

# Weakness in air hampers Tiger attack

In September we said that the Tigers could have a good year and still play only .500 football. After the first four games, this was certainly true. In the victory column were back-to-back wins in games number two and three—a hair-raising, last second thriller 20-15 over Michigan; and a solid, 14-0 defensive effort against Iowa State. Stacked against these were an opening 19-8 loss to Penn State and a 23-2 setback at the hooves of the S.M.U. Mustangs in game number four, played in the Cotton Bowl.

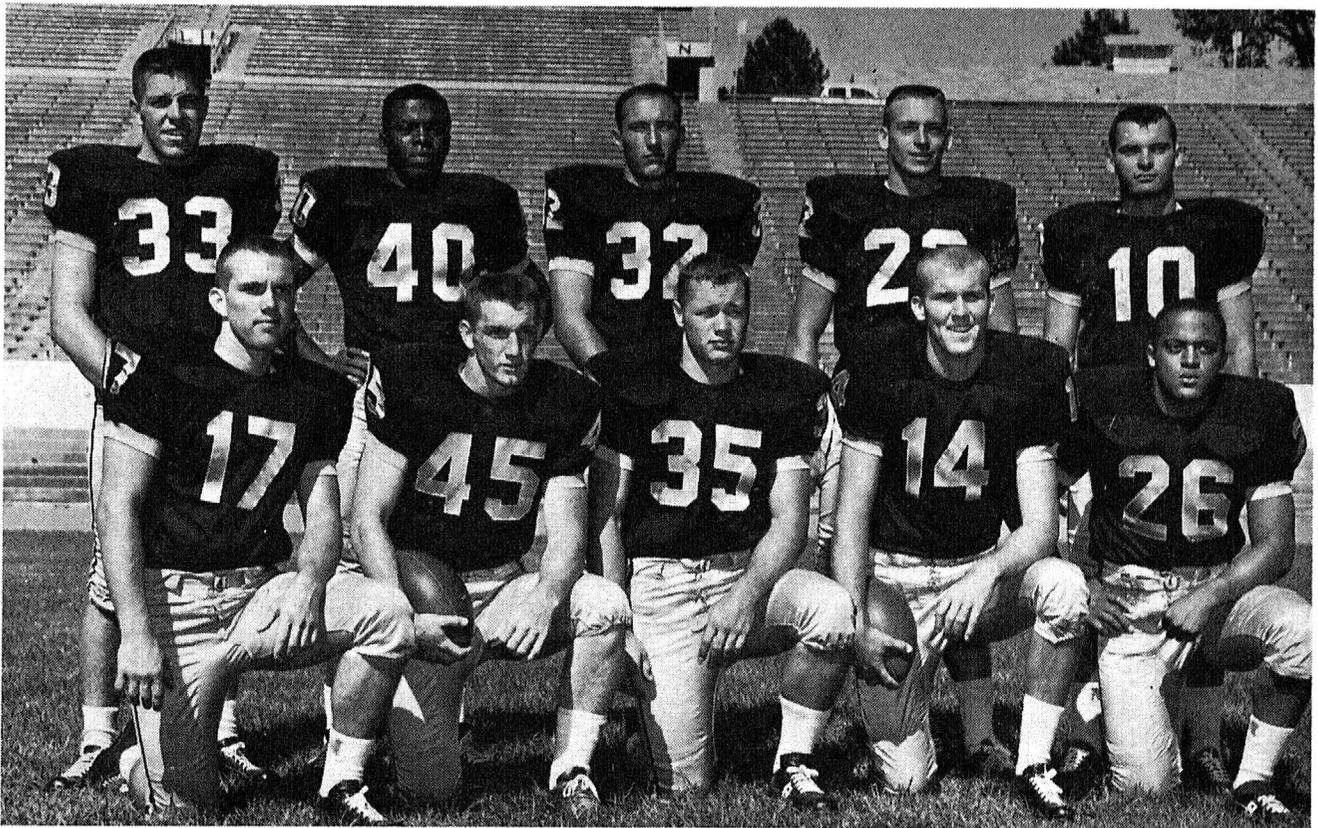
The most surprising positive development has been the solid play of lightly-regarded interior linemen like Bucky Wegener, Rockne Calhoun and Paul Henley. They've averaged 40 minutes a game and have played up to their more highly touted linemates, co-captains Tom Swaney and Mike Magac.

