

*A comprehensive history of Oklahoma football's first golden age*

## Bud Wilkinson and the Rise of Oklahoma Football

By John Scott

Foreword by Joseph Harroz Jr.

At the end of World War II, the top ten college football teams were largely the same as they are today—with one exception: Oklahoma.

In 1947, Bud Wilkinson was named OU's head football coach and became the architect of Oklahoma's meteoric rise from mediocrity to its present status as a perennial powerhouse. Based on interviews with Wilkinson, former OU president George L. Cross, and numerous former players, author John Scott gives us the behind-the-scenes story of Wilkinson's years at the University of Oklahoma.

Scott takes us through the teams Wilkinson directed from 1947 to 1963, revealing the philosophies and tactics Wilkinson used to turn OU into one of college football's elite programs. A close-up view of games—from strategy to execution—brings OU football and its cast of colorful characters to life. Scott details the Sooners' 47-game winning streak as well as thrilling games against Notre Dame, Army, USC, and others. He also provides details of Wilkinson's breaking of the color line in OU athletics and the infamous food-poisoning incident in Chicago in 1959.

Before his death in 1994, Wilkinson reviewed the first draft of the book and wrote in a letter to the author, "The explanations of football strategies are concise and clear. They rank among the best I have ever read." Including vignettes of Wilkinson's closest coaching friends (Royal, Bryant, Leahy, Sanders, Blaik, Tatum), *Bud Wilkinson and the Rise of Oklahoma Football* captures all the drama of Oklahoma's ascendance and serves as an authoritative and entertaining history of the sport that will appeal to all college football fans.

**John Scott** is a freelance writer and former sportswriter for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Tulsa Tribune*. **Joseph Harroz Jr.** is President of the University of Oklahoma.

OCTOBER 2021

\$29.95 HARDCOVER 978-0-8061-7554-6

384 PAGES, 6 X 9

20 B&W ILLUS.

BIOGRAPHY/SPORTS

FOR AUTHOR INTERVIEWS AND OTHER

PUBLICITY INQUIRIES CONTACT:

KATIE BAKER, PUBLICITY MANAGER

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS

TEL: 405 325 3200

FAX: 405 325 4000

KATIE-BAKER@OU.EDU

AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES, ONLINE


BOOKSELLERS, AND OUPRESS.COM

ORDER BY PHONE

INSIDE THE U.S. 800-848-6224 EXT. 1

INTERNATIONAL 919-966-7449

CALL CENTER HOURS: 8:30AM-5:00PM EST

 SIGN UP FOR NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
SPECIAL OFFERS, AND MORE AT OUPRESS.COM