New Orleans Bound

Riding the Sooner Range

BY TED BEARD

December finds the Sooner Rangeland in a flurry of activity. The chief item on this month's bill of fare is sugar, and the bowl that contains it. To be more exact, no meeting of Sooners anywhere these days would be complete without a discussion of the impending clash of two gridiron giants—the Sooners of Oklahoma and the Tar Heels of North Carolina—in the Sugar Bowl.

Your Range Rider thought it might be a good idea to fill in some of the blanks and to offer more food for conversation, so herewith is presented a short summary of the team, of individual performers, and of the coach that helped make the "Big Red" the pride of Soonerland. (In the article immediately following the "Range", are profiles of many of the players).
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of the major All-selections, appearing on the Associated Press, United Press, Newspaper Enterprise Association, and Collier's Magazine nation-wide teams.

All these honors, plus three consecutive years as All-Conference guard have not convinced the modest Burris, as they have a multitude of Sooner fans, that he is the greatest guard in the country.

"I'm not even sure I'm the best guard on the Oklahoma squad," says Burris, who thinks that "all our guards are mighty tough" and considers that his individual honors are in recognition of Oklahoma's "two great lines" which have been crushing the opposition each Saturday.

Operating behind this double-thickness line has been "Little General" Jack Mitchell, whose smart quarterbacking has been especially outstanding in this season when the free substitution rule has resulted in many quarterbacks becoming mere messenger-boys for the coaches' play calling.

Not so, Mitchell. When he comes up to the line of scrimmage and spots a gap in the defense, the slight quarterback checks the signals and calls a play to exploit the weakness of the enemy defense. If the opposing players shift when he checks signals, as the Nebraska Cornhuskers did, Mitchell routes the play through another hole.

This confuses the opposing team no end but it also helps to give the Oklahoma rooter an asthmatic run over the 25 seconds allotted for giving off a play.

Oklahoma seldom runs over the limit, however, and Mitchell points out that this is so because the team spends very little time in the huddle. Another factor, which he does not point out, is Jack's own keen sense of timing which results in many plays starting just under the wire.

In addition to sparkling the team Mitchell picked up 477 yards rushing this season, made 10 touchdowns, placed on the New York Sun and Central Press All-American elevens, and was selected on virtually every All-Big Seven team along with Burris, halfback George Thomas, end Jim Owens, and tackle Homer Paine.

Another member of the squad who received national recognition was Boyd "Broncho" McGugan, 148-pound fifth string center, who was characterized in a Time Magazine story as a typical unsung sub.

Thomas, the Fairland speedster, who is Junior in name as well as in class standing, rushed 845 yards, nearly half a mile, to lead Big Seven backs in that department. He also crossed the goal line an average of one time in each of the ten games.

Owens and Paine were cited often for their bruising play at end and tackle both on offense and defense. Owens, junior left end from Oklahoma City, snagged eight passes during the year for 94 yards and team co-captain Paine blocked the punt that was the turning point in the Missouri rout. Paine was a teammate of Burris on the 1942 Tulsa team and will also play in the Sugar Bowl for the second time New Year's Day.

These All-Conference and All-American stars combined with less publicized members of the squad to take the Crimson and Cream team through a highly successful season, winning nine straight after dropping the season opener to Santa Clara, 20-17.

Only 4,500 persons watched the San Francisco game in which the Sooners led 17-7 at halftime and then were unable to drive into Broncho territory during the second half. It was the only game in which the Oklahoma scored less than three touchdowns and the only time that more than two touchdowns were scored against them.

The next week an aroused Oklahoma eleven bounded back to crush Texas A&M 42-14 at Norman in the season's first home game.

On October 9 the Sooners broke a nine-year vic-
The next week found the Oklahoma squad in Fort Worth eked out a 21-18 victory over the Texas Christian Horned Frogs in a contest marred by ten Sooner fumbles and two TCU safeties.

The team next traveled to Ames, Iowa, for an easy 33-6 triumph over the Iowa State Cyclones, who could stir up only a mild breeze against the rugged Oklahoma defense.

On November 6 the Sooner team fooled the "experts" as completely as Truman had and wallop a good Missouri team by the astounding score of 41-7, delighting 39,297 fans, who composed the largest crowd ever to watch a football game at Norman.