Ironically, the surprising negative development has been the breakdown of the Tigers' aerial game, which, with experienced ends and backs, was expected to be a bulwark of the team. Offensively, experienced quarterbacks Snowden and Haas have netted only 272 yards on 21 completions in 58 attempts; and they've had 9 intercepted. On pass defense, the Tigers have given up 473 yards on 36 completions in 65 attempts; and they've picked off only 5.

It's true that the Tigers have compiled some of these discouraging statistics against the two best collegiate quarterbacks in America: Richie Lucas of Penn State, who had a fantastic 10 out of 11 completions for 154 yards; and Don Meredith, who threw 10 strikes out of 14 for 120 S.M.U. yards. Incidentally, neither of them had even one intercepted. On the ground the Tigers have slugged it out on even or better terms with 733 yards rushing and 47 first downs to 675 yards and 36 first downs for the opponents.

Getting back to individual games, the first one was all Lucas as Penn State won 19-8. Coach Dan Devine said, "Lucas didn't make a wrong move out there all day. His passing, running and direction of the team were spectacular." Everytime Penn State had to have yardage Lucas got it. (He has since been named A.P. "Back of the Week" for engineering undefeated Penn State's upset of Army).

Against Michigan Senior Quarterback Bob Haas was the big man as he fired up the Tigers for an incredible 78-yard march with just 2:48 to go and pulled the Tigers from a 15-14 deficit to a 20-15 win. All he did was hit three passes for 52 yards, run for 13 himself in a crucial situation, and score the winning touchdown with two seconds left. (Ironically, those



Ten Tiger backs—Front row, from left: Fred Brossart, Don Smith, Ed Mehrer, Phil Snowden, Mel West. Back row: Roger McCoy, Norris Stevenson, Jim Miles, Bob Haas, and Skip Snyder.

were the only passes completed by Haas in the first four games.)

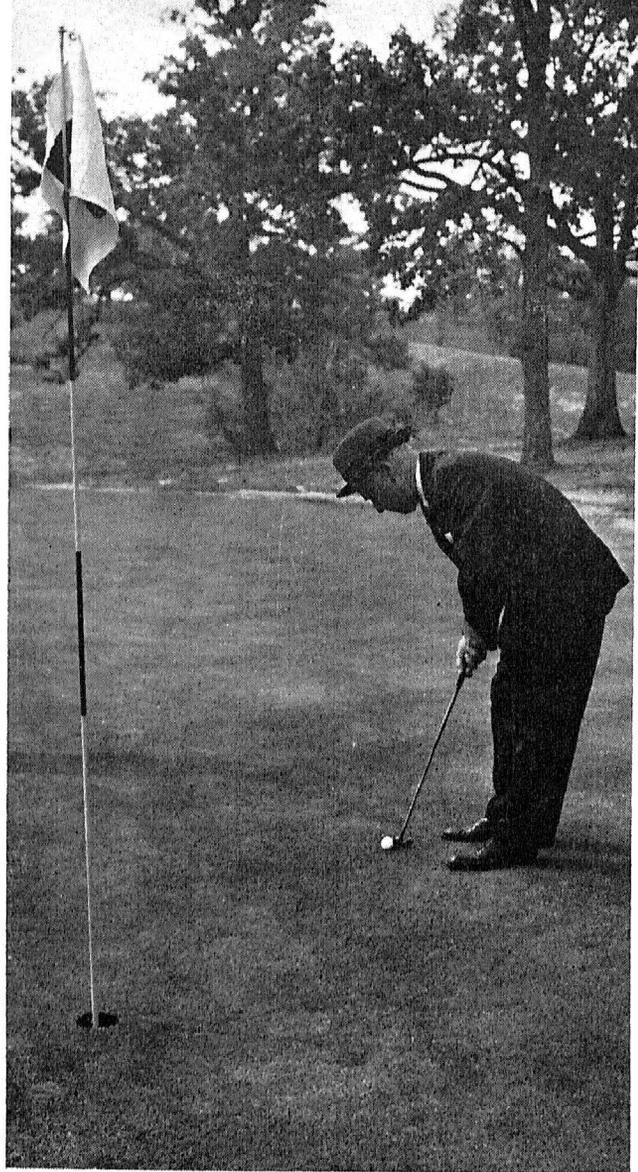
Rough and ready defense was the story in the Iowa State game as the Tigers held All-America hopeful Dwight Nichols of Iowa State, who was voted Big Eight Back of the Year last year, to zero yards rushing and only 42 yards passing for the low point of his career. Missouri couldn't get its offense jelled, though, and while the Tigers rushed for 243 yards they couldn't score until the third quarter, with the real clincher not coming until time was running out.

