



Missouri and Navy in Orange Bowl

The Orange Bowl classic in Miami on January 2nd should produce the most exciting and possibly the best football in America on that big football day.

Our nationally-ranked Tigers will meet the Midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy in what promises to be a well-matched game.

Both teams made it the hard way with Navy hanging on to weather a second half Army storm, finally winning their traditional battle 17-12. The Tigers were not so fortunate in their traditional windup with Kansas. The strong Kansas defense took away the Tigers' vaunted power sweeps and won the Big Eight championship for K. U. The loss not only cost Missouri a possible mythical national championship but dropped it to the runner-up spot in the conference. In winning 23-7 the Jayhawks allowed Missouri only 61 yards rushing, compared to an average of over 270 yards up to this game. Our inability to take advantage of K. U. fumbles, our own rash of fumbles (3 lost in this game against only 8 in the other 9 games), the strain and tension riding on this big game, and the standout play of Kansas backs Hadl and Coan were all factors in the disappointing loss; but the big difference was the strong nine-man line which kept us bottled up till late in the game.

The two tough finales are behind both teams now, though, as they get ready to match their 9-1 season records and their high national rankings in the Orange Bowl. Incidentally, we expect that the Orange Bowl Committee and the Miami press will be a little happier with the Big Eight agreement this year than they were last. Though they played a fine, if losing, game against Georgia last year; the Tigers were treated a little like poor cousins from the country before the game. This year, however, the same agreement has made possible the game that shapes up as the best in the nation.

A comparison of the two teams stirs the imagination. Navy's great record is built on the exciting, jitterbug running of All American halfback Joe Bellino and the wide open passing of quarterback Hal Spooner. Missouri's strength on the other hand, has been a rugged defense and a powerful ground attack built around a bevy of hard running backs. The two All Americans representing their teams on the field are as different as their teams: short, squat Bellino is bound to literally run into his All American teammate big, rangy Danny LaRose many times before the memorable afternoon is over.

The only common opponent offers little basis for



Seniors on the 1960 Missouri Tiger team who play their final game in the Orange Bowl at Miami on January 2: From left—Rockne Calhoun, Mel West, Donnie Smith, Skip Snyder, Fred Brossart, Ed Mehrer, Norvis Stevenson, Max Moyer, Mike Langan, Tom Carpenter, Gordon Smith, and Danny LaRose. A thirteenth senior, Jim Miles, not shown in the group, is pictured on the following page.

comparison. Navy beat service academy rival Air Force 35-3, and the Tigers downed the Falcons 34-8. Even the season's point totals differ little. In ten games against comparable opponents the Tigers scored 274 points and gave up just 79, while Navy scored 248 and allowed 82. In fact, the only game we can imagine that would be as close as this one would be one between Cotton Bowl representative Duke, the sole vanquisher of Navy, and Bowl ineligible Kansas, Missouri's nemesis.

That's the immediate future; now let's take a look at the second half of the season that made this trip to the land of sunshine possible.

The five early season victories reported in the last issue focused national attention and brought sixth place in the national ranking to the Tigers. As the ensuing weeks brought Big Eight Conference victories over Iowa State 34-8, over Nebraska 28-0, and over a fired-up Colorado team 16-6; the Tigers climbed a peg at a time. As they moved to the big one with Oklahoma in the "snake pit" at Norman, the ranking reached number three. Our best and most exciting game of the year produced a 41-19 victory over Oklahoma, our first win over the Big Red since 1945, the first win for any Big Eight team in Norman since

'45, and our first win at Norman since 1936. Dan Devine had kept his promise of retribution for his first, young Tiger squad which had been humiliated 39-0 by the Sooners in Norman in 1958.