Mitchell had a great day, spinning 35 yards through the center of the Tiger line for a touchdown and counting for a second time on a 70-yard punt return.

The following Saturday O.U. met Nebraska at Norman in the final home game of the season. For six seniors it was the last time that they would trot out on Owen field before a home crowd.
The six were PAine, Burris, Mitchell, center Pete Tillman of Mangum, right tackle Truman "Tea-bone" Wright of Houston, and fullback Myrle Greathouse of Amarillo, Texas.

Tillman is a good team man who does fine all-around work in an unselfish manner. He's a slugging linebacker, a hard blocker, and good at fitting up the ball to the T-formation quarterback. Things go smoothly while he's in there.

Greathouse is the other half of a great lineback combination which ably reinforces the Sooner lines. His speciality is crashing in to drop would-be end-runners for losses on defensive plays in which the Oklahoma end drops back. Greathouse this year got his fourth Oklahoma football letter.

Wright, a smart blocker who knows the fine points of offensive line play, came into his own in the crucial Missouri game, when with Wade Walker and Nute Trotter both out on injuries, he consistently opened gaping holes in the Tiger line.

These six seniors bowled out in the style expected of them, leading the Red and White squad to a 41-14 victory over a rough Cornhusker eleven.

The Sooners then traveled to Lawrence, Kansas, and ran wild over the Jayhawkers, scoring 9 times for a 46-7 margin. It was the worst conference defeat ever suffered on a Kansas team.

The O.U. squad wound up the season the next Saturday, edging an inspired Oklahoma A&M team in the mud, 19-15. The team was hampered by the sloppy footing, losing the ball seven times on fumbles.

Sophomore halfback Lindell Pearson raced 50 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter, and the two Sooner lines distinguished themselves by three successful goal line stands in the last half.

Immediately after the final gun coach Charles "Chick" Wilkinson accepted a bid to meet North Carolina in the Sugar Bowl at New Orleans on January 1.

Although this was only Wilkinson's second year as head coach, he developed Oklahoma's greatest offensive team of modern times, setting the following seasonal records:

1. A new modern times scoring mark of 33.6 points per game.
2. Led the nation in punt returns with 963 yards, setting a new all-time school record and missing only by 12 yards the national record set eight years ago by the Tennessee's Rose Bowl eleven. Oklahoma ran back punts 227 yards against Kansas State, also a new record for one game.
3. Set a new modern times rushing record of 294.7 net yards per game.
4. Had the school's best pass defense of modern times, holding all opponents to 36.8 per cent of completions and permitting only seven touchdown passes in 198 throws, two of them on deflections.
5. Yielded the fewest pass interceptions, 9, of any Oklahoma team of modern times.
6. Set a new all-time attendance record at Norman, 30,839 per home game, and helped draw $15,914,135.97 in admission receipts for the year.
7. Established a new Big Seven conference scoring average of 43.4 points per game.

Wilkinson has also compiled a two-year coaching record of 16 wins, three losses and one tie in winning a clean and one co-championship of the Big Seven conference. His teams have not been out-rushed in the last 19 games and this year traveled on the ground 2974 yards to their opponents' 1080.

The Oklahoma team ranked fifth in the final Associated Press poll and will go into the Sugar Bowl as an even betting choice with third-ranked North Carolina.

Carl Snively, coach of the Tarheels, recently affirmed that "a good single wing team can beat the best T-formation team in the country."

On New Year's Day two Sooner lines and several Sooner backs will support the negative.

Yes, we're mighty proud of the 1948 version of the "T" and while we're rambles over the range, don't forget that membership—life or yearly—in the University of Oklahoma (Alumni) Association helps to determine the priority rating on bowl and season football tickets.

The following poem was published in 1945 in the Houston (Texas) Chronicle. It was written by Mrs. A. H. Fulbright, University of Texas graduate, and was later published in the Alcalde, alumni publication of the University of Texas. The Sooner staff thinks it is appropriate at this time when our University of Oklahoma football team is making ready for the clash with the University of North Carolina in the Sugar Bowl at New Orleans January 1.

Wail of a Football Wife

The summer days are ended
And vacation time is done
There will be no relaxation
Now that football has begun.

