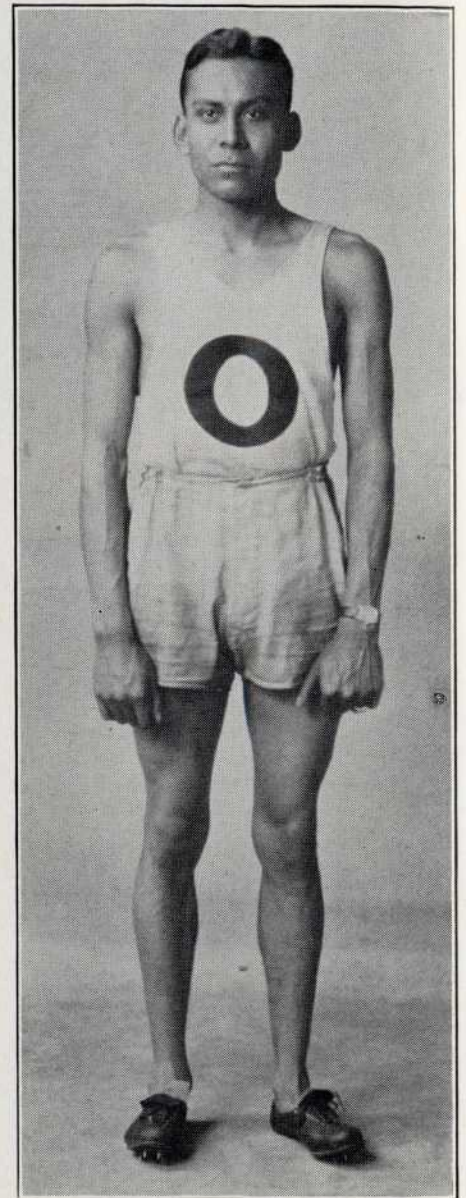


In this picture Ben "Wildhorse" Taylor is seen going over the hurdles in typically good form. In 1927 he helped to set two records, one in the mile relay and one in the one and seven eighths mile medley relay

Ray Dunson's speed kept him close to the ground even over the hurdles. In 1927 he set two records, one an indoor record of 6.5 in the fifty yard high hurdles and one an outdoor record of 14.9 in the 120 yard high hurdles



The best marks aren't always on the books

BY HAROLD KEITH, '28

BEN "WILDHORSE" TAYLOR, of Soper, blond Sooner low hurdler, was flitting along two strides ahead of everybody in the finals of the 220-yard low hurdles at the Missouri Valley outdoor meet at Lincoln, Nebraska, in May of 1927. On he came, darting over the fences with the ease and grace of a bird, while the crowd, standing on tip-toe all along the base of the big double-decked Cornhusker stadium, roared encouragement to the flying Oklahoman. One hundred yards down the track the timers scurried to points of vantage about the tightly-stretched white cord that marked the finish line.

"Look at that 'Wildhorse' go!" shouted Heston Heald, the Oklahoma half-miler, from the opposite side of the track.

"He's got it! He's got it!" yelled Russell Carson, another Oklahoman, jumping up and down in his excitement.

John Jacobs, the angular Sooner coach, usually so busy preparing his men for the next event that he has little time to see the competition, paused a moment to watch the race, his hands weighed down with stop watches, a discus and a steel tape. It isn't often that a coach is privileged to see one of his men make a run-away of a conference hurdle race.

Suddenly the yell died in the throats of the Sooners and a cry of dismay went up from the crowd. Taylor stumbled, went down, and sprawled on the cinder track, rolling over and over, while the field swept over and past him. Taylor arose, dazed, scratched, unrecognizable. He was as black as a coal heaver and seemed to have lost all sense of direction. His hips and knees were badly skinned. They led him over to the Sooner training table where Trainer Ted Owen, who had treated many such cases and knew the best remedy, picked

the cinders out of Taylor's raw body with pincers and washed the abrasions with mercurochrome. Although he never uttered a word the athlete winced each time the antiseptic touched his torn flesh.

