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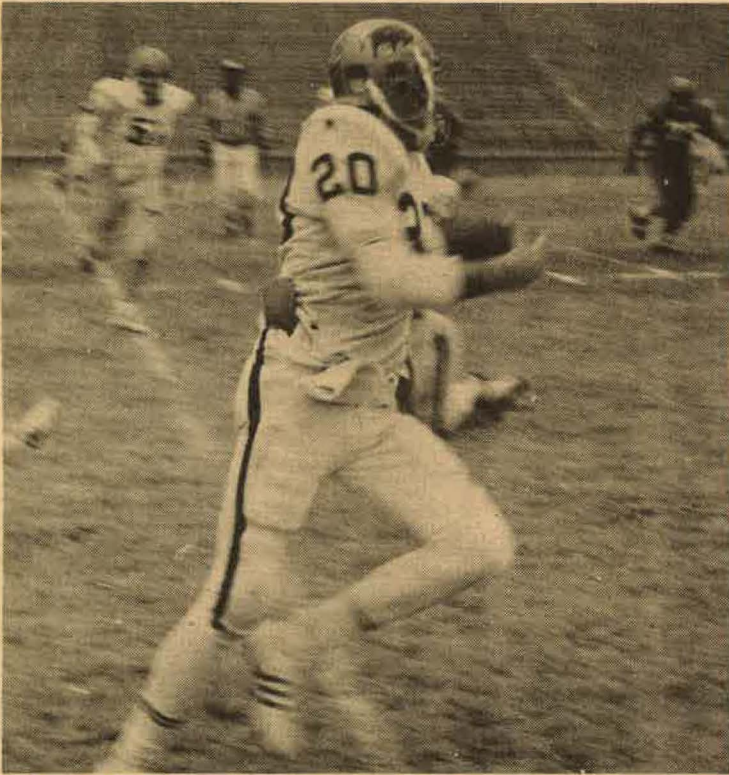
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Bisons lasso Lions with 41-yd. boot



Tom Ed Gooden (20) sweeps around end on a QB-keeper for a long gain against the Lions of Langston.



Senior Edd Eason (77) scores his first and only collegiate TD on a tackle-eligible play.



Senior guard Rick Brown from Ocilla, Ga., proudly show Cowboy Bowl trophy to fellow seniors.

By Ken Beck

Into a 25 mile per hour wind with seven seconds left in the game quarterback Tom Ed Gooden booted a 41-yard field goal, and the 1972 Cowboy Bowl became the tenth victory of the year for the Harding College Bisons.

In Lawton, Okla., Gooden's three-point play capped a drive from the Bisons' own 35-yard line to give Harding a 30-27 win over Langston University. Weather conditions were poor as a crowd of 500 braved the sub-freezing temperature and 20 mile per hour-plus winds that blew on the cold heavily overcast afternoon.

The winning drive for Harding started with 55 seconds left in the game and ended with two seconds showing on the clock. Langston had tied the game just before with an 80-yard scoring drive in 11 plays. The ensuing kick-off found Jeff Blake securing the ball on the Bison 35. On a second down play, Gooden, Harding's All-AIC quarterback, hit Jack Barber on a down-and-out pattern to the left side for 11 yards and a first.

