

Coach John Jacobs Speaks

INTERCOLLEGIATE track at mid-western schools, long a drain on college financial budgets, could come much nearer paying for itself if leading high school athletes would matriculate at nearby colleges instead of going to out-of-state schools, says John Jacobs, University of Oklahoma track coach.

"It's the high school top-notchers we lose that cost us money at the gate," declares the Sooner coach. "If we could keep our best high school boys, the standard of track would be raised so high locally that we'd have three or four powerful intercollegiate teams in the state and crowds would throng to see the outstanding performers compete against one another.

"Ever since I came to Oklahoma as a student back in 1912, when we used to have to borrow money from John Barbour, the druggist, to finance track, everybody said: 'Track doesn't take in any money so why appropriate money for track?' I'm not kicking about my track budget at Oklahoma. They've given me all the money they could afford and maybe a little more. But still it hurts to think your sport can't bring any money in at the gate to offset the expense."

The Sooner coach then went on to further air his views concerning proselytism of star Oklahoma high school track men.

"Why do our Oklahoma high school track stars jump a thousand miles to attend an out-of-state school? It can't be for cheaper schooling because there isn't any tuition at Oklahoma. It surely isn't because of the lure of a great coach because you've never heard of any of them going to Penn to run under Lawson Robertson, the United States Olympic coach, or Harry Gill of Illinois. And very few of them go abroad for special courses.

"In the old days, before we had any rules, we all went out and hustled athletes. However a few years ago a general clean-up started and now track coaches all over the country, with a few exceptions, abide by the rules. I think the track situation is especially ideal in our own Big Six conference.

"However I don't call it proselyting for a coach to try and keep high school athletes in his own state, provided he doesn't try to get them to come to his school. We'd lots rather an Oklahoma high school boy would enroll at Oklahoma A. and M., O.B.U. or Central college than go out of the state. I think that 95 per cent of the mothers and fathers of high school boys would rather the kids stayed in their own state.

"I'm against old grads or agents of out-of-state schools enticing our high school

athletes out of the state. I think it's wrong for a fellow who lives in Oklahoma, makes his living here, expects to enjoy the friendship of Oklahoma people and perhaps obtain a portion of her wealth, to send an Oklahoma high school athlete out of the state for a college education.

"I realize I'm just a little breeze blowing against a big wall, but someday somebody with some power may straighten this thing out. The main thing I had in mind was to wake up this state and let our high school athletes know that despite the fact we aren't allowed to proselyte them, we're interested in their going to college and university in Oklahoma. Most of the kids naturally think that because a coach doesn't come around and contact them, we're not interested in them."



THE RETURN OF PINKY

TRUMAN "PINKY" TOMLIN came home to Durant and Norman late in February with a dark grey Packard, a dark brown chauffeur and a curious desire to see how things looked through the eyes of a "local boy" who made good.

Pinky rolled into Durant a little too late in the evening to be greeted by the band and the town's leading citizens who had waited all day for his arrival, but the celebration was started the following morning.

Accompanied by his manager, Coe Poe, '32ex, also a member of Delta Tau Delta, Pinky came to Norman several days later. The young student who left the University without a degree last spring to win fame in Hollywood as a crooner and composer visited the Varsity shoppe on varsity corner where for two years he sang for his meals.

He retold the story of how he happened to write "The Object of My Affection" which became a national hit and boosted him into an M-G-M contract. Several hundred students swarmed into the Varsity shoppe to watch the lanky, pink complexioned singer sip a coca cola.

A year ago at this time, he sang popular songs during mealtimes and didn't draw half the crowd who came to watch him sit at a table and greet friends.

The chauffeur and the "block-long" Packard waited for Pinky in front of the shop.

After a several days stay at the Delta Tau Delta house, he left for Chicago and New York where he will fill contracts for stage appearances.

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