



GERALD HUDSON

7.9 Yard Ave.

Story By Greg Shepard

"I chose Oklahoma State University because of the tailback tradition and type of offense that is run, I also liked the coaches and the weight room," stated a nervous Gerald Hudson. Offers had come in from Nebraska, Kansas and the University of Houston but Gerald wanted to be an OSU Cowboy. He was nervous because it was his first big interview. It was refreshing to witness Gerald's humble attitude. I told him not to worry and to think of me as a coach and not a reporter.

The previous six tailbacks at Oklahoma State have played professional football. Last year when I interviewed Heisman Trophy Winner Barry Sanders before the season, he was in the same situation. Barry was going to fill the shoes of Thurman Thomas. Well, Barry did a fairly adequate job and now it's Gerald Hudson's turn. Can he do it? I'll let you decide after reading his story and then you can have fun following the Cowboys of OSU this season.

NFL scouts who have timed Gerald feel that he will continue the OSU tailback tradition and make it in the Pros. As a back-up for Barry Sanders last season, Gerald rushed for a whopping 7.0 yards per carry. Against Kansas last year, Gerald exploded for runs of 48, 46, and

Photo By Antonio Hansen

21 yards. He ended up with 121 yards and one touchdown on only four carries. Gerald watched and learned from the sideline but when he got a chance, he made the most of it.

In high school, Gerald for sure made the most of it. He played at Waxahachie High School a 4-A School just South of Dallas, Texas for Coach Jerry McLemore. He was a star running back from the seventh grade on and became the starting tailback at Waxahachie in his junior year. Gerald remembered, "We had a serious lifting program. We lifted four days a week. We got after it." I hope to shout they got after it. Gerald Bench Pressed 380 pounds as a junior! He also Parallel Squatted 480 and Inclined 280 pounds! For his reward for all that hard work, Gerald made All-District and rushed for 1100 yards in his junior year. His senior year was even better as he led his team to an 8-3 season which included a ticket to the playoffs.

However, while things were going great in the weight room and on the playing field, things weren't so great in the classroom. Gerald did not have good grades and became a Proposition 48 student. "Everybody predicted that I wouldn't make it. That negative attitude pushed me even harder," said Gerald as he reflected

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OKLAHOMA STATE U. TAILBACK GERALD HUDSON

back on his freshman year at Oklahoma State. He continued, "I had confidence. I attended every class." Gerald took basic classes like History, Geography, Political Science and English. It was tough but he came out with a 2.1 GPA. That first year because of his Proposition 48 status Gerald could not play football. His purpose in life became to get eligible and to prepare to play.

Gerald achieved what many predicted could not be achieved. Gerald became eligible to play in his second year at Oklahoma State. However, because of Thurman Thomas and Barry Sanders, it was decided that Gerald should be red shirted. Another year without playing a game! It was small consolation to be able to only practice. Gerald's grades slipped a little but he made up for it by going to summer school.

Finally, last year as a sophomore in eligibility, Gerald got a chance to actually play in a game. His grades improved to a 2.375 average. Gerald is majoring in education with an emphasis in counseling and he plans to go into social work. Gerald Hudson has had time to mature and dream of glory. He has paid his dues and is now ready to let his God given talents burst forth.

Gerald mused, "Those people who predicted that I'd fail are now kind of puzzled. But, I was determined to make it work. I had the desire. My parents and family helped me a lot. My dad is retired. I've got one brother who is with the Giants and another who is a police officer. My mother died when I was in the sixth grade. She always made me bring books home from school. It was tough to lose her then but I'm strong about it now. I've got a sister who is becoming a nurse."

Gerald advises high school athletes, "Work as hard as you can. Set goals and then work hard to achieve those goals. Don't let anybody push you into wrong things. Listen to your parents. Hang with good people."

"In dealing with peer pressure just walk away from trouble. I turned out okay. I hung with two other athletes and we got high on life. We'd dance and try to have fun that way. Sure, guys tried to get me to do some drugs, but I'd say, "No man, that's not me." I've seen a lot of people go down because of drugs. Here at OSU it's even been easier to stay away from drugs."

When asked to comment on steroids, Gerald stated, "I've been kidded about taking steroids but I'm natural. I haven't even thought about it."

Gerald would like to play professional football, if things work out. It's been a dream all his life. He'd like to give his dad a new home."

