

A Good Start

By HAROLD KEITH, '28journ

HOW was Oklahoma's 1933 football season a success?

Let's list, briefly, the most important reasons with no attempt to rank them in the order of their importance:

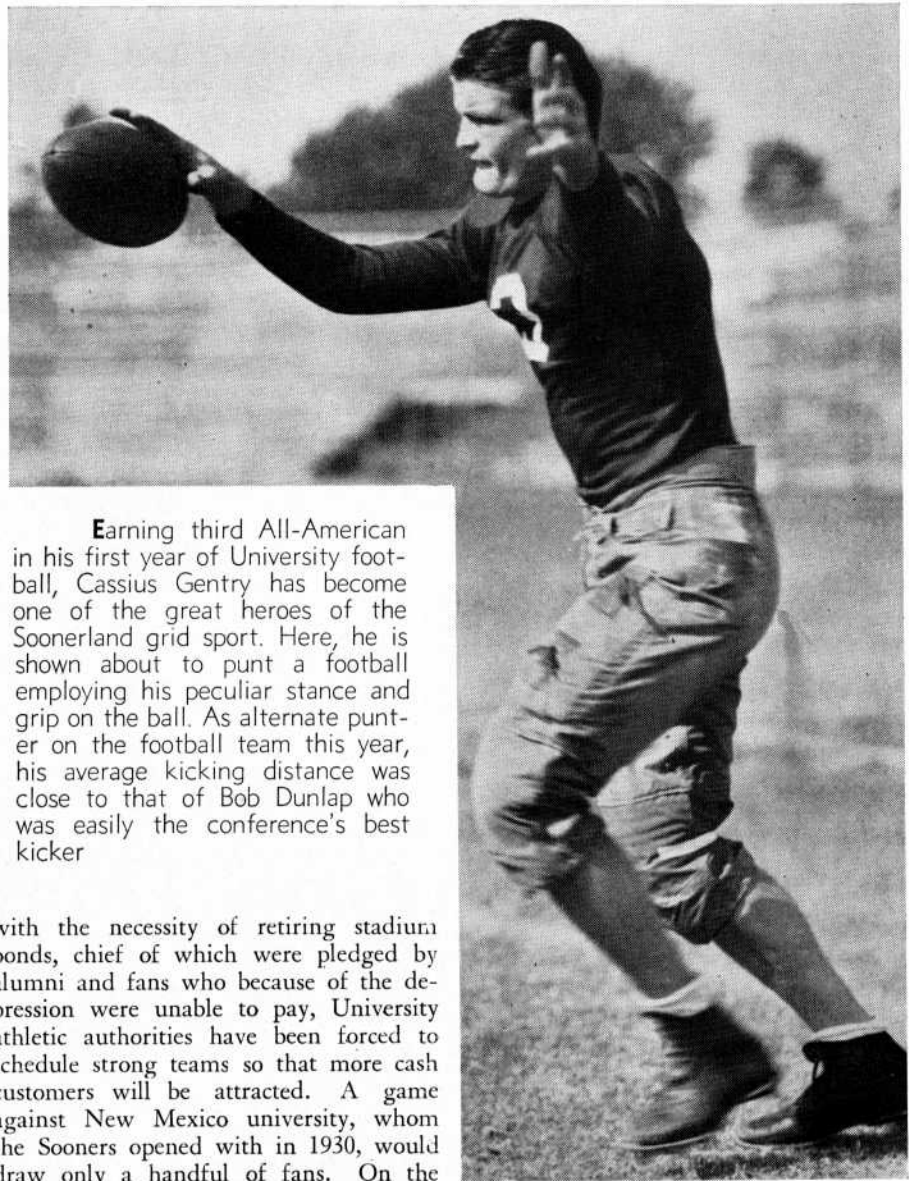
- (1) Establishment of a new season's attendance record.
- (2) Smashing of the 14-year old Texas "jinx" and the 6-year old Missouri "jinx."
- (3) New interest shown in the team by Sooner alumni.
- (4) Successful promotion of the Vanderbilt game, the first intersectional contest ever played by the Sooners at Norman.

(5) A good start toward the establishment of a football system at Oklahoma, including a real spring practice, insistence that Oklahoma players from now on must be students as well as athletes, larger squads, an all-weather playing field, and an occasional intersectional game.

Naturally the season just closed had its disappointments. One was the inability of the Oklahoma team to block for its ball carrier although the blocking this year was better than in any year since 1930 and the team gained nearly one thousand yards rushing over the span of the nine game schedule, reaching its height perhaps, in the Kansas and Iowa State games. Blocking for the ball carrier is a difficult fundamental to teach in one year, especially at a school whose modern teams have emphasized passing instead of running. Also, it's hard to teach blocking to sophomores and 31 of the 39 men on the 1933 Sooner squad were on the University freshman squad last year.

