

Wilkinson Faces Crisis

By HAROLD KEITH
Director of Sports Publicity
University of Oklahoma

Norman, Okla. (Special)—Oklahoma has had its "Beautiful Morning". Can the 1950 Sooners, drawing heavily upon new home-state boys, keep everything going their way in the Big Seven Conference?

The plain truth is that Bud Wilkinson this fall is face to face with the crisis of his short coaching career. The Sooners not only lost 10 of their eleven starters from last season, including every one of the five All-Americans, but the parting (none of it sweet sorrow) included seven valuable reserves besides.

Never before in the history of football at Norman have the losses been so terrific, except in the war years 1918 and 1943.

More than one-half the players on the Oklahoma's first three offensive teams this fall will be sophomores. There will be seven sophomores on the second team, nine sophomores on the third team. A football team is as strong as its reserves and 16 of Oklahoma's 22 reserves will be untested sophomores.

Situation Serious

The situation is far more serious than year ago when the Oklahoma team came into the 1949 season losing only four starters from 1948. Jack Mitchell, Buddy Harris, Homer Paine, and Pete Tillman.

And so many experienced reserves were available a year ago that only two sophomores, tackle Jim Weatherall and halfback Dick Heatly, could make the second team, and only two more, end Jack Lockett and quarterback Frank Silva, could make the third team.

War May Call Coaches

If the Korean War expands into a national emergency, four of Oklahoma's five varsity coaches and 42 of the Sooners' 58 varsity players for 1950 could be called.

Head Coach Wilkinson, Line Coach Gomer Jones and Backfield Coach George Lynn are all members of the Navy Reserve. Freshman Coach Bill Jennings is a Marine reserve. Only End Coach Frank "Pop" Ivy, who served with the Army's 29th Division in Europe, isn't subject to call.

The sophomore Sooner playing squad of 1950 could be heavily tapped. Already five players have been called with the re-activation of the 45th Division, Oklahoma National Guard.

They are Bob Eubank, senior quarterback who would have done

much of the team's punting; Tom Carroll, outstanding soph halfback who started the Alumni game at the end of the 1950 spring practice; Gene Cook, Carroll's alternate at halfback, also a sophomore; Bob Pyle, another promising soph back, and Bill Coffman, sophomore end.

Other Draft Bait

Others who are very eligible for the call are six married veterans, among whom are included



Bud Wilkinson
Oklahoma Head Coach

Co-captains Harry Moore and Norman McNabb, Buddy Jones, Bill Price, and Ed Lisak. Ten others of the team are eligible for the call. They are Claude Arnold, Art Jones, Frankie Anderson, Bert Clark, Dick Heatly, James Holder, Jerry Ingram, LeeRoy McElwain, Frank Silva, and Dean Smith.

Lack of experience in all departments is the summary of the 1950 situation of the Sooners. Oklahoma will have good potential depth, but the starting team won't be as good as last year's and behind it the Sooners will use reserves composed almost entirely of sophs.

Coaching Staff Faces Problem

The Sooner coaching staff faces a terrific problem in rebuilding the two Oklahoma lines. The 1950 line will be lighter and slower than last year's with far greener reserves.

"We've got to do an excellent job of coaching this fall," says Coach Wilkinson. "But kids can absorb just so much in a given period of time. I think we'll have a hustling, interesting team that should get better as we get along. We could lose one or two games by from three to four touchdowns each, but all the others should be close."

"The morale of our new squad was excellent in spring practice. If we should make a good record in 1950, we will achieve it on hustle and morale, and not on smooth play."

THE BATTALION
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Dick Heatly
Oklahoma Halfback

Stan Hollmig punted the ball out of bounds within the 12-yard line seven times in the Baylor game.

Tech's Raiders Seeking Ninth Conference Title

By CLARK SCHOOLEY
Sports Publicity Director
Texas Tech

Lubbock (Special)—The Texas Tech Red Raiders this fall are seeking their ninth Border Conference championship with one of the toughest schedules ahead.

Tech, which won the title in 1932, 1933, and 1934, again in 1937 tied for the crown in 1942, and went through the past three seasons without loss in the Border loop, will be forced to rely heavily on sophomores.

Coach Dell Morgan and his aides are far from hopeful of another championship eleven, but they are not downhearted and expect a fighting team, regardless of final scores. This is Morgan's tenth season as head coach of the Raiders.

Fans believe it will be Morgan's best season. He is an exponent of the T system and expects to work various tricky plays from it this fall.