The mercurochrome hurt but it was nothing compared to Taylor's disappointment at falling down with victory in his grasp. The race was won by Gartner, of the Kansas Aggies, in 23.8 seconds. Taylor would have done about 23.4 seconds, a new university and conference record. And a fellow gets a chance at a conference record only once a year.

Let me put you straight about this record business, before we go further. Some folks think records are a lot of nonsense and that a good track man doesn't care anything about them. Well, they're all wrong. I've yet to see a top-notch athlete who didn't have an ambition to set a real record before he hung

up his spiked shoes for good. He may not let on about it, but if he's real flesh and blood he'll be driven by the thought of setting that record, of doing something in his field never equaled by another man. It's the stuff that keeps him going.

Taylor's misfortune, back in 1927, is a particularly pertinent example of the fact that the best competitive efforts of athletes don't always reach the record books. A man may strike his ankle on a hurdle as Taylor did. Or he may make his best time while being beaten by a better man, as have several Sooners. Or he may win a clean-cut victory and have the judges never see him at all as did Harold Adkison, midget Sooner sprinter from Tulsa, who ran here from 1927 to 1929.

Adkison shot from his blocks in the 50-yard dash of the K. C. A. C. indoor games at Convention hall, Kansas City, one February night in 1930 and hurtled into the tape a foot ahead of everybody. His opponents came up and shook hands with him, congratulating him upon his victory. His team mates flocked about him, pumping his hand and slapping his back. It was the first major triumph of Adkison's varsity career and he was grinning happily.

But when he walked up to sign for his medal he was informed that another man had won the race. He was astounded. He asked who had won second place and third place but the names they gave him weren't his own. With his defeated opponents he went before the judges. The opposing sprinters bore out Adkison's claims of victory. The judges, mystified, listened politely but refused to change their decisions. None of them had even seen Adkison in the race.

The winner's time was 5.4 seconds. Adkison would have been a shade inside that for a new university indoor record. But the judges hadn't seen him.

Frank Potts, of Ada, the strapping 190-pound football player who pole vaulted for the Sooners back in 1925, 1926 and 1927, rivals Taylor and Adkison as the unluckiest track man that ever wore the white silk livery of Sooner teams.

Potts should have been the first Oklahoma pole vaulter to clear 13 feet. He was a good one, in spite of his weight. He was speedy, had a powerful "pull up," and was always keyed to a high pitch. And it was his ambition to pole vault 13 feet.

He did it at the Kansas relays of 1926. Arrayed against Potts that afternoon were two other great pole vaulters of the Missouri Valley area, Wirsig of Nebraska and Carter of the Kansas Aggies. The three of them were having it nip and tuck. Finally the bar was raised to 13 feet, a new record height, and carefully measured at that standard. Potts was the first to clear it. Eventually Wirsig

and Carter wiggled over, creating a triple tie for first place. However after Potts had cleared the height, Wirsig missed his first trial, riding the bar to the ground and springing it so that when the height was again measured at the close of the event it showed 12 feet 11 7-8 inches. That was the official height despite the fact Potts actually had cleared 13 feet before the bar had been sprung down one-eighth inch by Wirsig.

