

This is the second football team in University history and was the first 'all-victorious' team (it won both games). Bottom or front row, Alfred McAtee, right end; Elmo Richey, quarterback; John Prickett, right tackle; Gordon Hopping, right guard; Frank Taylor, left guard; Harvey Short, left tackle; Ray Hume, captain and left end. Back or top row, Ross Hume, referee; Harry Ford, right halfback; Paul Mackey, fullback; H. T. Burson, left halfback; C. C. Roberts, umpire.



Football myths

By C. ROSS HUME, '98

I join the throng, the Boomer band,
Who now are listening in;
I hear the voice of Soonerland
Say, "Friends, today we'll win."

The crowd, the stunts, the plays, the cheers,
All pass in swift review;
Then I go back for forty years,
And early scenes renew.

The field, the teams, the games, my mates
And gridiron myths of yore
Come rushing in; I'll now relate
That O. U. football lore.

THE small and humble beginnings of football traditions at the University of Oklahoma have been told before, but on this fortieth anniversary of our first victories, I will relate my recollections of the first five years from 1895 to 1899, together with the meager records I have collected, before all of the actors shall have passed from the scene.

The Caddo Indians have a tradition that an early migration was delayed until a certain warrior who cared for the altar fires had recovered sufficiently to carry the flame so that the new hearthstone fires could be kindled.

In the fall of 1895, John A. Harts, from Winfield college, came to Norman and brought the tiny spark of football enthusiasm which has become the roaring flame we find at a football game today.

He was acting captain, coach, and, in fact, the only player who had ever even seen a game! He spent the fall drilling the men and showing each player what he should do, as well as arousing pep in the rest of us.

The first game was with Oklahoma City high school on December 14, 1895, and I found in the *Norman Transcript* of December 20 the following report of the game:

In the football game last Saturday between the team of Oklahoma City High school and that of the University here, the Oklahoma City boys came out victorious, the score being 34 to 0. The

game lasted 70 minutes and was hotly contested, the Norman boys putting up a strong game even though they failed to score. Two of the University's best players were unable to play.

A day or two before the game Harts got a charley-horse and could not play. Jim Brown, now in Oklahoma City, Jasper Clapham, Ed Barrows, John Merkle, Paul Mackey and others were on the team. Harts acted as referee. The field was west of the auditorium with goals at north and south, and not even a wire to keep the crowd off the field.

Having a game, it was necessary to have colors and a yell. A committee composed of Miss Mary Overstreet, Miss Ruth House, L. W. Cole, and my brother, Ray Hume, chose cream and crimson, whence the present-day University colors came.

Cole and others suggested the first yell:

Hi rick-e-ty whoop to-do;
Terra ga-hoo, Hullaba-loo;
Uni, Uni, Uni, U.

This was used until a group in the glee club in 1898 worked out the present yell, starting similarly, which was adopted and has remained in use ever since. A history of this is found in the 1916 Sooner.

Second Year (1896)

Harts left school in the spring of 1896, but had implanted in the hearts of the student body a love for football. That season we organized by the election of my brother, Ray Hume, as captain, and played two games with Norman High school.

The first game was on the high school field near the high school, on ground badly cut up by roads and ditches. We beat them 12 to 0. I played quarterback and called signals for the first game the University ever won, and that ended my football career.

The second game was played about three weeks later on Thanksgiving day,

in a vacant field west of the campus and south of Boyd street. We won that game, but I do not recall the score. The team, which was made up of younger students who had no coach, is shown in a picture accompanying this article.

That was the first "all-victorious team," and not the one coached by Bennie Owen many years later.

Third Year (1897)

V. L. Parrington, professor of English, came to the University in the fall of 1897 from Emporia college. He had played at Harvard and had started to coach football.

A much heavier team was trained, and the first real football was played. In our first game we beat Oklahoma City 16 to 0, gaining revenge for their victory of two years before.

We played Arkansas City and a Texas team, I think. I acted as lineman and timekeeper at all games played on the home field, and by that time football was the major sport at the University.

The team included C. C. Roberts, Barrow, Clapham, John Merkle and Fred Merkle, Dan Short, Harry Ford, Paul Mackey and others.

Fourth Year (1898)

I was teaching at Newkirk this year, and was not in school. I introduced football in the high school, carrying back toward Winfield the sport that had come to us from there, and I was the first O.U. man to try to establish football in a high school.

The University played a return game at

C. Ross Hume, '98, author of this article, and Roy P. Stoops, '98, were the first two B. A. graduates of the University. The only previous graduates received pharmaceutical degrees.

Arkansas City, and I took my team to the game, where I acted as lineman.

I came to Norman for the Thanksgiving game, and I think we played Kingfisher college, with John Alley on their team. The football field was in the northeast corner of the campus.

The crowds were growing and the interest was increasing each successive season.

Fifth Year (1899)

I returned to school in the fall of that year and roomed with Fred Roberts from Wellington, Kans., one of O.U.'s greatest halfbacks. The team was very heavy, averaging 200 pounds. The field was where the Auditorium stands now, with goals at east and west ends, and with the first bleachers erected at the University. I served as lineman again.

The game had become a definite part of college life, and increased enrolment gave us a greater number of men to pick a team from.

