

Champions of the Big Six!

By Harold Keith, '29

The Hard Driving Sooners of 1938 Have Earned For O. U. Its First Conference Football Championship in 18 Years

FINAL BIG SIX STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	PTS.	ODD.
Oklahoma	5	0	0	1.000	90	0	
Iowa State	3	1	1	.700	58	50	
Missouri	2	3	0	.400	52	75	
Nebraska	2	3	0	.400	47	49	
Kansas State	1	3	1	.300	48	93	
Kansas	1	4	0	.200	48	76	

WITHOUT a point being scored against them, the University of Oklahoma won the Big Six Conference football championship of 1938.

It was the first conference title in eighteen years for a Sooner team—since Bennie Owen's big undefeated outfit of 1920 annexed the Missouri Valley conference pennant in their first year of membership.

The Sooners were coached by Tom Stidham, the former Haskell Indian tackle who formerly served Dick Hanley of Northwestern seven years and Major Lawrence (Biff) Jones of Oklahoma two years as a line coach before taking the major coaching job at Oklahoma last year.

In the five games against Big Six Conference foes this fall, the Sooners defeated Kansas 19-0, Nebraska 14-0, Kansas State 26-0, Missouri 21-0 and Iowa State 10-0, scoring 90 points to their opponents' 0. It was the second time in the 11-year old history of the Big Six that the champion was unscored upon, Dana Bible's Nebraskans of 1936 accomplishing the feat first.

Here are the Big Six conference title winners through the years and their offensive and defensive records against other Big Six teams only:

YEAR	TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	PTS	PTS	OPP
1928	Nebraska	5	0	0	1.000	109	6	
1929	Nebraska	3	0	2	1.000	73	44	
*1930	Kansas	4	1	0	.800	79	22	
1931	Nebraska	5	0	0	1.000	58	10	
1932	Nebraska	5	0	0	1.000	64	18	
1933	Nebraska	5	0	0	1.000	83	7	
1934	Kan. State	5	0	0	1.000	89	14	
1935	Nebraska	4	0	1	.900	77	26	
1936	Nebraska	5	0	0	1.000	134	0	
1937	Nebraska	3	0	2	.800	43	20	
1938	Oklahoma	5	0	0	1.000	90	0	

*Beginning in 1930, tied games counted half a game won and half a game lost.

Taking the records back to 1907, the year the old Missouri Valley league was first organized, only one team, Coach W. C. Cole's Nebraska eleven of 1910, ever

finished with its goal uncrossed and it played but two conference games that year.

The old Missouri Valley conference champions and their offensive and defensive records in conference battles only:

YEAR	TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	PTS	PTS	OPP
1907	Iowa	1	0	0	1.000	21	6	
1907	Nebraska	1	0	0	1.000	16	6	
1908	Kansas	4	0	0	1.000	50	14	
1909	Missouri	4	0	1	1.000	58	30	
1910	Nebraska	2	0	0	1.000	30	0	
1911	Iowa State	2	0	1	1.000	18	9	
1911	Nebraska	2	0	1	1.000	69	6	
1912	Iowa State	2	0	0	1.000	56	3	
1912	Nebraska	2	0	0	1.000	21	3	
1913	Missouri	4	0	0	1.000	53	13	
1913	Nebraska	3	0	0	1.000	51	15	
1914	Nebraska	3	0	0	1.000	86	7	
1915	Nebraska	4	0	0	1.000	133	13	
1916	Nebraska	3	1	0	.750	73	16	
1916	Missouri	3	1	1	.750	46	7	
1917	Nebraska	2	0	0	1.000	65	3	
1918	War year, no standings.							
1919	Missouri	4	0	1	1.000	39	12	
1920	Oklahoma	4	0	1	1.000	124	44	
1921	Nebraska	3	0	0	1.000	107	3	
1922	Nebraska	5	0	0	1.000	190	13	
1922	Drake	4	0	0	1.000	72	14	
1923	Nebraska	3	0	2	1.000	91	33	
1923	Kansas	3	0	3	1.000	110	6	
1924	Missouri	5	1	0	.833	86	21	
1925	Missouri	5	1	0	.833	72	38	
1926	Okl. Aggies	3	0	1	1.000	74	17	
1927	Missouri	5	1	0	.833	73	39	

Stidham's team had the strongest defense in the league, and operated both a brilliant aerial offensive and a rushing attack that seldom was denied when points were needed.