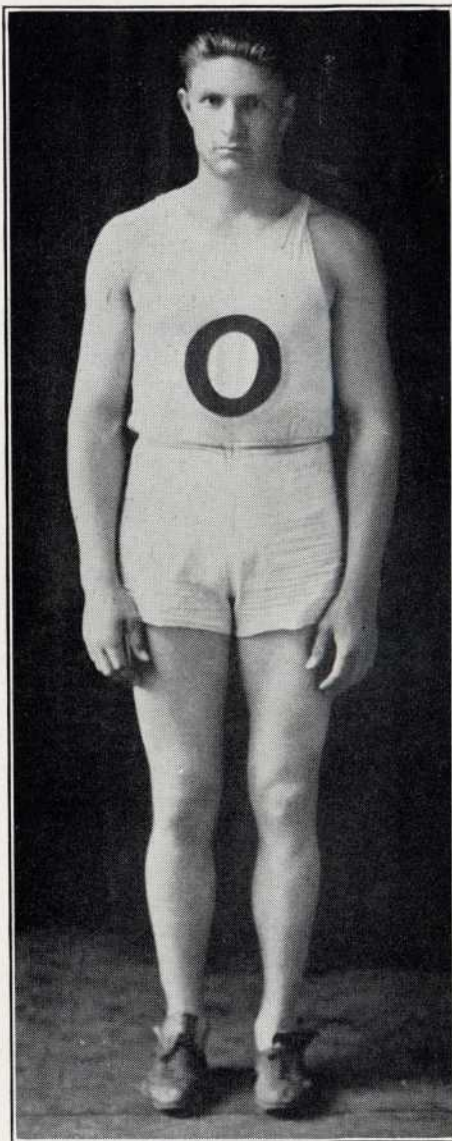
Pott's other piece of hard luck, one which prevented him from establishing a new university and Missouri Valley indoor record, occurred at Des Moines, Iowa in March of 1927, half an hour before the Missouri Valley indoor meet began. Potts was perhaps a full foot better than any other man at the meet that night. However it was bitterly cold and realizing that he might easily "pull" an old leg muscle injury he had previously hurt in football, Potts went out to the Drake university fieldhouse two hours

before the meet, taking a stove and a trainer with him. He had resolved to warm the leg up thoroughly and slowly before the competition began.

He did his work well, heating and massaging the leg carefully, jogging a bit to stretch the muscles, and, well bundled in sweat clothing, whipping cautiously over the crossbar at easy trial heights. Half an hour before the pole vault started Potts was jumping 12 feet in his warm ups and knew he could go much higher.

A few minutes later he limped into the locker room where the rest of us were dressing, tragedy written all over his face. He was crying. The leg had buckled under him on his last trial jump and he was out of the meet, the last conference indoor meet of his career. He was a cinch to win the conference championship and set himself at least a new university record. But you can't pole

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Frank Potts was equally proficient in pole vaulting and football. One of his best feats in football, a 60-yard run to a touchdown in the Oklahoma-Missouri game of 1926, is well remembered, but many of us didn't know of the one that "isn't in the book"

Magna carta for professors

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Because of the significant interpretation of the functions of a college and its professors included in the statement of members of the Norman branch of the American Association of University Professors to the board of regents protesting against the activities of D. D. M. C. as well as outside interference in the affairs of the university, The Sooner Magazine is pleased to present the text of this Magna Carta in full. Every person interested in higher education in Oklahoma should read it.*

AT a meeting of the local members of the American Association of University Professors, it was decided to appoint a committee which should formulate an expression of opinion concerning the happenings of the past week in which a student is said to have been whipped by a group of masked individuals who were themselves unknown, but wore the regalia of D. D. M. C. In the opinions here expressed we wish to make it clear that we are not authorized to speak for the national organization of the American Association of University Professors, but that we represent the opinion of the local members of our profession of university teachers.

We deplore the incident of last week in the strongest possible manner. Corporal punishment in any form is repugnant to adult civilized society. It is psychologically unsound, and characteristic of a low social level, and it is not often that by it any desirable results are obtained. But when such punishment is administered by masked individuals it becomes morally reprehensible, and a crime against society. Practices of this kind and any organization supporting them cannot be too strongly condemned. They have no place in a university community and any sentiment which condones or supports them is sadly misjudged.

We wish to offer every encouragement to your board and to all duly constituted authorities of the university in your efforts to remove these practices, and also any organization countenancing them, from our community. You have our full confidence and support in all measures you may approve for extirpating this sore from the university body. We also affirm our support of the officials of this

state, or of any subdivision of it in all their efforts to apprehend any criminals whatsoever.

In connection with these matters we wish to make certain observations. A university exists for three purposes and for these only. They are to train the youth, to broaden the frontier of learning, and to disseminate knowledge. As members of our profession, we believe that the university has seriously endeavored to carry out these three functions, and it is our opinion that a large measure of success has rewarded its effort. During the current year the enrolment has reached 5,248 students and we believe that over 5,200 of them are desirable members of our community. Indeed we believe that the work they are accomplishing is of higher character than before, and that in general they are living together happily and with sober purpose.