This impressive victory over Oklahoma coupled with Minnesota's loss to Purdue put the Tigers on top of the heap nationally, but the all-out effort also sowed the seeds of the Tigers' undoing the following week against Kansas. Then they dropped from the No. 1 spot to No. 5. Nevertheless, for one week, at least the Missouri alumni and fans enjoyed, in fact, they revelled in this heady atmosphere. After the first pangs of the disheartening loss, they found plenty to exalt in the outstanding and quite unexpected 9-1 season (the second best in 70 years of football at Missouri) and looked forward to a fine Orange Bowl game.

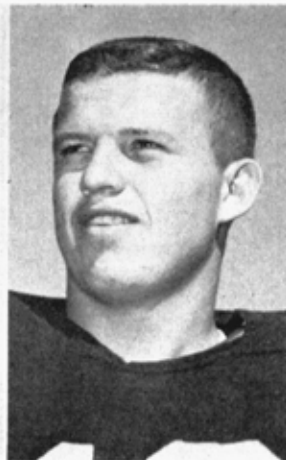
The loss to Kansas could turn out to be the tempering of the sword. The seniors pictured together in this article, and the rest of the Tigers should seize on this opportunity to do what their state is famous for, to "show 'em" that this is a truly great Tiger team, and that the Kansas loss was just one of those things that can happen to any great team on any given Saturday. As Dan Devine has said, "We can yet close the 1960 books on a happier note—and I know that the Mis-



Paul Henley



Bruce Geiger



Ron Taylor



Paul Garvis

souri squad welcomes that chance." The Midshipmen will meet an aroused Tiger in Miami, and you can bet you'll be proud of your team.

Looking back on the season, the Tigers could point to a number of "firsts" and honors that help make it a memorable year. This was the first Tiger team in history to win nine consecutive games. Only the 1899 team had won nine games, but it had two defeats as well. The 1909 Tigers went undefeated, but there was one tie to go with its seven victories.

In the Big Eight Conference the Tigers amassed the highest total yardage—2991 yards, all but 498 on the ground. In defense, they yielded 1951 yards, ranking third (behind Kansas and Colorado). Donnie Smith led the conference in punt returns, averaging 23 yards on 10 returns; one of these was for 88 yards and another for 90. Norm Beal was fourth and Fred Brossart tenth in this department. Donnie also was the leading scorer in the Big Eight with 13 touchdowns for 78 points. In fifth place was Bill Tobin with 39 points from three field goals and 30 points

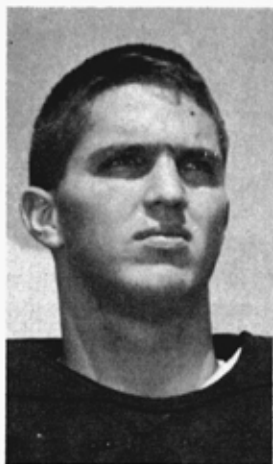
after touchdowns. Norris Stevenson with six touchdowns and Mel West with five ranked seventh and tenth, respectively.

West finished third in the conference among ball carriers, gaining 650 yards on 138 carries for a 4.7 average; and Stevenson ranked fifth with 610 yards on 85 tries—his 7.2 average helped by runs of 44, 69, 77 and 60 yards. Smith was 13th with 357 yards on 86 carries, averaging 4.2.

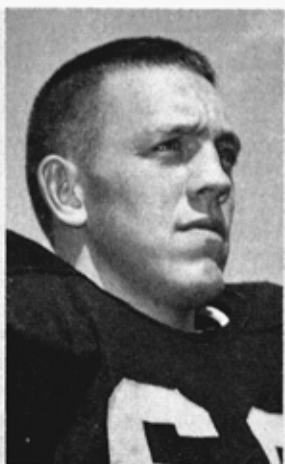
While Missouri stayed mostly on the ground, Quarterback Ron Taylor wound up as the conference's fifth leading passer, with 23 completions on 44 throws for a total of 302 yards gained in the air. Jim Johnson had eight completions in 14 attempts for a total of 143 yards, before he was injured at mid-season, and finished ninth.