Statistics on the five Big Six conference games reveal that Oklahoma gained more than three times as much ground with her running attack than did her combined foes in the Big Six and completed 50 per cent of her forward passes for 456 yards while her foes were held to 38 per cent of their forward passes for 303 yards.

The figures by games on rushing, net yards gained:

GAME	OKLA.	FOE
Kansas	205	40
Nebraska	107	34
Kansas State	164	25
Missouri	184	47
Iowa State	51	83
	711	229

The forward passing statistics on the Big Six games only show that Oklahoma averaged 9.7 yards per each of 46 passes completed while the enemy averaged the same on 31 passes completed.

Oklahoma's forward passing record in conference games:

GAME	MADE	TRIED	YARDS
Kansas	8	13	77
Nebraska	8	15	61
Kansas State	10	22	113
Missouri	12	21	94
Iowa State	8	21	111
	46	92	456

Opponents' forward passing record against Oklahoma:

GAME	MADE	TRIED	YARDS
Kansas	7	19	62
Nebraska	8	14	60
Kansas State	1	12	26
Missouri	7	23	77
Iowa State	8	13	78
	31	81	303

Although statistics weren't available on Bennie Owen's all-victorious 1915 team's passing record, nor on Owen's undefeated 1920 team's passing feats, partial summaries were found on three games in 1915 and three in 1920 and are a pretty good indication of the changing mode of the forward pass of Oklahoma teams of those three years, 1915, 1920 and 1938. Figures for the Kansas State, Missouri and Iowa State games were used for the latter year.

The comparison shows that the 1915 team, which had the celebrated Forrest "Spot" Geyer doing most of the passing, tried the most passes over the three-game span, 84, made the most yardage, 778, and averaged the most yards per completed pass, 20. But the 1938 team had a higher completion record than either 1915 or 1920, completing 47 per cent of its throws, to 44 for 1915, and 37 for 1920.

Total yardage for the three-game period was 778 yards for 1915, 389 for 1920, and 318 for 1938. The average length per completed pass was 20 yards for 1915, 18 for 1920 and 10.6 for 1938. But the completion record was 47 per cent for 1938, 44 for 1915 and 37 for 1920. Naturally the comparison isn't very reliable since it includes only three random games in each of the years 1915 and 1920 and makes no allowance for the tougher pass defense that confront modern teams.

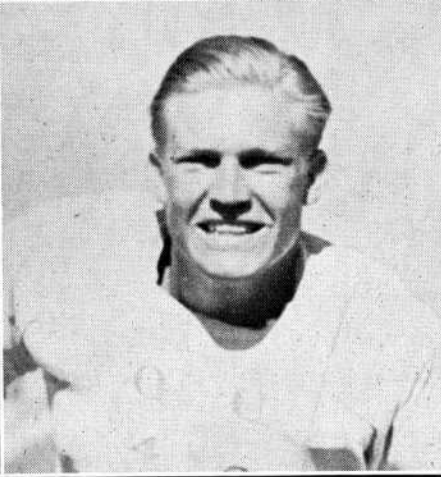
Admirers of the 1920 team can gain solace in the fact that the 1920 aggregation gained far more yards on its rushing game than either the 1915 or 1938 teams, and boosters for Stidham's 1938 Big Six champions can point out that the 1938 team had a much stronger record for de-