The following table of men students shows how limited the choice was at first:

Year	Preparatory Dept.					Total
	Col.	Pharm.	Sen.	Middle	Jun.	
1895	7	3	7	13	26	56
1896	6	7	13	16	38	80
1897	16	11	15	24	120	186
1898	18	14	14	28	58	132
1899	26	37	20	30	62	175

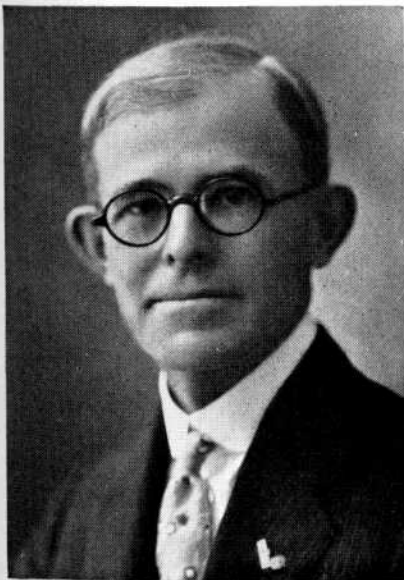
The foregoing table is compiled from the lists of students in the catalogues. The pharmacy course was two years, and had the same entrance requirement as the college. The preparatory department offered a high school course.

It can be shown that the football teams were composed largely of high school students, so that contests with other high schools were not unequal.

Later Years

I was a student at the University of Kansas in 1903 when O.U. played its first game there, and acted as lineman my last time.

In 1915 I saw my next game at the first



Homecoming when it had become possible to go by automobile to Norman and return the same day. The field then was west of the Fieldhouse site, with temporary wooden bleachers.

During the last dozen years I have attended one or two games a year, generally on Dads' day or Homecoming.

I have watched the large crowds in the Stadium, listened to the bands, the organized pep squads, and seen the stunts and the well organized football machines go across the gridiron.

As I look back forty years to my first and only game, and think of the environment then and my old mates who have

passed, I am reminded of that anonymous poem:

I've wandered to the village, Tom,
I've sat beneath the tree
Upon the schoolhouse playground
That sheltered you and me.
But none was there to greet me, Tom,
And few were left to know
Who played with us upon the green.
Just forty years ago.

Well, some are in the church-yard laid,
Some sleep beneath the sea,
But none are left of our old class
Excepting you and me.
And when our time shall come, Tom,
And we are called to go,
I hope we'll meet with those we loved
Some forty years ago.

Remember back when . . . ?

20 YEARS AGO

Gladys Drennan and Lewis Morris were in charge of plans for the annual Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. Mixer.

Ben Allen Ames was president of the junior law class. Ray Evans was vice-president and Louie Kneeland, secretary-treasurer.

A "Young Men's Democratic Club" was organized at the University by a group of 200, which was proclaimed the largest Democratic rally ever held at the University. J. William Cordell was elected president; Leroy Elmore, vice-president; and Mark Grimes, secretary-treasurer.

Work was to start immediately on the memorial arch of the senior class of '15, according to Clifford C. Loucks. The arch was to be located over the walk at the west side of the Oval.

Willard H. Campbell was editor of the Daily, and W. Irvin Nunn was business manager. Staff members included: Ellis Foster, assistant business manager; Luther Russell, circulation manager; Fayette Copeland, jr., news editor; J. William Cordell, editorial; H. Merle Woods, exchange.

The 1927 Sooner was being started by Editor Hearn Smith and Business Manager William S. Warner.

Corduroy pants for collegians were being advertised by R. C. Berry.

Program for the annual Y. M. C. A. stag party included: address of welcome, Stratton D. Brooks; student association, Harry L. S. Halley; Sooner yearbook, Hearn Smith; stories, Prof. Lyman P. Wilson; University publications, Willard H. Campbell; Y. M. C. A., O. A. Brewer;

oratorical association, R. R. Pruet; impersonation, Joshua Lee; athletic association, Homer Montgomery, football captain; tumbling, Jack Frost and Ben Cooley.

David Hilles, Sapulpa, was elected freshman president; Guy Woodward, Ada, vice-president; Margaret Potter, Indianola, secretary; and George Hartford, Ponca City, treasurer.

Wilburn Cartwright, a student, was seeking re-election to the legislature. The Oklahoma Daily also reported that Roy St. Lewis, '15, was Republican candidate for county judge in Hughes county; Fletcher Riley, former student, was running for the legislature from Comanche county; Earl Foster, '13, was candidate for county attorney in Creek county, and Orel Busby, '14, was running for county judge in Pontotoc county.

10 YEARS AGO

Jack Dow, editor of the Sooner, was in the infirmary with a case of chicken pox.

Campus Notes—Nancy Bacon carrying gym clothes . . . Thyra Mae Blount anticipating rain and dragging a slicker. . . Jo Bernays wearing a red hat . . . Wayman Thompson threatening to discontinue his medic course . . . Bill Warren whistling . . . Pete Jacobs, Augusta Buckles and George Ross blue carding on blue Monday . . . Blanche Cordell reading Vanity Fair . . . Granville Norris returning to the football squad after going to the infirmary with a severe cold.

Lexie Marlin was appointed assistant editor of the Oklahoma magazine. Other staff appointments were Hollis Russell, poetry editor; Richard Green, literary editor; and Betty Kirk, Maxine Curreathers, Harold Keith, Tarleton Jenkins, Adeline Rubin and Robert Harris, contributors.