Another disappointment was the fact the Sooners reached their peak too early, and were slipping badly the last three games of the schedule. This largely can be charged to the severity of the schedule which called for a hard game every week end. Vanderbilt, Tulsa, Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, Kansas State and Oklahoma Aggies each gave Oklahoma terrific bruising games. Even Iowa State led Oklahoma 7 to 6 going into the fourth quarter and was barely conquered in time.

Then why book so difficult a schedule, you'll probably ask. One answer to that is, the enormous stadium debt. Faced



Earning third All-American in his first year of University football, Cassius Gentry has become one of the great heroes of the Soonerland grid sport. Here, he is shown about to punt a football employing his peculiar stance and grip on the ball. As alternate punter on the football team this year, his average kicking distance was close to that of Bob Dunlap who was easily the conference's best kicker

with the necessity of retiring stadium bonds, chief of which were pledged by alumni and fans who because of the depression were unable to pay, University athletic authorities have been forced to schedule strong teams so that more cash customers will be attracted. A game against New Mexico university, whom the Sooners opened with in 1930, would draw only a handful of fans. On the other hand 16,339 people thronged Owen field last September 30 to see the opener against Vanderbilt.

The average fan can't imagine the tremendous load Sooner football receipts must carry now days. Not only must they support the deficit on the stadium bond payment, but also nearly the complete expense of basketball, wrestling, baseball, track, tennis, cross country, swimming and the University's intramural program, as well as a larger portion of salaries of Sooner coaches and teachers of physical education than ever before owing to the reduction in state appropriations and particularly in the budget for the department of physical education.

Although the increased football receipts this year will do very little toward lightening the athletic association's load, the increased attendance this fall was very encouraging, chiefly because it portends a return of the public's interest in the game, and also an improvement in general economic conditions.

A new home attendance record of 52,286 for four home games, an average of

more than 13,000 for each home game at Owen field, was established this year and added to the 58,729 spectators before whom the Sooners played in five road games shoots the total 1933 attendance to 111,015. Two of the Norman crowds this fall were the second and third largest in the University's history, the Oklahoma Aggie and Vanderbilt games. Back in 1928 the Nebraska-Oklahoma game here attracted the record high of 18,346.

The 1933 Sooner attendance figures:
AT NORMAN

Game	Attendance	Weather
Vanderbilt	16,339	good
Iowa State	8,100	cloudy
Kansas	11,400	rainy
Oklahoma Aggies	16,447	good
ABROAD		
Tulsa	13,471	good
Texas	15,751	good
Nebraska	16,507	good
*Missouri	5,000	cloudy
*Kansas State	8,000	good
*estimated.		

Spectators at the Oklahoma-Texas game at Fair Park stadium, Dallas, were deprived of seeing what otherwise would have been a sensational game by a poorly sodded football field. Rain the preceding night had made the gridiron a quagmire, consequently neither team could show much offensive power nor versatility. Similar circumstances existed before the Sooner's Homecoming day clash with Kansas here November 4th but with water standing everywhere else, the Sooners held their feet beautifully, scoring three touchdowns and a safety against the Jayhawkers on the all-weather field built by Coach Hardage, which inspired the following comment from Charles Saulsbury, sports editor of the *Oklahoma City Times*:

"By all rights the Sooner gridiron should have been a muddy mixture of sod and mire Saturday. For almost two days a penetrating drizzle had soaked into the earth. In between drizzles were several downpours. Other gridirons were quagmires.

Instead the Sooner field looked from the stands as it would have looked on any dry day. Well-sodded, well-drained, it furnished the footing for as interesting a game as the shivering crowd could have seen under any conditions.

Hats off to the best-kept football field in the midwest!"

Scheduling and successful promotion of the Vanderbilt game gave the 1933 season tone and proved that intersectional football will pay at Norman. Although the game was played in September it attracted wide notice and drew 16,339 people at higher admission prices than had ever been charged for any other game at Norman. Oklahoma had guaranteed Vanderbilt \$8,000 with a 50 per cent option of the gate and there were many who thought the guarantee too high. However when the turnstiles stopped revolving enough money had been taken in that Vanderbilt was able to exercise its option, taking home even more money than it had been guaranteed.

Summed up, the Sooner football staff has worked hard this year and made a good start.

During the tough nine game schedule, the Sooners outscored their opponents, 82 to 70.

Bob Dunlap was the individual scoring star tallying five touchdowns and one extra point kick for a total of 31 points. Jask Harris, big sophomore end from Antlers, made 18 points, Melborne "Nig" Robertson 12, LeRoy "Rob" Robinson 6, Orville Corey 6, Beede Long 3, Karey Fuqua 1, Jack Flemings 1 and 4 points were made by two safeties.

Dunlap was the only player in the Big Six to score four touchdowns in conference competition. He was second in final Big Six standing, however, since Bernie Masterson, Nebraska quarterback, kicked two field goals and three extra points and scored three touchdowns.