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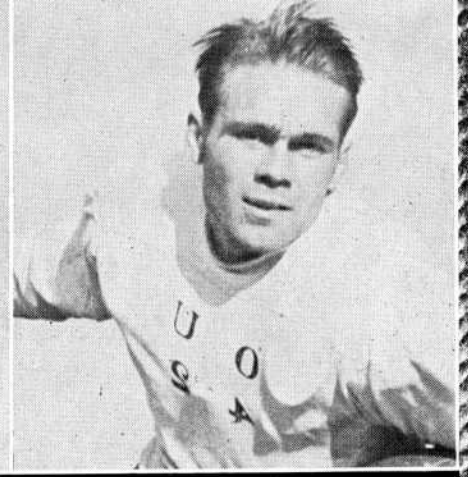
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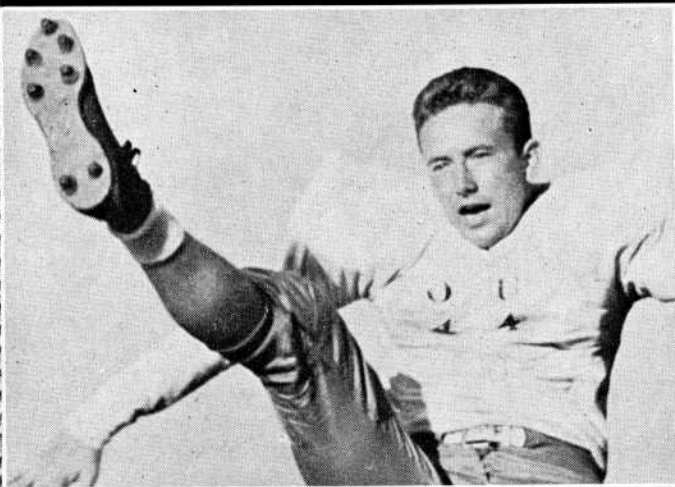
HUGH McCULLOUGH, BACK