Time was we caught the spirit
Long ago in twenty-two,
But I have a nervous feeling
That our rah-rah days are through.

Now even in the thirties
Then we still were full of pep
But when one is crowding fifty
Tis much harder to keep!

Soon Saturday approaches
With the choice that it must bring;
And before the lunch is stared,
Yes, the phone begins to ring.

The voice that I hear speaking
Is none other than my mate
Saying, "Let's don't miss the kick-off,
Hurry, dear, or we'll be late."

At lunch we hear the broadcast
Junior High and Country Day,
Then we switch to Yale and Harvard,
As we mildly go our way.

We sit through stormy weather
And we suffer in the sun,
Though we may take chills and fever,
Still we know we've had our fun.

We're hoarse from lusty cheering
And the concrete seats are raw,
So I breathe a silent prayer
That they make that final yard.

The local game is over—
No, but that is not the end,
For night games are just beginning,
And we listen with a friend!

Next day Dad has a headache
And his eyes are sore and red,
While I am stricken with hangover,
To be true, I'm nearly dead.

We won't be known to history
But we're heroes among
And we feel entitled to
As it keeps Dad feeling young.

Dean Gives Stadium Views

Dear Ted:

This letter is in response to the recent article by President Cross in the Sooner Magazine concerning the football ticket situation. You will recall that last line in which the President expressed the wish that all the seats might be on the 50-yard line.

Now, Ted, you have gotta admit that that is a provocative statement. It is only natural that some of the better minds on the campus leaped at that and, of course, came up with some rather unique solutions. Neither time nor space permit me to give you all the solutions I have heard, but here are a few.

The Cage-Shopping Solution—Change the rules of the game so that the playing field is a ring rather than a rectangle. Sorta like parcheesi, Ted. This would permit a complete (round) bowl to be built and one seat would be as good as the next, since you could not predict where the team might be on the circle. This would mean the track team could then have a race down the middle of the field. The poor boys wouldn't have to run around in circles all the time. The band could have the center of the field for stunts any time they wanted it—even during the game.

The Cross Technique—Quer thing, Ted, the Prexy's statement even made him try to work on the problem himself. He suggests the field remain as it is now, but build the stadium in the shape of a bowl and place it on a track. It could then be slowly revolved around the playing field as the game progressed. Instead of playing the "Star Stamped Banne" to start the game, you would have the ticket takers shout "All-Aboard." This arrangement would be bad for anyone not in condition for whirling.

The Coach Attack—This is one of the better plans. The proposal here is to build the stadium in a complete vertical ring with all the seats near the 50-yard line. At the half-way point up, the seats would be placed on the outside of the circle. Glass flooring could be used like the flooring in the stacks at the library. If you combined this idea with the Cross-technique, you see right off that you gotta ferre wheel. Why wouldn't that work, Ted? I think it could be done with mirrors, too, but I am going to have to work on that a little longer.

The Television Approach—The idea here is to have only one seat. It would be on the 50-yard line and occupied by a man operating a television set. The only trouble with this plan is that Oklahoma being a dry state there wouldn't be any place to go to watch the game.

The Atom Angle—Scientists say that if all the empty space in the atoms of a human could be eliminated, that the actual substance of a human body would be about the size of a pinhead. Obviously, all you have to do is to find out how to eliminate this extra space without making it too painful (it only has to be for a couple of hours), and then the size of the individuals wanting to attend the football game could be reduced sufficiently to seat them all on the 50-yard line without any trouble. Please note the word "pinhead" is the scientists and not mine.

This is enough, Ted, to show you the problem can be solved. No doubt other readers will make some suggestions.

It is just like the first time they took my brother and me into town. When we saw a fellow with shoes on, we looked at each other and said in unison, "What will they think of next?"

Sincerely, Glenn C. Coach, '316s, '37ms.

SOONER MAGAZINE
Meet

The Sooners have trotted onto many fields, received innumerable kick-offs and crossed countless white stripes on their memorable march to their rightful position in the Sugar Bowl.

With them they've always carried the loyal and unrelenting support of 100,000 Sooners the nation over. Sport pages from coast to coast have lauded them and proud alumni the world over continue to enthusiastically tread the traditional maroon and white line.