It is a serious misplacement of emphasis to forget the permanent aims of the institution and the accomplishments of the great numbers of our members in our disgust at the actions of a few whose judgment does not restrain them from deeds which should be beneath persons of their opportunities and training. We urge you and all who are rightfully interested in the greater good which this university accomplishes to take such steps as will lead to a correct appreciation of the great ends which the institution serves.

It is the duty of the administrative officers of the university to set up regulations and enforce them in order that the common welfare may be served, but it should be forgotten that the primary aims of this institution do include policing the student body. Where regulations of that order becomes necessary, they are merely subsidiary to the primary purposes for which the institution exists. College students are not children, and, although every effort must be made to set up good conditions for their work, it is neither possible nor advisable for the university to supervise the intimate details of their living.

We reiterate that the primary purposes of the university must not be lost sight of, for in our concern over this unfortunate occurrence there is danger of an entire misplacement of emphasis.

We deeply deplore also the attempts at formulation of the policies of the university on the part of outside individuals.

The university is an institution of the state and its control is vested in your board by rightfully constituted authority; and interference or ill-considered criticism on the part of outside agencies is not for the greater good. We recognize the function of the press of the state in calling attention to abuses or lapses which occur in public institutions. But we deeply regret attacks which unjustly impugn the motives or misrepresent the character of those in responsible charge of an institution. The good faith of the press may often be shown by its willingness to co-operate judiciously with proper authorities before exploiting the news value of untoward incidents. There are proper means of redress available if the duly constituted officers fail to perform their functions, and until that time of failure arrives—and it has not yet arrived—we object to interference on the part of outside agencies. May we say that the spectre of political domination of Oklahoma institutions has never entirely departed, and it has given many thinking persons in this state grave concern. Nevertheless, it is our judgment that dictation of university policies by any other outside agency or group would be as harmful as political domination. As members of this faculty and of the profession of university teachers, we offer you our support in all measures which you may take looking toward the establishment of higher education upon a plane above the domination by any outside agency.

Respectfully submitted

R. T. HOUSE,

P. B. SEARS,

STEPHEN SCATORI, Secretary

H. H. HERBERT, Vice President,

A. RICHARDS, President.

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THE BEST MARKS AREN'T ALWAYS ON THE BOOKS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 111)

vault with a pulled muscle and so Potts, muffled in a blanket, sat with the spectators and saw five men tie for first place in the vault at the mediocre height of 11 feet 6 inches.

Ray Dunson, the little Creek Indian high hurdler from Okemah, who enjoyed a whirlwind season at Oklahoma in the spring of 1927, had hard luck of a different nature. Dunson was a short man and consequently shaved the barriers closely in a high hurdle race. At the Texas relays Dunson aired the best hurdlers in the midwest, the Big Ten and the southwest only to be disqualified for knocking down too many hurdles. Three weeks later, in the Kansas relays, Dunson again defeated a strong field but again knocked down too many hurdles and lost another championship and the

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enjoyed bandying words with attorneys. At the same time, Judge Owen demanded strict adherence to the legal phases of a law suit, he added.

"Judge Thurman Hurst, of division four, from Pawnee county, who was a classmate of Judge Owen in the University of Oklahoma law school in 1911, recalled his earliest acquaintance with Judge Owen, with whom he was elected. The four successful judges campaigned together, both here and in Pawnee county, and Judge Hurst and Halley recalled that at that time Judge Owen apparently was in ill health but did not realize it.

"Frequently, during their campaign, Judge Owen would be forced to call a halt, complaining that he was tired. 'You fellows go ahead,' he would tell the others.

"He and Judge Hurst were charter members of the Phi Delta Phi honorary legal fraternity. 'Judge Owen, even in law school, carried the dignity which characterized him on the bench,' Judge Hurst recalled. 'He was very popular among his fellow students. He was married when he came to the law school and naturally did not run around as much as we younger fellows did.'

"Judge S. J. Clendinning had left the courthouse before news of Judge Owen's death was received.

"Hal Rambo, president of the Tulsa County Bar association, was shocked to hear of Judge Owen's death. He announced that the bar would hold a memorial service, the date to be fixed later."