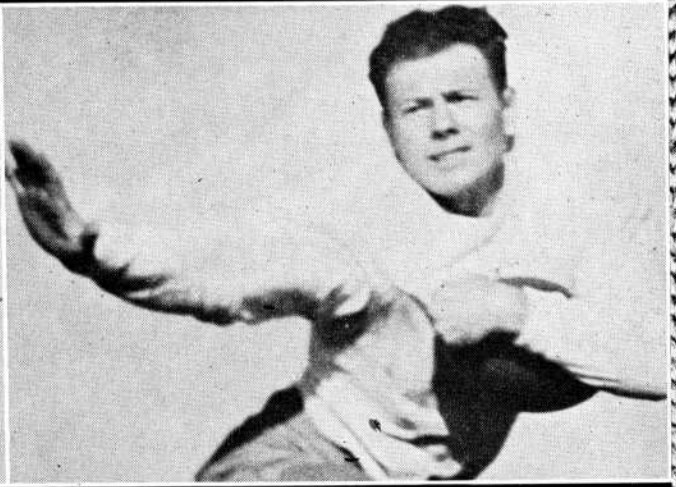
JIM THOMAS, GUARD



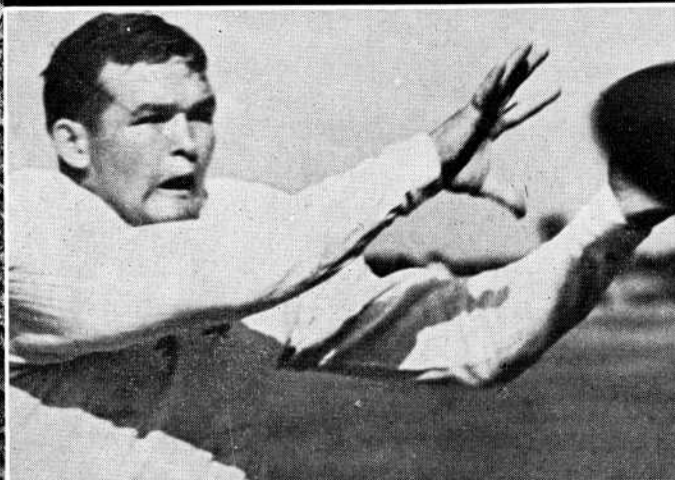
OTIS ROGERS, BACK



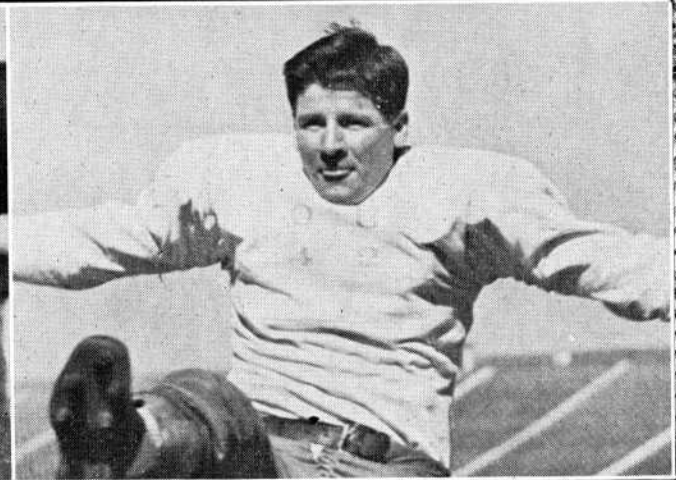
EARL CROWDER, BACK



GENE CORROTTO, BACK



WADDY YOUNG, END



RAPHAEL BOUDREAU, BACK

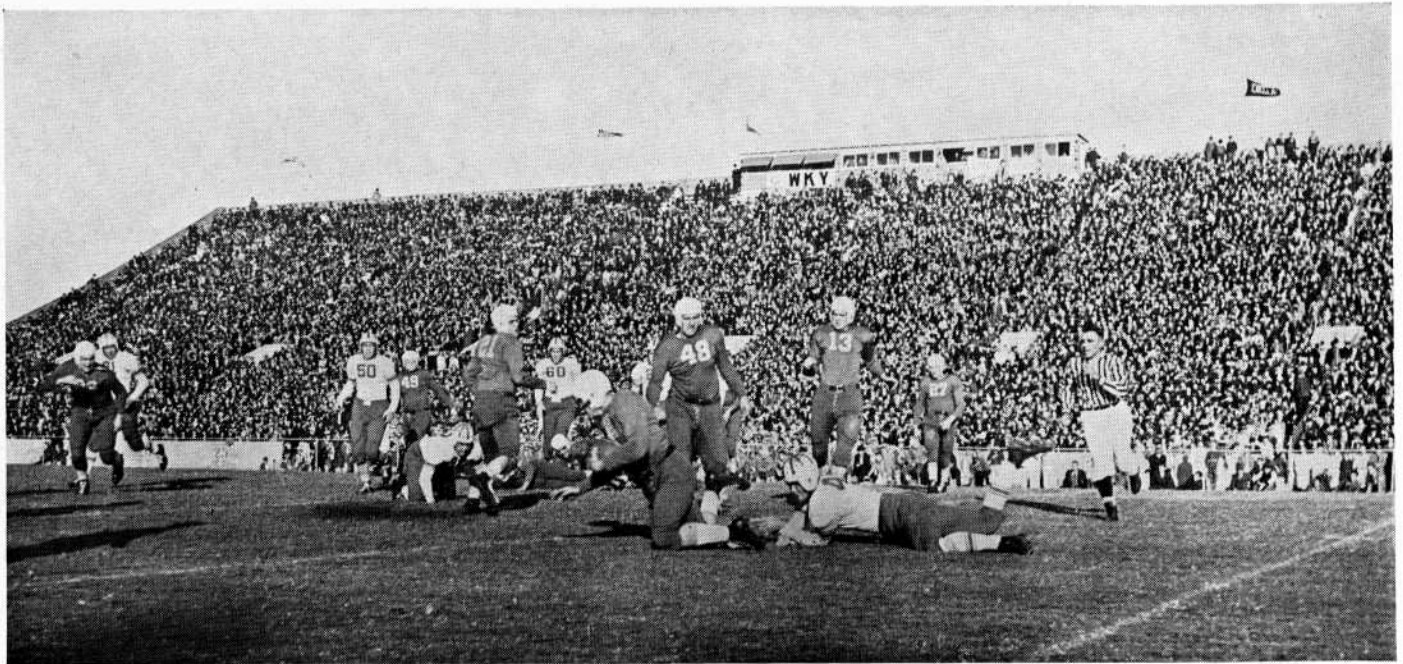


PHOTO BY TUCKER

A new all-time attendance record for Sooner home games was set when 28,091 persons attended the Nebraska game.

fense against rushing than either the 1915 or the 1920 teams.

Here's a summary of the 1938 Big Six season:

In the 19 to 0 triumph over the Kansas Jayhawkers October 15 at Lawrence, Kans., the Sooners marched 49 yards in 9 plays for their first touchdown, with Howard "Red" McCarty and Hugh McCullough, backs, alternating.

