



Portrait of a Sooner

TWO Sooner alumni got into an argument over the date of the last Sooner-Texas football game played in Norman.

"1922," said one.

"1923," said the other.

The date itself didn't make so much difference, but pride in ability to remember a date correctly is something else again. Soon a five-dollar bet was made, and then came the problem of getting the facts from a reliable source.

"Harold Keith probably would know," said one.

So the two called on Harold Keith, '29, director of Sooner sports publicity, and put the question to him. Did he happen to know which date was the correct one?

Keith cheerfully laid aside his work, got up from his typewriter, consulted data in a filing cabinet and announced immediately that the game was played in 1922. The score was 32 to 7 in favor of the Longhorns, and was there anything else they wanted to know?

Keith is like that. He either knows the answer to any question about Sooner sports, or he knows right where to go to get the best answer available.

One of the best collections of sports records in the Southwest has been built up in Keith's office during his six years of service in the position. Norman and Oklahoma City sports writers visit his office in a steady stream to get background material and new developments on football, basketball, track, wrestling, baseball, and the other Sooner sports.

He not only keeps records about the Sooners, but also files away data on other members of the Big Six conference and

non-conference teams that the Sooners meet regularly or occasionally. Because of this service to sports writers, the Sooner fans are well informed on what to expect when teams from Kansas or Nebraska or elsewhere visit Norman.

Scrapbooks and filed material have made it possible for Keith to compile a detailed history of Sooner football since its beginning at the University, covering a period of more than forty years.

Tall, blond, wiry and energetic, Keith is known as one of the hardest working persons on the campus. During football season, the lights in his office burn far into the night. Long after a basketball

HAROLD KEITH ALWAYS HAS THE ANSWERS TO QUERIES ABOUT UNIVERSITY SPORTS

crowd has gone home, he is busy supervising the distribution of box scores and other factual information for sports writers. And since one sport season follows another throughout the school year, there is no time for a letdown.

In addition to his regular duties in handling sports publicity, he edits the football program for Sooner home games, a program crammed with interesting articles and pictures about Oklahoma football; he conducts a sports writing class in the School of Journalism; and he finds time, somehow, to write a short story every now and then for the *American Boy* magazine.

In the December number of the magazine he was represented twice, with a football story, "Big Feet," and an article

on wrestling, "Wrestling With Champions." Since 1932 he has placed about a dozen stories and articles in this popular national magazine. His stories have sport backgrounds, and he frankly admits that various colorful Sooner athletes have provided the inspiration for many of the fiction stories.

Keith's filing cabinets contain a wealth of information, but his sports scrapbooks are the interesting thing about his office. He has about twenty of them, some of which were started when he was sports editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* some ten years ago.

He keeps them up to date, and valuable information about future opponents of the Sooners often can be obtained from clippings collected from newspapers of other states.

The sports publicity office has, besides the newspaper clippings, complete Big Six records, data on past interscholastic meets held at the University, full records about present and former coaches, and information about practically every sport event in which the University has participated in recent years.

And that is no small task because the Sooners participate in football, indoor and outdoor track, tennis, baseball, basketball, wrestling, cross-country, swimming, golf and polo.

When Keith writes a fiction story about an athlete, he is speaking from actual experience as he won honors on the track when he was a student in the University.

He was one of four Sooner track stars sent to the Pennsylvania Relays in Philadelphia in 1928, when the Sooners won three places in a race they hadn't even planned to enter!

It happened like this. Because of heavy rains, the relays were behind schedule, and the Sooners were told to wait in the Stadium until their turn to run the medley race which was the race they hoped to win.

While the Oklahomans were inside drying off, the relay race was started and by the time they were notified it was well under way.

Undaunted, Keith and two of his teammates, Heston Heald and Russell Carson, decided to enter the 3000-meter steeplechase event since they didn't want to return home without getting some action.

John Hewitt, fourth member of the team, could not enter the 3,000-meter event as he was only a quarter-miler.

"I didn't even know how to take the hurdles in the steeplechase," Keith confessed. "I high-jumped them instead of just skimming over them."

But high-jumping the hurdles didn't prove too much of a handicap, and the blond Sooner won first place. Carson placed fourth and Heald fifth. Not bad

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Medical Adventures In Ethiopia

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 173)

or could prevent the proper development or maturation of crops. He lived in fear of the ravages of wild pigs, baboons, and other animals destructive to crops.

At one time they were in mortal fear of the foreigners, a rumor having been started to the effect that the foreigners were eating the natives. And they are afraid of the devil who is believed to inflict certain diseases. They fear the witches, and especially they fear a curse imposed by him or even in his name. They fear and worship the snake, the lion and certain other creatures.

And I have come to the place where I can appreciate and understand to an extent these feelings and problems of my adopted people.

While I do not share their fears, I have become aware to a certain degree, at least, of the power and the reality of these fears and in a sense I feel that I have experienced them.

I have completed two terms of service in Ethiopia having gone there first in June, 1926, after five months in the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in London.

The country has got a very strong hold upon our entire family. Even our little three-year-old girl, when she sees pictures of Ethiopia, cries and says, "I want to be there."

We hope to return to our adopted people when our furlough is over.

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Portrait of a Sooner

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for an event in which they had no special training!

Keith was sports editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* in 1927 and 1928. He also served as assistant editor of the *Daily* during his first year in the University.

The incident related at the beginning of this article—Keith's being called upon to settle a bet about some sports fact—happens oftener than you might imagine. And he is the supreme court for hearing any such arguments; his word is accepted as final.

So if you want the exact score of a basketball game played five years ago, the name of the player who scored the most points, and possibly how many boos the referee got or who sprained an ankle—just stop that yellow-thatched young man at the fieldhouse (he probably will be wearing a red sweater with

an "O" on it) and he'll be glad to comb through those scrapbooks until he has the right answer for you.

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Spanish America hails Cartwright bill

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on agriculture for its subsistence. The United States, on the other hand, is one of the largest countries in the world, sparsely populated, commanding untold wealth in natural resources and fundamentally an industrial nation.

"The interests of both countries could be harmonized only by bargaining on a basis of equality and freedom of action; but they become clashing antagonistic when the Puerto Rican solutions have to submit to American policies, institutions and procedures which Puerto Rico has no power to modify and no participation in establishing, promulgating, and enforcing. The tariff policy and the coastwise shipping laws are but two examples of these problems. Furthermore, the great national and international responsibilities of American administrations do not allow them to engage their best talent, or to devote enough time and care, to solve the many tangles of the Puerto Rican situation in a fair and adequate way, no matter how well-disposed those administrations may be.

"The only other true alternative to independence, the admission of Puerto Rico as a state of the union, is really no alternative at all, because, even if American statesmen and public opinion had not discouraged that solution in unmistakable language during this past third of a century, and even if the people of Puerto Rico were anxious to lose their traditional personality and desirous of being totally absorbed by the American melting pot, even if there were no serious and obvious political obstacles and drawbacks (from the national viewpoint) to Puerto Rican statehood—still the facts enumerated above would remain to produce, in the economic field, the same results as have brought about the present Puerto Rican plight and American discredit.

"We are fully conscious that independence for Puerto Rico is far from being a cure-all. But we are satisfied that in independence lies our only hope. Furthermore, we believe that any fair minded American who studies the problem objectively and fully will agree with us. We feel justified in hoping that enlightened public opinion in the United States will come to regard independence for Puerto Rico as a mutually beneficial solution of a common problem and will help in attaining it. We certainly need all the help we can get."