Football enthusiasm will get an unusual sendoff this year when professional football's Washington Redskins and Detroit Lions play an exhibition game in Owen Stadium. The two teams will spotlight Alumni sports followers have yet another first in store for them. Even the more blasé should register anticipation. For the first time in the history of sports in Oklahoma a professional football game will be played in the state. Appropriately enough, the Detroit Lions-Washington Redskins will do battle in Owen Stadium—appropriate because some of O.U.'s finest performers will be in action for the two teams.

Three-fourths of the famed backfield of '49—Thomas, Pearson, Heath—will be in action, along with South and Southwestern stars that have streaked across the fall sports pages.

Junior Thomas and Leon Heath represent the Washington Redskins along with such other stickouts as Sammy Baugh, Texas Christian, Harry Gilmer, Alabama and Bill Dudley, Virginia.

On a recent trip to the campus, a representative of the Washington club stated that great things were expected of Heath this year. An injury cost him time and effectiveness last season. If Heath has a great year, it would surprise no Big Red fans who saw him display the form and finesse that made him an All-American. Thomas, one of the finest runners ever produced at Oklahoma, may well become one of the great pro-gallopers, also.

The Detroit Lions will have much Sooner support. Lindell Pearson, a big, fast man, who joined the Lions after being ruled ineligible for his senior year of competition by the Big Seven Conference, will represent O.U. And there is another name or two in the lineup that will insure enthusiastic support for the pro game. Doak Walker, time offensively but pitched two touchdown passes for the alums to receive the Wilkinson trophy as the games outstanding performer.

But while the alumni were winning, discerning sports followers paid close attention to what the varsity displayed. Several of last years regulars—Buddy Leake, John Redell and Ed Rowland—didn't show up for Spring training due to participation in other sports or a conflict in academic work.

The backfield looks strong anyway its observed with reserves that will push the starters at every position. In the line, the first string looks good but is lacking in top-quality reserves.

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Oklahoma's Best

BY DAVID BURR, '50

the fabulous All-American from Southern Methodist, and Leon Hart, equally famous end and All-American from Notre Dame, will be cavorting for the Lions. Bobby Lane, Texas' great quarterback, will be pitching for the Lions also.

The game is sponsored by the Oklahoma Publishing Co. as an Oklahoman-Times Milk and Ice Fund benefit. Tickets may be ordered by sending a $3.50 check per ticket payable to the Oklahoma Publishing Co. to Professional Football, Oklahoma Publishing Co., 500 N. Broadway, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Spring football practice came to an end April 5 with the full scale alumni-varsity football game. For the third year in a row the alumni turned back the clock and the varsity for a 27 to 20 victory.

Indian Jack Jacobs played only a short time offensively but pitched two touchdown passes for the alums to receive the Wilkinson trophy as the games outstanding performer.

But while the alumni were winning, discerning sports followers paid close attention to what the varsity displayed. Several of last years regulars—Buddy Leake, John Redell and Ed Rowland—didn't show up for Spring training due to participation in other sports or a conflict in academic work.

Yet the team that took the field showed a sharp and more experienced attack than last year's spring crew. Billy Vessels, standout halfback, appeared fully recovered from the leg injury that benched him for most of last season as he took the opening kickoff back across the alums' goal line. Eddie Crowder directed the experienced backfield of Buck McPhail, fb, Vessels, hb, and Merrill Green, hb.

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The terms of the contract provide that Wilkinson will remain as athletic director and coach and that anytime he wishes to retire from coaching he may retain the athletic directorship and name his successor. In addition the contract forbids Wilkinson’s ever leaving Oklahoma to coach at any other school during the 10-year period.

Just at press time it was learned that the University of Oklahoma was consciously violating a Gig Seven ruling concerning the recruiting of athletes.

President George L. Cross reported that at the Big Seven’s spring meeting the representatives of other conference members were notified that O.U. was not conducting its business on the conference standard.

The violation occurred over a rule that forbids coaches to initiate contact with high school athletes but permits alumni to do whatever they like toward recruitment with minor reservations.

Since other conferences and independents in the area were not bound by a similar rule, O.U. decided to break it.

The violation will last only until September when even stricter regulations of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary schools will go into effect.

Dr. Cross pointed out that under the Big Seven ruling O.U. was being penalized but under the North Central regulation all schools in Oklahoma and the surrounding states would be operating under the same plan.

Oklahoma’s two national wrestling champions, Billy Borders and Tommy Evans have qualified for the Olympic wrestling team. A third Sooner, Jack Blubaugh, a member of last year’s NCAA tourney team, also qualified in the Olympic trials.

Borders was the only first place winner but Evans and Blubaugh took runnerup honors. All three will report to Annapolis for preliminary skirmishes before sailing to Helsinki, Finland. No one knows yet which of the Olympic qualifiers will get to face actual competition. The U.S. representative in each weight will be determined by a best two out of three bouts between the winner and runnerup in each weight.

Since Borders and Blubaugh are in the same class, O.U. will be represented by at least one representative. Evans must take his opponent two out of three times to get the starting berth.

Covering the Campus . . .

island just 103 miles from the north pole to establish a weather station.

The idea for the station was originated by Fletcher when the island was discovered by a weather flight several months ago. It will serve as the first continuous source of information on polar weather, which is necessary for accurate forecasting in the northern hemisphere.

Fletcher, now 31 years old, has been engaged in meteorological research for the Air Force since 1941 when he received his B.S. in engineering physics from the University. He took basic flight training at Westminster before the war.

The island on which Fletcher and his party are working has been officially named Fletcher’s ice island. It is nine miles long and is drifting in a circular pattern at the rate of one mile a day.