Kansas dominated the game in the second quarter, wheeling 59 yards to Oklahoma's 21-yard line on runs by Miller, Bunsen and Repogle and Miller's whizzing passes. However, the Sooners stopped the drive and launched another 47-yard touchdown march of their own in the third quarter, Bob Seymour scoring on a lateral after McCullough's passes to Gene Corrotto had set up the play.

Oklahoma's final touchdown came in the fourth quarter when Stidham's boys hammered 59 yards in 9 plays to score on a sweep to the left by red-head McCarty. Otis Rogers sparked this drive with slashing runs and lethal forward passing.

The largest crowd ever to see a football game in Oklahoma, 28,091 people, saw the Sooners defeat Nebraska 14 to 0 October 22.

The Sooners were keyed to savage frenzy for this game, scoring in the first eight minutes of play on a drive that ended with 180-pound McCullough plowing over the goal after his pass to Bill Jennings for 18 yards had moved the ball to within scoring range.

However Major Lawrence Jones' Cornhuskers got off a beautiful drive of their own in the second quarter that surcharged the great Oklahoma crowd with fear. With Sophomore Harry Hopp passing brilliantly, the bulky team in scarlet jer-

sies went down to the Oklahoma 2-yard line before Earl Crowder halted them on fourth down with a hard tackle just short of the goal line.

Oklahoma then went ahead 14 to 0, cinching the contest, in the fourth quarter. Freckled-bodied McCarty set the score up by returning a Nebraska punt 19 yards to the Cornhuskers 35-yard line and from there Jennings reeled off 18 yards and McCarty and McCullough cracked off tackle and through the middle down to the goal where McCullough ripped across the goal with yards to spare. Raphael Boudreau, Oklahoma's placekicking specialist, jogged nonchalantly in from the sidelines to kick both goals for the Sooners then trotted back to the bench.

Oklahoma's third Big Six win was from Kansas State at Norman November 5. Otis Rogers sparked the first touchdown drive, smashing across for the touchdown. McCarty ran a Wildcat punt back 71 yards to set up the second then hit off tackle himself to score it. McCullough passed to John Shirk, gangling left end, for 22 yards and the third touchdown and Blocker Dick Favor tallied the fourth after a 65-yard drive when he picked up Bob West's fumble and rammed across. The final score was 26 to 0.

Before 21,774 Homecomers, second largest crowd of all time in Oklahoma, the Sooners trounced a good Missouri team 21 to 0 here November 12.

Stidham's offense clicked brilliantly marching to three touchdowns the first three times it got its hands on the ball although the third was called back.

Missouri kicked off and without surrendering the ball the Sooners punched the length of the field to score McCullough knifing over. The Tigers chose to

receive the next kickoff but Oklahoma soon forced them to punt and then moved grandly and irresistibly up the field 78 yards for their second touchdown behind a drive featuring runs and overhand shovel passes, Gene Corrotto streaking across the goal.

A third drive ended with McCullough passing to Long John Shirk for a touchdown but officials called that one back because Shirk pushed his defensive guard off him before catching the pass. Oklahoma was not dismayed, however, and smashed 80 yards to a touchdown in the fourth quarter with McCullough passing brilliantly and heaving to Gene Corrotto for the touchdown.

The Big Six championship game found Oklahoma and Iowa State pitted against each other at Ames, Iowa, November 19. Oklahoma all-victorious and Iowa State undefeated but tied once.

The Sooners won, 10 to 0, holding the Cyclones outside their 36-yard line all day and six times penetrating inside the Ames 20-yard line with the ball.

However, the Iowa State team was keyed so high before its record home crowd that they made a terrific game of it, outgaining Oklahoma along the ground and stopping the Sooner rushing attack pretty completely.

The Sooners quickly drove to the Iowa State seven-yard line only to fumble. Undaunted, Oklahoma again drove deeply into Cyclone territory and this time scored a touchdown. A pass, McCullough to Jennings left the ball on the two-yard line, Seymore slashing over from there. Raphael Boudreau came in to kick goal.

Hugh McCullough's 31-yard field goal from an angle in the third quarter gave the Sooners a commanding lead.

