

Center Tom Swaney and Tackle Mike Magac, co-captains of the 1959 edition of Coach Dan Devine's Missouri Tigers.

Calendar promises more for Tigers than schedule

If we can put any faith in the numbers game devised by University Sports Publicist Bill Callahan, we can quit worrying about this football season.

According to Bill, we've got the lucky number 9 going for us. He points out that our "9" teams—beginning in 1899 and continuing through 1949—have won 41, lost only 9, and tied 4. The 1899 team with David Fultz as coach and John Kramer as captain won 9 (the all-time high here at Missouri) and lost 2. Missouri's only unbeaten team, the great Roper team of 1909 won 7 and tied 1. Incidentally, 10 of the original 19 lettermen on that great team will hold a 50-year reunion in Columbia at the Homecoming game with Nebraska October 24.

The 1919 team captained by Anton Stankowski and coached by John Miller won 5, lost 1, and tied 2. The 1929 Tigers, Gwinn Henry's last strong team, which was captained by John Waldorf, kept the 9 string going with a 5-2-1 year.

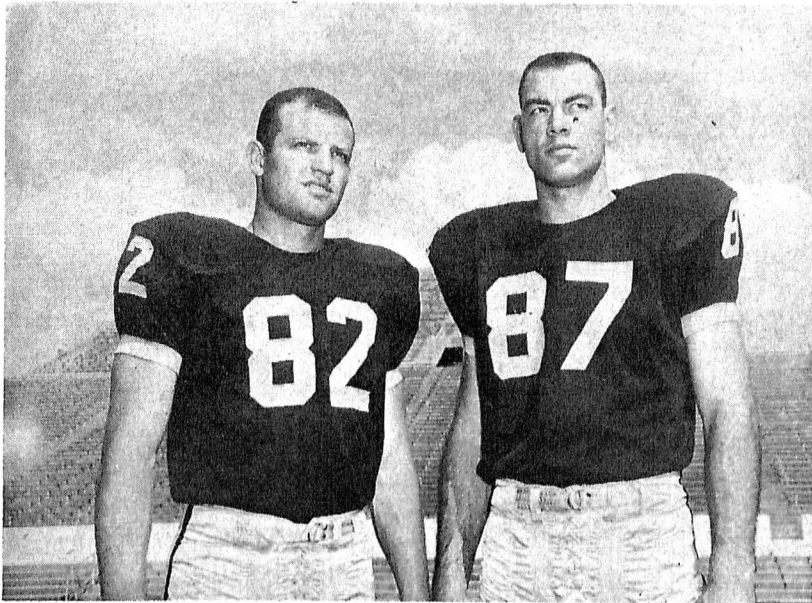
Don Faurot's '39 team led by Paul Christman, lost

only to Ohio State enroute to an 8-1 season, the conference title and an Orange Bowl date with Georgia Tech. Ten years later another Faurot team, this one captained by Bob Fuchs, won 7 and lost 3 (two of them one pointers to Ohio State and S.M.U.) as they won a bid to the Gator Bowl.

This is '59, so we're in business. However, nobody has convinced Coach Dan Devine or, for that matter, any of the tough Tiger opponents.

And tough they are. Everybody expects a coach to cry about his tough schedule, and the tendency is to take such wails of protest lightly; but by all applicable standards this schedule really is a lulu.

We open at home with Penn State, a team which is the consensus pick for a bowl selection and for the Lambert Trophy, emblematic of supremacy in Eastern football (which includes such teams as Army, Navy and Syracuse); then we go to Michigan to tackle the traditionally tough Big Tenners in their own back yard. Other toughies include a Dallas date with the



Two ends sure to see plenty of action this fall are Gordon Smith (who'll be wearing No. 89) and the rangy Danny LaRose, who starred as a sophomore.

S.M.U. Mustangs, the top rated team in the Southwest Conference; and home games with Oklahoma, the perennial powerhouse of the Big Eight and the Air Force Academy, undefeated last season.

This Air Force engagement is the latest example of Missouri's uncanny knack of scheduling teams when they are unknown or little-regarded quantities and playing them when they are at their absolute peak.

Besides these, of course, we'll have to scrap the rest of the Big Eight Conference with the Orange Bowl bid up for grabs, since Oklahoma is ineligible.

We could have a real good year, win a bowl bid and still play only .500 football.

Of more than passing interest will be the slings and arrows of the three top pre-season prospects for All American Quarterback: Don Meredith of S.M.U., Richie Mayo of the Air Force Academy and Richie Lucas of Penn State.

Some of our own personnel should also prove interesting to behold. Mel West, the speedster from Jefferson City who finished 12th in the nation in rushing last year though he spent nearly half the year as a second stringer, should really come into his own this year. Co-captain Mike Magac should also emerge from the shadow of former teammates Rash and Chadwick as a real hard nosed, big league lineman. Co-captain Tom Swaney at center should be the other bright picket in an otherwise lack-lustre interior line.

The flanks are another matter entirely. Veteran regulars Russ Sloan and Dale Pidcock will be pressed to keep their jobs against the challenges of last year's all conference sophomore Danny LaRose, who filled in for the injured Pidcock, and Gordon Smith, a fast 200 pounder, who had to sit one out last year as a transfer student. These four should provide little dif-

ference at end between the first and alternate teams.

Even more promising is the backfield picture, where bread and butter back Hank Kuhlman is the only regular, in fact, the only man in the first three back fields, who won't be available. Solid, seasoned quarterbacking should be furnished by lanky Phil Snowden, now up to 190 and completely recovered from last season's injuries, and his highly capable substitute last year, Bob Haas, who may also see service at his sophomore spot at halfback, as well as yeoman defensive work. At both right half back and full back, lettermen are three deep. Norris Stevenson, who was at his best this spring, should get the nod at right half with veterans Don Smith and Fred Brossart right behind him. At fullback Ed Mehrer is running ahead of the pack currently, but junior Jim Miles and senior Roger McCoy are there to push him.

Most logical prospects for the big openings in the line are Bucky Wegener, a number 2 guard last year, who should take over the open tackle spot. Bill Vanderlinde, the other alternate guard last year, moves up a notch; and Rockne Calhoun, last year's alternate tackle, takes over the other guard slot. Leading sophomore lineman should be Paul Garvis and Paul Henley, a couple of pocket-sized guards, and Ed Blaine at tackle. Further inroads on this short supply were caused by the loss of lettered linemen Brock Hessing and Norris Kelley to old injuries.

As you read this, Missouri will have opened its season against a good Penn State team and a dozen year old jinx against victorious openers (St. Louis U. in 1947 was the last victim). By now you'll have a much better line on the true prospects of this Tiger team's living up to its "9" year. In the meantime there's a faint fragrance of Orange Blossoms mixed in with the usual autumnal aroma in mid-Missouri.