Cassius Gentry, rating the Associated

press third All-American team, brought national recognition to the Sooners. A survey of the all-star selections of eleven Sooners picked by various sports authorities follows:

CASH GENTRY, Tackle

Third All-American in the Associated Press; All-American honorable mention in the NEA; All-Big Six first team in the *Omaha World-Herald*, *Daily Oklahoman*, Associated Press, United States Press and selections made by Sooner sports staff; All-Big Six second team in C. E. McBride in the *Kansas City Star*; Edward W. Cochrane in the *Kansas City Journal-Post* and All-Oklahoma team in the *Tulsa World* and *Daily Oklahoman*.

BOB DUNLAP, Quarterback

All-American honorable mention in the Associated Press; All-Big Six first team in the Associated Press, *Daily Oklahoman*, Cochrane of the *Kansas City Journal-Post*, selection of the Sooner coaches; All-Big Six second team in the *Omaha World-Herald*; McBride in the *Kansas City Star* and United Press; and All-Oklahoma team in the *Tulsa World* and *Daily Oklahoman*.

ELLIS BASHARA, Guard

All American honorable mention in the Associated Press; All-Big Six first team in the *Omaha World-Herald*; Cochrane of the *Kansas City Journal-Post*; and Associated Press; All-Big Six second team in the *Daily Oklahoman* and United Press.

JACK HARRIS, End

All-Big Six first team in United Press, Cochrane in *Kansas City Journal-Post*, and the selection of the Sooner coaches; All-Big Six second team in *Omaha World-Herald*, *Daily Oklahoman* and Associated Press; All-Oklahoma team in the *Tulsa World* and the *Daily Oklahoman*.

JAMES STACY, GUARD

All-Big Six first team in *Daily Oklahoman* and C. E. McBride in the *Kansas City Star*; All-Big Six second team in Associated Press; and All-Oklahoma second team in the *Daily Oklahoman*.

HAROLD FLEETWOOD, Center

All-Big Six second team in the Associated Press, *Daily Oklahoman* and McBride in the *Kansas City Star*.

JEFF COKER, End

All-American honorable mention in the Associated Press, and All-Big Six honorable mention in the Associated Press.

MELBORNE "NIG" ROBERTSON, Halfback

All-Big Six second team in McBride in the *Kansas City Star*.

BILL PANSZE, Halfback

All-Big Six honorable mention in the Associated Press.

JIGGS WHITTINGTON, Guard

All-Big Six honorable mention in the Associated Press.

JOHN MISKOVSKY, End

All-Big Six honorable mention in the Associated Press.

BASKETBALL TO THE FRONT

Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri again will be favorites to lead the way in the 1934 Big Six basketball race.

Opening their conference schedule January 13 against Iowa State at Norman, the Sooners will be out to avenge a defeat at the hands of the Cyclones that last year cost them a tie for the Big Six cage pennant.

The Iowans knocked off the Sooners in the first game of the campaign at Ames. After the initial defeat, Coach Hugh McDermott's rubber-legged cagers lost only two other games, one to Kansas at Lawrence and one to Missouri at Columbia. The Kansas Jayhawks won the title losing two games, one to Oklahoma at Norman and one to Missouri at Columbia.

Bud Browning, Harold LeCrone, Eryl Bross, Percy Main and Stanley Tyler, five lettermen, form the nucleus of the 1934 squad. Charles Munson, tall Capitool Hill lad who failed to make a letter by one game last year, also will be an important cog in the McDermott machine.

Squadmen and sophomores who are expected to play a large part during the season are Ed Warren, Don Hayes, Wayne LeCrone, Jerome Needy, Rudolph Tone, Jack Robertson, Bill Vaughan and Francis Cobb.

Before swinging into the conference schedule, the Sooners tackle Southern Methodist University December 19 and 20 at Norman. They will play the Oklahoma Aggies January 10 at Stillwater and be hosts to the Aggies January 16 at Norman.

The Sooners last won the championship in 1929, the first year the Big Six was in existence. Since that time, Missouri has won the flag once and Kansas has been champion three times.

A list of Oklahoma's all-conference players, as selected by the *Kansas City Star*, follows:

(Missouri Valley conference)

- 1922 Ed Waite, Oklahoma City, center.
- 1924 Fred Wallace, El Reno, forward.
- 1924 Floyd McBride, Oklahoma City, forward.
- 1926 John Dunlap, Shawnee, guard.
- 1927 Roy LeCrone, Norman, guard.
- 1928 Roy LeCrone, Norman, guard.
- 1928 Vic Holt, Oklahoma City, center.

(Big Six conference)

- 1929 Bruce Drake, Oklahoma City, guard.
- 1929 Tom Churchill, Oklahoma City, guard.
- 1929 Clifton Shearer, Shawnee, center.
- 1933 Andy Beck, Oklahoma City, forward.
- 1933 Bud Browning, Enid, guard.