This, the 1948 Sooner team, has received much well-earned publicity from the nation's top sportscasters and writers. Some are now All-American—the others are hard-hitting determined men which characterize and exemplify the pioneering prairie states of the great southwest.

Quarterbacks

Jack Mitchell—used at right half in the Santa Clara game, team's only loss—a clever, slashing, but not fast, runner—sparks the team, calling plays "where the opposition ain't"—holds many O.U. career and seasonal records—leading running quarterback in Big Seven with 4.4 yard average per try—New York Sun and Central Press All-American selection—hails from Arkansas City, Kansas.

"Big Red"

Claude Arnold—sophomore passing sensation from Okmulgee who completed 11 out of 19 throws this year for 236 yards and three touchdowns—as reserve quarterback—had completion percentage of 57.8—is 23, 6-1, 166—had season with Fourth Air Force team during 15 months in air corps—like Mitchell, his major is psychology.

Bob Ewbank—sophomore who saw considerable action this year—can run and pass equally well from the quarterback slot—boots a long punt—played at Norman high school—20, 5-11, 168, married—served 14 months in marines.

Joe Cunningham—sophomore play-caller who was all-state quarterback at Purcell high school—runs and throws well—scored against Kansas State—19, 6-0, 165.

Halfbacks

Darrell Royal—leading passer and punter of the team—completed 20 of 37 for 302 yards and five touchdowns—has a 39 yard punt average including an 80 yard kick in the mud against A&M—good runner and dangerous kick returner—scored on a 95 yard punt return against Kansas State, 74 yards against Kansas—junior—5-10, 158, 24—married and has two children.

George Thomas—rushed 845 yards for a 6.7 average to lead Big Seven runners this season—good defensive back—All-conference halfback—from Fairland, Oklahoma, located near Miami—has one more season—fast and elusive runner—20, 6-1, 180.
Sooner Personalities

Lindell Pearson—big fast sophomore who gained 558 yards on 83 carries this year—can also pass—scored seven touchdowns—made all-conference sophomore eleven—is dash man and broad jumper in track—from Oklahoma City Capitol Hill—19, 6-0, 190.

Tommy Gray—fastest man on squad—sophomore—had 80-yard scoring run against Kansas called back on a penalty—has run 100-yard dash in 9.8—was all-state halfback at Seminole high school.

Wilbur “Buddy” Jones—great defensive halfback and safety—last man between breakaway runners and goal, brings them down—good pass defense man—21, 5-10, 160—runs well with the ball—from Holdenville.

George Brewer—leg broken in Santa Clara game—came back to score against Nebraska—ready for Sugar Bowl—ran 100 in 9.9 as dash man—20, 6-0, 189—played high school in Lubbock, Texas.

Fullbacks

Leon Heath—picked on Associated Press Big Seven sophomore team—rushed 397 yards and scored seven times in his first varsity year—great line backer and good line backer—fast for a fullback—19, 6-1, 195—from Hollis.

Myrle Greathouse—defensive fullback—ran little with the ball—a speedy, agile line backer whose slash-

Pass In Review

ing tackles crush heavier opponents—outstanding in Texas and Oklahoma A&M games—6-0, 177—was blocking back for Amarillo, Texas state champs of 1940.

Leslie Ming—specialist who booted 39 points after touchdown during the season and one field goal, against Santa Clara—also scored one touchdown as reserve fullback—only a sophomore—from Oklahoma City—6-0, 198, 21.

Centers

Pete Tillman—Oklahoma’s No. 1 center in 1948—picked up his third letter this season, his last—Strong line backer—former Mangum high school center—25, 6-0, 205, married—business major.

Charles Dowell—lettered for second year this season—Father is loyal supporter of the team, didn’t miss a game this year—smashing line backer—played high school ball at Tulsa Central—20, 6-1, 190.

Bob Bodenhamer—always comes into the game to center for punts of placement kicks—gets the ball back fast and accurately—from Waurika—good on pass defense when backing the line—junior—6-3, 210, 21.
Before Clashing

Guards

Paul "Buddy" Burris—All-American guard from Muskogee—90 out of 99 players from Oklahoma’s opponents named him for Players’ All-American—also placed on all other major All-American selections—married, senior—24, 6-11, 202—will play pro ball.