At Dallas the Tigers faced Richie Lucas' chief competitor for All-America honors, Don Meredith. Unfortunately for Missouri, his performance provided little to choose from in deciding which man is superior. Though not quite as adept a runner, Meredith was even better as a passer. Coach Devine said he had never seen a college passer who could throw as well off balance. In the S.M.U. game the Tigers took charge after an opening touchdown drive by the Mustangs; and on the strength of a blocked kick by Russ Sloan, they trailed only 7-2 at halftime. Meredith and his Pony halfbacks added two more touchdowns in the last half for a 23-2 win.

Missouri went into the Oklahoma game expected to lose by 10 to 14 points. Also expected was a more wide open game by Oklahoma than it exhibited in losing to highly-ranked Texas, what with the return of Brewster Hobby, last year's principal Tiger tormenter, who was kept out of the Longhorn fray by injury. Some sports writers chose to bill the game as a duel between Oklahoma's Prentice Gautt and Missouri's Mel West, both hard-to-stop ball luggers.

Regardless of the outcome of the Oklahoma game, though, the Tigers still could qualify for a trip to the Orange Bowl; the Sooners are not eligible to return there in 1960. Whether the taunt of the Miami Daily News sports editor will charge up the Orange Bowl hopefuls in the Big Eight to deliver super-human efforts from here on is something to be awaited. The sports editor wrote that the Orange Bowl feared a mismatch unless the Big Eight could provide a first-rate champion, and even suggested that the conference bow out rather than damage its reputation and that of the bowl. To this, Reaves Peters, Big Eight commissioner, said his conference's "representative team" would be capable of playing any Orange Bowl opponent. He added, "We have three teams coming along pretty good now," listing Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska in that order.

Missouri has done well with its running game, featuring West, Donnie Smith and Norris Stevenson; but its future and that of its Orange Bowl chances obviously depend on the ability of the team to either improve on the overhead game or to compensate for the weakness by keeping the ball on the ground with a grind-it-out, ball-control style of play. It's certainly conceded that it takes vastly superior personnel to sustain such an attack; and when one considers upcoming opponents such as Oklahoma, the Air Force Academy, Kansas and Nebraska, it would appear that a revitalized aerial game may be the best bet.



*Donor A. L. Gustin tries (and misses) putt on newly dedicated course bearing his name.*

## Golf course dedicated

The A. L. Gustin, Jr. Golf Course, named for the man whose \$75,000 gift made it possible, was added to the University's facilities in a brief dedication ceremony on September 19. The 6,600-yard, 18-hole golf course is located west of Memorial Stadium.

Don Faurot, director of intercollegiate athletics, made the presentation, and James A. Finch, Jr., Cape Girardeau, president of the Board of Curators, accepted on behalf of the University. Thom Field, Missouri Students Association president, expressed appreciation on behalf of University students. Gov. James T. Blair, Jr. was present for the dedication program, at which President Elmer Ellis presided.

Mr. and Mrs. Gustin (who are pictured on page one) were present. Mr. Gustin is chairman of the board of Gustin-Bacon Manufacturing Company, Kansas City, and was a student at M. U. in 1922-25.

Mr. Finch, in thanking Mr. Gustin, observed that "there are some things which the legislature cannot provide for," and expressed the hope that Mr. Gustin's generosity would open the way for additional gifts to the University.