Danny LaRose was sixth in pass receiving, grabbing ten for 151 yards. In punting, LaRose was fifth with an average of 35.7 yards on 33 kicks. Skip Snyder was 13th with 15 punts for a 28.3 average.

Other statistics show that Missouri chalked up 155



Andy Russell



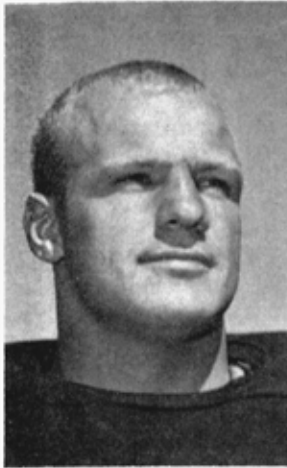
Ed Blaine



Jim Johnson



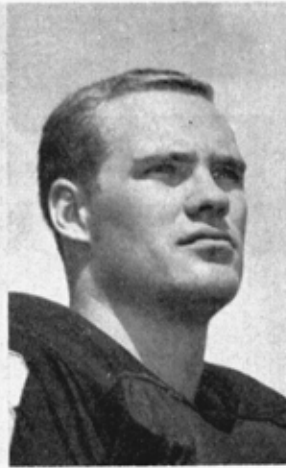
Jim Miles



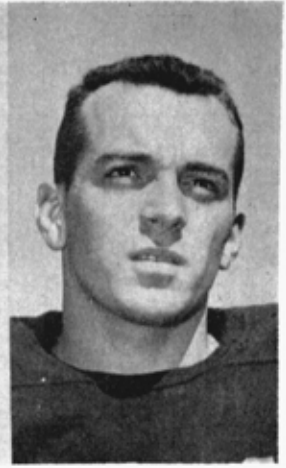
Jerry Wallach



Bill Tobin



Tom Smith



Norm Beal

first downs to the opposition's 102; 2493 net yards rushing to 1100 for its ten opponents; 498 yards by passing to 851 yards by their foes; scored 274 points to 79 and 38 touchdowns to 11; intercepted 15 passes and lost 8 on interceptions. After the first eight games no team had scored more than 8 points against the Tigers, and only in the ninth game did an opponent score on the ground. Oklahoma's 19 points and Kansas' 23 points ended both phases of this trend. In attendance, home games averaged 33,100 and the total for the ten games was 322,500.

LaRose seemed on his way as everybody's All America choice for end. Shortly after season's end he had made the NEA, Look, UP-I, AP, and the Coaches' All America teams. The Associated Press Big Eight All Star team listed three Tigers on the first team: LaRose, West, and guard Paul Henley. On the second team were tackle Ed Blaine and Donnie Smith, with honorable mention going to Rockne Calhoun, Gordon Smith, Paul Garvis, Mike Langan, Stevenson, Beal and Taylor.

The United Press-International Big Eight All Star selections had LaRose, West and Calhoun on the first team; Henley and Donnie Smith on the second; and Ed Blaine and Stevenson on the third team.

The twenty-eight players pictured on these pages received varsity letter awards; since 13 are seniors, the Tigers will have 15 returning lettermen next year.

Missouri's 1960 team was honored November 22 at a ceremony in Jesse Auditorium, which was filled with students. Speakers included President Elmer Ellis and Coach Dan Devine. That evening the annual football dinner given by the Columbia Thirty-Third Degree fans again honored the Tigers, the thirteen seniors receiving personalized trophies. The featured speaker, Joe Garagiola, kept the audience laughing with his quips and did much to cause the players to forget, for a while at least, their Homecoming loss.

But as Sports Editor Tommy Devine said in an eight-column banner in his Miami News: "Missouri Defeated 23-7 by Kansas; And What's So Bad About a 9-1 Record?"



Bill McCartney



Conrad Hitchler



Don Wainwright



Tom Hertz