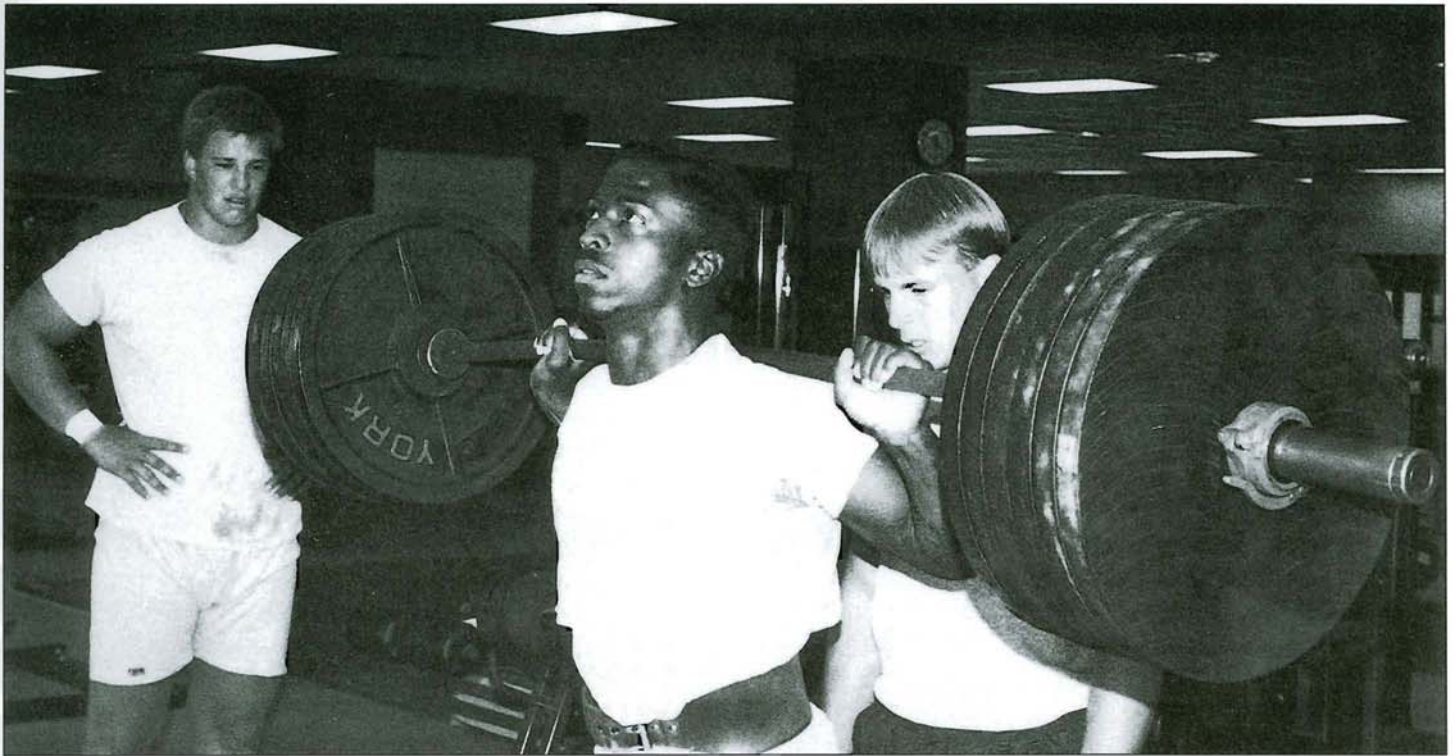
As our interview came to close, Gerald was still a little nervous. I told him that he'd done great. The final question: What are the most important things in life?



