

Reviewing Sooner Sports

By Harold Keith, '29

STARTING January 1, Tom Stidham, former line coach, became head football coach at Oklahoma, Dewey "Snorter" Luster became his backfield coach and Lawrence "Jap" Haskell his line coach. Luster had been the successful Norman high mentor and Haskell the popular freshman coach.

Spring practice is expected to begin as soon as the second semester starts, February 1.

With the exception of Frank "Speck" Moore, end coach who lives in Arizona but went to school at Louisiana State, the Sooner varsity coaching staff is now entirely composed of native Oklahomans. Coach Stidham was born at Checotah, Okla., and spent his first 25 years there, attending grade and high school and playing high school football. Coach Luster grew up at Chickasha and Coach Haskell at Anadarko.

Major Lawrence "Biff" Jones, who leaves next September for Fort Leavenworth, Kans., where the War Department assigned him to the Command and General Staff school, will continue as athletic director until July 1, 1937, when Coach Stidham also will assume that office.

Robert "Doc" Erskine, well-liked backfield coach under Jones, whom Stidham named to the important post of freshman coach, will have responsibility for more players than any other coach on the staff. Of course he'll have plenty of coaching help. Coach Stidham will name the freshmen coaching aids later.

William "Red" Conkright, Sooner center, played 44 of the 60 minutes for the West in the big Shrine game at San Francisco New Year's Day. The radio broadcast of the game credited him with mak-

ing tackles and slapping down forward passes all over the field. Also, Lynn Waldorf, Northwestern coach who was a spectator and was called to the mike during the game to comment on the play, spoke glowingly of Conkright's playing.

Banquets and meetings

Members of the varsity football squad attended several feeds, informal and otherwise, after the season. Perhaps three of the best were those given by Major and Mrs. Jones, one by President W. B. Bizzell at the Faculty club, and the annual one by Beta Theta Pi fraternity at the Beta house.

Newspaper sports editors who were guests at the dinner given by President Bizzell were Bus Ham, *Daily Oklahoman*; Jim Hopkins, *Oklahoma News*; Austin Bealmear, Associated Press; Rex Chaney, United Press; Fred Groves, *Oklahoma Daily*, and Harold Baker, *Norman Transcript*.

Connie Ahrens, senior guard from Oklahoma City, was elected honor captain of the team for the 1936 season at the Beta banquet.

Coach Stidham attended the National Football Coaches Association meeting in New York City during the Christmas holidays.

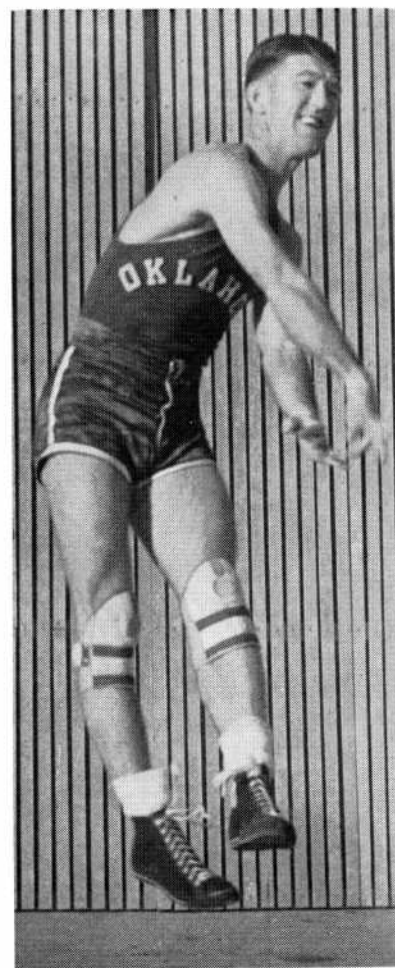
Basketball

Give Coach Hugh McDermott credit for doing a good job with just ordinary material but don't expect too much when the Sooners hit the road. He doesn't have a center who can secure the tip against a single Big Six team and his reserve strength is pretty weak.

Thanks to the fact they were playing nearly every time on their home floor and had been brought along fast through November by Bruce Drake, instructor in physical education, who handled the squad while coach McDermott was busy with football duties, the Sooner basketball team won its first five games.

Wichita university was defeated 36 to 27 in a game that saw Tee Connelley, 190-pound senior forward from El Reno, helped off the floor with a sprained ankle. Without Connelley the team then trimmed Southern Methodist in a couple of close ones, 32 to 29 and 43 to 41, all three games being played at Norman. Rice was then beaten at Houston, 31 to 28.

In the Big Six conference opener at Norman January 4, McDermott's team defeated Kansas State 47 to 41. Although



Shocky Needy, colorful forward on the Sooner basketball team

Bill Martin, salty junior guard, scored 22 points, the Sooners were a whipped team until the injured Connelley limped into action midway of the first half. Kansas State led 15 to 7 when Connelley came in, and when Coach McDermott took him out with just eight minutes of the last half left, Oklahoma led by 15 points, 47 to 32.

A stunning triumph in the two-mile steeplechase was scored by Floyd Lochner, Sooner runner who has served out his eligibility, at the Sugar Bowl track and field meet at New Orleans December 27. Lochner won by 30 yards from Thomas Deckard, Indiana Olympic man, and by more than 100 yards from the three steeplechasers who represented Uncle Sam at the Berlin Olympiad last summer—Harold Manning, Joe McCluskey and Glen Dawson.

Best of all, Lochner's time, 10 minutes 1.5 seconds, was a new American record. Old mark was McCluskey's 10 minutes, 6.6 seconds, Daniel J. Ferris, secretary-treasurer of the A.A.U., told Coach John Jacobs. Lochner will run the invitation two-mile at Boston's Knights of Columbus meet January 30 and Madison Square Garden's Millrose Games February 6 with all expenses paid.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Basketball

- Feb. 3 Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.
- Feb. 6 Missouri at Norman.
- Feb. 12 Nebraska at Norman.
- Feb. 15 Iowa State at Norman.
- Feb. 20 Kansas at Lawrence.
- Feb. 26 Missouri at Columbia.
- Feb. 27 Iowa State at Ames.

Wrestling

- Feb. 5 Weatherford Teachers at Weatherford.
- Feb. 13 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
- Feb. 16 Kansas State at Norman.
- Feb. 20 Tahlequah Teachers at Norman.
- Feb. 25 Edmond Teachers at Edmond.