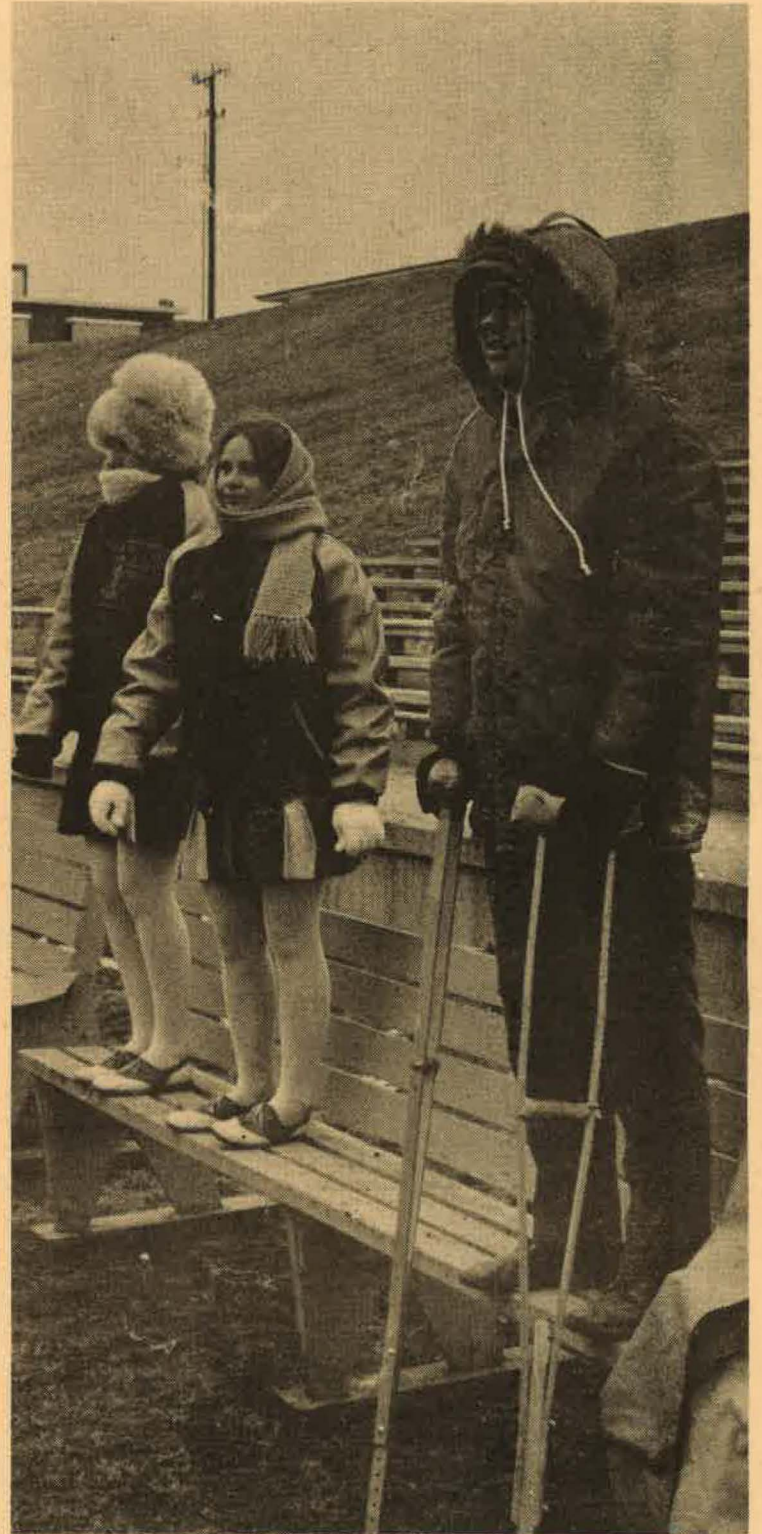
The next play was an exact repeat going for 10 yards, and Harding had a first and 10 on the Langston 44. Gooden then connected to flanker Harry Starnes who was forced out of bounds at the 24, and the clock stopped with less than 20 seconds.

The next play was an incomplete pass to Starnes who caught the ball out of bounds. With seven seconds showing Gooden booted the 41-yard attempt as Roger Collins held, and the referee's signal indicated that the Bisons were the winners of the second annual Cowboy Bowl.

Harding had led at the half, 14-13, as freshman Ted Walters had carried in two touchdown passes, one from 18 yards out and the other from 20, allowing the Bisons to hold the edge. Terry Welch, senior from McGehee, had kicked the PAT's.

Langston had scored on a 51-yard scoring drive and a 65-yard touchdown pass from Prinson Poindexter, the game's Outstanding Offensive player, to his receiver Payne. Their first extra point attempt had missed.

Midway in the third quarter Walters scored his third TD of the day on a 16 yard gallop up the



Cheerleaders Carol Bucy and Tek Eason and injured player Rick Sammons shiver enthusiastically from atop the bench.

middle. The PAT failed as Harding led 20-13.

With 11:40 in the final quarter Gooden completed a 13-yard pass to All-AIC tackle Edd Eason for a touchdown. The play came on a sneaky tackle-eligible try, and the score was Eason's first and only touchdown of his Harding career. The PAT gave Harding a 27-13 lead.

Langston refusing to call the game over came back with 7:55 in the game and drove 62 yards to close the score to 20-27. Then an 80-yard, 11-play drive evened the score at 27 each with less than a minute in the game.

Gooden and crew then wound things up with their whirlwind drive for the winning score. The 30-27 victory lengthened Harding's winningest season record to 10-1 as the win for the AIC's representative was surely one of her sweetest.

Tailback Alan Dixon finished the game with 130 yards rushing, and Gooden completed 12 of 22 passes for 186 yards. Barber caught three of them for 62 yards, and Starnes snagged four for 53 yards. Total yardage for both teams was very close as Harding got 353 and Langston got 350.

Sophomore tackle Barney Crawford nosed out linebacker Bubba Hopkins for Outstanding Defensive player.

Seniors playing their last game for the Bisons were tackles Dale Payne and Tony Felker, halfbacks David Lumpkin and Steve Hinds, and safeties Gary Hunter and Gary Gregg from the defensive unit.

Off the offensive team were guards Rick Brown and David Williams, tackle Edd Eason, flanker Harry Starnes and quarterback and kicking specialist Terry Welch, receiver Jim Akins and center Mike Clem.

**Bison photos by Ben Brannon
who braved 26°, 25 mile wind**



AIC co-champions and now. . .