

# The Season at Home

The University's football team is young, practically untested and poor on offense. Every opponent it meets will be out for blood.

CALL IT JITTERS.

Or call it, as Coach "Bud" Wilkinson has, only uncertainty. During the ten years in which he's coached Oklahoma's football squads, Wilkinson has refused to display anything brighter than worry as to the outcome of every scheduled game.

This season he has company.

Oklahoma was national champion in 1956, stretched a winning streak into a modern record of 40 consecutive victories and boasted such players as Center Jerry Tubbs (winner of the Walter Camp Award); Tommy McDonald (winner of the Robert W. Maxwell Memorial Trophy and the Sporting News Award, and finest running-passing halfback to play under Wilkinson); Tackles Tom Emerson and Ed Gray; Fullback Billy Pricer; Quarterbacks Jimmy Harris and Jay O'Neal, and Ends John Bell, Bob Timberlake and Delbert Long.

The fact is, though, that 18 lettermen left the ranks last year; among them were the names listed above. The current team is "young," largely untested. Just who will bear watching may be anyone's guess. After calling the new team "greener and slower than last year," Wilkinson said: "Nobody on either side knows what will happen. This year we'll have to work faster and organize better than ever before."

However, the eyes are already looking to such returnees as Halfbacks Clendon Thomas and Carl Dodd; Guards Bill Krisher, and Joe Oujesky and Doyle Jennings; End Don Stiller; Center Bob Harrison, and others.

The opener, against and at Pittsburgh, has been termed the toughest. Colorado, always responsible for the chewed condition of Sooner fingernails, roars into Norman mid-season. Texas may be far rougher than the 1956 Dallas fracas in which the Longhorns were left pointless.

If anyone proves optimistic about Oklahoma's chances of being Number One again, it ought to be those nearest the cam-

pus. Skepticism, it seems, would come from abroad.

Nothing of the sort this year. Already a few national magazines have bet on O. U. They were impressed by the varsity upsetting the alumni 20-13 in April. But the Oklahoma coaching staff noted poor rushing and perhaps poorer offense on the varsity's part. They also observed some plain hard luck on the alumni side. It was the first time in eight years that the varsity triumphed, but it wasn't necessarily an omen.

Noting the varsity's shortcomings, Wilkinson said he'd play the 11 best defensive men available, "then scramble on offense."

Everyone wants to win, of course, but most important is it's time for playing and watching football again, win or lose. And Oklahoma has a good schedule to complete in its bid for the Orange Bowl:

September 21, Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

October 5, Iowa State at Norman: Band Day.

October 12, Texas at Dallas, Texas.

October 19, Kansas at Norman.

October 26, Colorado at Norman: Dad's Day.

November 2, Kansas State at Manhattan, Kansas.



CLENDON THOMAS

November 9, Missouri at Columbia, Missouri.

November 16, Notre Dame at Norman: Homecoming, Statehood Day (official end of the Semi-Centennial celebration).

November 23, Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska.

November 30, Oklahoma State (formerly Oklahoma A&M) at Norman.

(September 28 is an open date. Pittsburgh, Texas, Notre Dame and Oklahoma State are the non-conference games. The latter, recently voted into the Big Seven—making it the Big Eight—will actually come into conference competition about 1960.)

As noted above, five of the meetings will be in Norman. One of those, and probably two other, out-of-state games in Oklahoma's schedule, will be televised.

For the 50,000 or so fans who are able to turn out into the cool, sunny Saturday afternoons to fill the stadium, it will prove a special treat. Oklahoma periodically is called "football crazy." Yet, football remains one of the very few events at which the entire University and its alumni and friends may gather and enjoy mass participation.



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