YEAR BY YEAR

1915

Seward Sheldon, '15journ, is managing editor of the *Fort Worth Press*.

1916

Kenneth C. Kaufman, '16as, co-editor of *Books Abroad*, has been named literary editor of the *Oklahoman* of Oklahoma City.

1920

Robert M. Sayre, '20as, sales engineer for the Kansas City Gas company was recently promoted to lieutenant in the U. S. naval reserve. His address is 214 Bursh Creek boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri.

1922

J. A. D. (Amon) Collins, '22law, a member of the Oklahoma City bar for the past nine years, has opened a private law office in Mangum, Oklahoma.

1923

Ed Kerrigan, '23journ, editor and publisher of the *Cleveland County Democrat-News*, has announced the sale of his newspaper to the *Norman Transcript*, of which Fred Tarman, '10as, is editor and publisher. Mr Kerrigan retains his plant but has sold his newspaper.

Joseph H. Buckles, '23journ, has moved from Fort Worth, Texas, to Oklahoma City, where he is manager of the Babcock Printing Co. at 209 East Grand avenue.

John F. Wilkinson, '23as, is southwestern representative for the Mercantile Commerce

A. Rodger Denison, '21geol, '25M.S., and Mrs Denison took the country by surprise when young geologist Rodger Espy Denison was announced as carrying on his work without loss of a moment for the time being. He is expected to enroll in the fall of 1950

Bank and Trust company of St. Louis. It is the second largest bank in St. Louis with deposits over \$100,000,000.00.

1924

Russell W. Grimes, '24ex, and Webber Lawson, '22ex, are employed by the Shell Petroleum Corporation in St. Louis.

1930

George Milburn's address is 226 Bradford street, Provincetown, Massachusetts. Mr Milburn, '30ex, is continuing his phenomenal literary progress, with a short story in the December *Harper's*.

1931

Harold L. Nichols, '31bus, is doing graduate work at the Boston University School of Theology, from which school he expects to receive the S. T. B. degree in 1934. Mr Nichols' address is 72 Mount Vernon street, Boston, Massachusetts.

1932

Luman T. Cockerill, '32as, is a graduate student in Boston University School of Theology, from which school he will receive his S. T. B. degree in 1935. Mr Cockerill's address is 72 Mount Vernon street, Boston, Massachusetts.



THE BEST MARKS AREN'T ALWAYS ON THE BOOKS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 113)

gold wrist watch that was the winner's trophy.

Most men would have waxed hysterical or done some swearing at two consecutive such breaks of hard luck. But the little Indian took it more philosophically. After his disqualification at Lawrence I remember Dunson looking back over the wreckage of his hurdle course and grinning.

"Yup," he grunted, "I sure knocked 'em down."

A week later Dunson went to the Drake relays. This time he ran the course without ticking a single hurdle, winning by five feet in 15 seconds flat and getting his championship wrist watch. In the Missouri Valley outdoor meet two weeks later he won in 14.9 seconds, setting the present university outdoor record.

Hard luck couldn't squelch that fellow.

Glen Dawson, of Skiatook, the phenomenal Sooner distance runner who performed for Oklahoma during the school years of 1929-30 and 1930-31, but did his best work as a graduate in 1931-32, hitch-hiking his way to races all over the nation and earning a place on the United States Olympic team in the 3,000 meters steeplechase, is an outstanding illustration of a man who made his best marks while being defeated by opposing runners.

Dawson's best official outdoor mile is 4:22 and his best official outdoor two mile 9:33.2 although in reality he has run these distances much faster.

In the National Collegiate meet at Chi-

by
Joseph A. Brandt

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cago in 1931 Dawson finished a foot back of Ray Putnam of Iowa State and Ralph Hill of Oregon, in a mile race won by Putnam in 4:18 flat. Dawson, at Putnam's elbow, couldn't have done slower than 4:18.5 that day. In the National Collegiate meet of 1930 Dawson finished sixth in the two mile race won by Harold Manning, of Wichita university, in 9:18.1. Dawson was unofficially clocked in 9:27 that day by Coach John Jacobs, six seconds faster than his own university outdoor record. However the big Skiatook boy didn't get credit for either of these fine marks as all the watches were on the winner, only man in the race given official time.