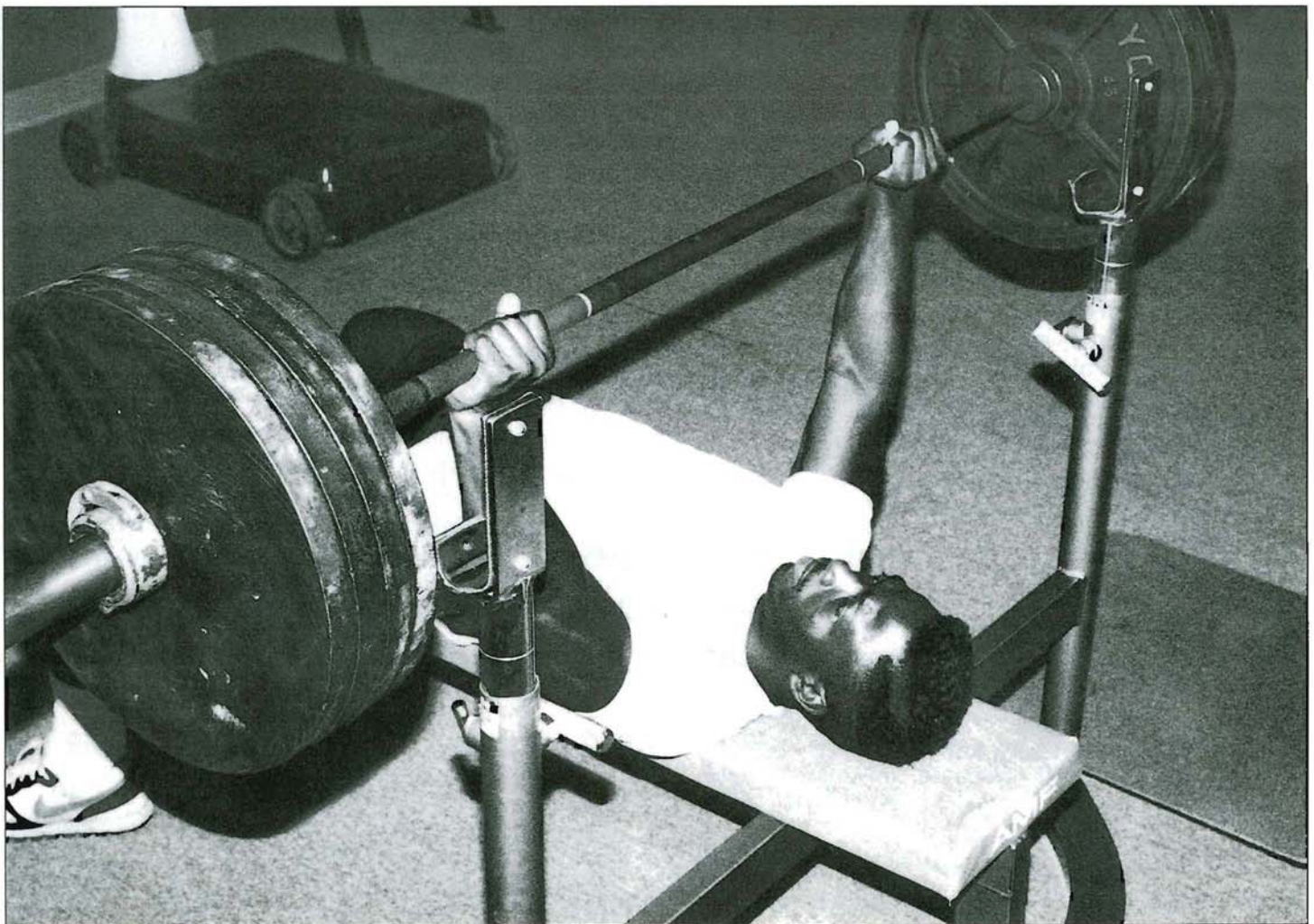
Gerald Box Jumping For Explosiveness



Sprinting with a weighted sled has made Tailbacks famous at Oklahoma State.



Gerald Hudson prepares for a Big Squat. His Max is 660 Pounds!



One of the Most Powerful Tailbacks in History. Gerald Benches over 400 Pounds!

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Gerald answered, "Keeping a close relationship with God. Getting my degree and having a nice family."

Gerald Hudson had passed this interview with flying colors. Will he continue the tailback tradition at Oklahoma State? I can tell you that he has superior strength and fine speed, but more importantly, Gerald has his life in order. he is hungry for success for the right reasons. Gerald Hudson is now the main man in Cowboy land. Everything is in place to cast his own formidable shadow.

We thank Strength Coach Rob Glass for making this article possible. Gerald Hudson is one of his very favorite athletes. We now see why. We thank Gerald for his Upper-Limit example and wish him the best.

GERALD HUDSON'S PROGRESS CHART

Year	Ht.	Wt.	Bench	Squat	Incline	40
10th	5-9	195	370	420	X	4.6
11th	5-9	205	380	480	280	4.57
12th	5-9	205	380	510	320	4.51
Fresh.	5-9	210	410	560	290	4.5
Red Sht	5-9	213	425	580	310	4.49
Soph.	5-9	202	410	660	310	4.49
Junior	5-9	198	410	X	X	X