the fourteen. He serves as guidance counselor for athletes of all sports, as associate wrestling coach and sponsors the Varsity "O" Club. He coached the American Olympic free-style wrestling team to three gold medals in 1960 Olympics at Rome and to places in four other weights. This was the best showing by a U. S. team in 28 years. He has

been named to the Helms Coaching Hall of Fame. His wrestling teams at O.U. won three national collegiate championships and nine conference championships.

The best known assistant coach is Eddie Crowder. He quarterbacked the Oklahoma teams in 1950-51-52. He was All-America in 1952. He co-ordinates all recruiting activity which, by the way, has been a very optimistic note in the whole program this summer.

The newest member of the staff is Jay O'Neal. Jay came to the University from Ada and played quarterback on the teams of 1954-55-56. He was a nearly straight "A" student in petroleum engineering and upon graduation went to work for Shell Oil Company in New Orleans. However, at the time he joined the O.U. coaching staff in December of 1960, he was administrative assistant to U. S. Senator Mike Monroney.

Rudy Feldman has been assistant coach and scout at Oklahoma for three years. He came here from Iowa State where he was assistant coach. In college Rudy played guard for three years at U.C.L.A. under Coach Red Sanders. He was captain of the U.C.L.A. 1954 Rose Bowl team.

Bob Ward is another Iowa State assistant who migrated to Oklahoma. Bob has been here one year. He played collegiate football at Maryland under Jim Tatum. He was All-Southern guard in 1950-51, All-American guard, 1950-51. He was voted Line-man of the Year in 1951.

A newcomer to the staff is Chet Franklin who graduated from Utah in 1956, served as graduate assistant at Stanford for two years before coming to Oklahoma. Chet was a guard of outstanding ability. He made all-Skyline Conference, All-America honorable mention, and while in the service was named All-Marine Guard in 1958.

Another key man on this staff is Ken

Rawlinson who has been the Oklahoma trainer for eight years. Ken is a man with a lot of experience and know-how. He has been assistant trainer at the University of Illinois, William and Mary College, and Lafayette College. He has coached swimming at William and Mary and at Oklahoma. His swimmers were conference champions in 1955. He was trainer for the 1960 U. S. Olympic team at Rome, is past president of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, was named Rockne Club Trainer of the year in 1959. Ken has a new book just off the press, "Modern Athletic Training."

So these are the men on whose shoulders falls the responsibility of bring the Sooners back to the top. It will not be an easy task but there are signs that the job is already underway.

Alumni enthusiasm for the team has not diminished in any way. These big away-from-home trips are planned for the faithful this year: The kick-off will be at South Bend on September 30th, for a renewal of the Notre Dame series. This game will be nationally televised. The Oklahoma headquarters will be the Sherman Hotel in Chicago. No formal party has been planned for alumni attending the game. The next big attraction is in Dallas on October 14th. The Oklahoma headquarters will be all over town as usual but the alumni office will join the Dallas Club at the Sheraton Hotel for a big dinner-dance on Friday evening, October 13th. This is a traditional party and well-attended.

The big trip (expensive) of the year, however, will be to New York City where Oklahoma and Army play in Yankee Stadium on November 18th. This game will not be televised in this region. The Alumni Headquarters will be the Edison Hotel. A kick-off breakfast will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Edison at 9:30 a.m., Saturday morning, the day of the game. Four hundred tickets have already been sold for this breakfast. The tickets are still available at the Alumni Office in Norman.

—R. BOYD GUNNING

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