Five Teams Booked

Five Border teams have been booked for the Fall, along with a like number of members of the stronger Southwest Conference, and Tulsa, coached by Buddy Brothers, Texas Tech great and the man chosen "Coach of the Year" in the Missouri Valley Conference last fall.

Only two defensive starters of 1949—halfback Tim Hatch and tackle Douglas McSwane—are back this fall, along with tackle Jer-

rell Price, starting defensive star. No letterman quarterback will be around to handle the complicated field generalship of the T formation.

But fans see in some of the sophomores stars of the Southwest, although development is needed before there is any shining.

Boys to Watch

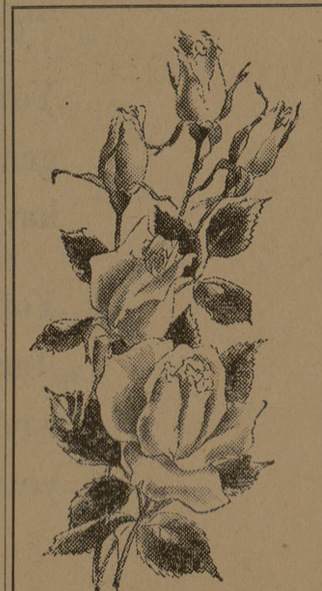
Fans who have watched practice list among these to watch such boys are: Jimmy Williams, big center; Alton Linne, rough defensive end; Buddy Barron, rugged little guard; David Brown, lengthy guard and tackle; Dan Seale, left-footed punter; Frank Graves, scampering halfback; and Denton Lambert, another halfback.

Others include Dun Gray, guard and perhaps Charles Allen, towering end. Only lack of speed, fans say, will keep end James Thames from being a candidate for All-America eventually, and coaches have been devoting time to correcting speed deficiency.

The Red Raiders have spirit, stronger reserves, and determination for 1950. But opposition is rough and the win-lost record may not be too good.

The Raiders played its first football game in 1925 in several inches of water at the fairgrounds. Since that time it has come far, compiling a record of 150 wins, 89 losses and 18 ties in 257 games.

Texas Tech has scored 3,911 points, against 2,530 for the opponents, winning eight Border conference titles.



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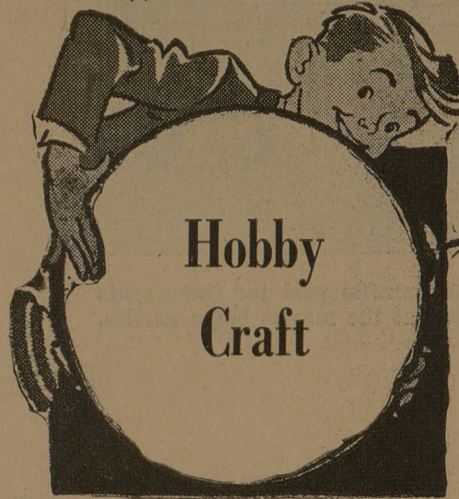
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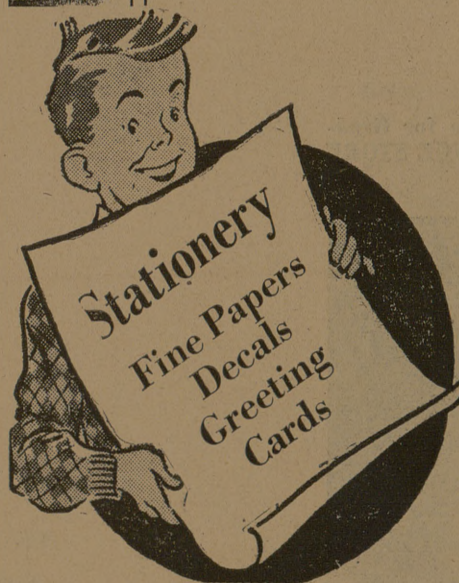
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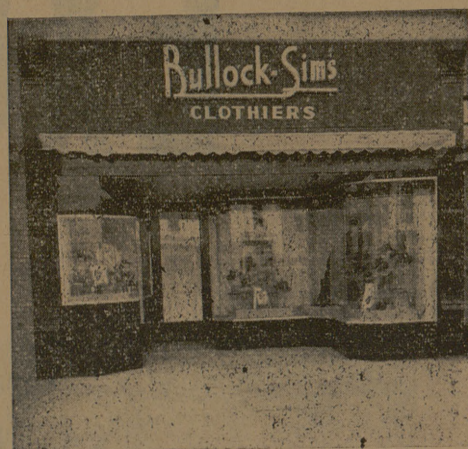
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