As a graduate runner in 1932 Dawson ran in the National Collegiate 880-yard dash in which graduates as well as collegians were permitted to compete because it was Olympic year. He finished a close second to Hornstobel, of Indiana, who won in 1:53.5, which meant Dawson was inside 1:54. As an indoor runner that year Dawson was third to George Lermond in the National A. A. U. indoor three mile race at Madison Square Garden. Lermond's time was 14:26.6 which meant the big Sooner had done about 14:40. Dawson was also credited with a 30:19 six miles in the National A. A. U. crosscountry run at Ypsilanti, Michigan, in November of 1931, although his time wasn't official because he finished third while another man, Clark Chamberlin of Michigan State, won the race in 29:40.8. Dawson also did approximately 9:18 in placing third to Joe McCluskey of Fordham in the American team steeplechase finals last July at Palo Alto. However the race was won by McCluskey in 9:14.5 and so Dawson's mark won't go on the books.

Warren "Bus" Moore, diminutive Sooner half-miler from Oklahoma City, ran a 1:56 half-mile in the Big Six outdoor meet at Lincoln, Nebraska last May but finished third in the race which was won by Glen Cunningham of Kansas in 1:53.5, a new conference record. Moore was also right at 1:59.9 in the Big Six indoor half-mile of 1931, finishing inches behind Bob Ostergard of Nebraska who set a new conference record of 1:59.8. Yet the books show Moore's fastest official half-mile as 1:58.

Clifford Mell, talkative Sooner broad-jumper from McKinney, Texas, leaped 24 feet 5¼ inches here last April in a dual meet between the varsity and freshmen teams, a mark that surpasses Harold "Hap" Morris' present university outdoor record. However the mark wasn't allowed because it was not made against a team opponent of equal standing. Mell also jumped 24 feet 8¼ inches in the Big Six outdoor meet of 1931 but the mark was not permitted because a gale blew at his back.

Alfred "Hippo" Howell, of Nowata, 200-pound university record holder in the discus and outdoor shot, is a splendid example of a man who could seldom equal his best practice performance in a meet. Although Howell ten times has thrown the discus over 150 feet in practice, once spinning it out 154 feet, his best official record is 146 feet 9 inches.

The university outdoor record in the mile relay is 3:23.3. However in the Big Six outdoor meet at Lincoln last spring the Oklahoma quartet of Captain Clifford Mell, Frank Abbott, Charles Mooney and Charles Hewett finished close behind the Nebraska team of Lee, England, Rodgers and Ostergard which set a new Big Six record of 3:19.6. The Sooner team was well under the old Big Six record that day.

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KREUGER'S BILLION DOLLAR BUBBLE

Earl Sparling, ex '17. *Kreuger's Billion Dollar Bubble*. New York. Breenberg. \$2.50.

WHEN the credit of great nations was on the wane, or had disappeared entirely, Ivar Kreuger stepped into the breach, borrowed on his own credit, and loaned the proceeds to hard pressed nations; and as a recompense he received from them secret match monopolies. Those were the outward signs of his enterprise, but in reality it was a rigged thing from top to bottom. Silent and mysterious in all that concerned the nefarious schemes which he concocted and carried through, yet talkative to a degree about world economics and the trials and tribulations of nations, this charming master swindler moved across the face of the earth with a verve and an abandon that rushed leading Wall street bankers off their feet, hoodwinked big accounting concerns, and ultimately ruined thousands of investors. The shot that snuffed out his life shook the very foundations of the banking system of his own country, and for the first time this so-called wizard of finance, this goliath of industry, this weaver of magical dividends, this man of mystery, whose personality seemed to include the finest traits of Scandinavian character, stood revealed as nothing but a common swindler, a cheap forger, and one of the most colossal frauds of all time. Mr Sparling tells his story well, and bases it strictly upon the facts divulged since Kreuger's death.—FRANK HARPER.

(Mr Harper is secretary of the Watchorn Oil & Gas Co. and was for five years private secretary to the late President Theodore Roosevelt.)