Stanley West—biggest Sooners ’48 team—starred in Oklahoma A&M game, was named on A&M’s all-opponent team—often breaks through and dumps passers for huge losses—from Enid—6-1, 236, 21, married—has another year of eligibility.

Dee Andros—good blocker—Dee is shortened from Demosthenes—brother of Plato Andros, Sooner All-American guard of 1946 now with Chicago Cardinals—got third letter this season—junior—from Oklahoma City—23, 5-10, 210.

Clair Mayes—sophomore guard who played a lot this year—named on AP all-conference sophomore team—good blocker and tackler—played tackle at Muskogee high school—engineering major—18, 6-0, 206.

Norman McNabb—didn’t play in ’47 because of knee operation—tough defensive guard—Norman native—married—24, 6-1, 190—looked good in Missouri game.

With North Carolina

Tackles

Homer Paine—all-conference tackle for three consecutive years—excellent on defense—from Enid high school—played 39 minutes in the 1943 Sugar Bowl game as a Tulsa freshman tackle—co-captain of the team this year—senior—6-0, 205, 24.

Wade Walker—Oklahoma’s finest blocking tackle of modern times—unanimous All-Big Six choice in 1946 and 1947—hampered by injuries this year—good all-around lineman—24, 6-0, 197—from Gastonia, North Carolina—honorary captain 1947 and co-captain with Paine 1948.

Nute Trotter—rugged reserve—hard to move out of right tackle spot when on defense—Borger, Texas high school boy who played some at end for Texas Aggies in 1941—23, 6-2, 217—majoring in business.

Truman Wright—senior right tackle from Houston, Texas—smart blocker—played a good offensive game against Missouri and Nebraska—21, 6-1, 219.

Willie Manley—lettered last year as sub—played behind Homer Paine at left tackle this season—from Hollis—married—22, 6-2, 207, is a junior.

Ends

Jim Owens—rangy junior left end who ranks with Oklahoma’s great ends—1948 All-Big Seven selection—made yardage on an end-around play this year—caught eight passes—savage blocker and tackler—21, 6-3, 200, married—his major is law.
In Sugar Bowl

Bobby Goald—a little guy (167 pounds) who gets the job done against bigger men—caught five passes during the season for 93 yards and one touchdown—another Muskogee native—three-letter man—married—24, 6-1.

Kenneth Tipps—good receiver who can run—25, 6-3, 197—married—lettered last year as a reserve end—kicks off—snagged four passes for 71 yards and one touchdown in 1948—from Oklahoma City—engineering major.

Frankie Anderson—shifted to end in spring practice after lettering at guard in 1947—squad’s leading pass-catcher with nine grabbed for 215 yards and a pair of counters—Oklahoma City Northeast boy—19, 6-0, 195.

Ed Lisak—tough sophomore who doubles at offensive right end and defensive right halfback—scored one touchdown on a pass—outstanding for his teeth-jarring tackles on defense—21, 6-0, 183, from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Reece McGee—speedy Norman sophomore—played principally at defensive halfback against passing—good pass receiver—part Cherokee Indian—played center and quarterback in high school—18, 6-1, 177.

Faculty

E. E. Hafield, '36m, b.s., associate professor of secretarial science, is chairman of bookkeeping and accounting roundtable of the National Business Teacher’s Association.

George A. Hoke, '35L, '36ma, associate professor of economics, has served as city attorney for Durant and Stillwater.

Leonard H. Haug, who dreams up all those fancy formations for the University marching band, told how he does it at a national meeting. He attended the annual session of college band directors in Chicago, December 12 and 15. Haug has directed the annual session of college band directors since September, 1945.

Dr. John E. Fazekus, native of Hungary and assistant professor of geography, formerly taught at Hobart, Seminole and University's High School Science Service, former chairman of Pi Omega Pi, commercial teachers group.

Carl D. Riggs, zoology instructor, is author of several articles about fish and is currently doing research on fishes in Oklahoma.

Films Completed

Two educational films have been completed by the University photographic service. Thurman White, '41ms, acting director of the extension division, announced, "How to Fly the Aeroplane" is being used for classroom work in flight training at O.U. Another film, which covers activities of the women's physical education department, will be shown to groups off the campus.